Protect Yourself Against Nursing Home Fraud

What can you do to stop nursing home care fraud?

What You Should Know:

Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous providers and nursing home administrators who prey on the vulnerability of their patients/residents.

Some examples include:

⇒ Billing Medicare for skilled nursing services after you have been released from a skilled nursing facility.
⇒ Billing Medicare for services that were never rendered.
⇒ Billing Medicare for unnecessary tests and procedures.
⇒ Billing Medicare for more expensive procedures and medications.
⇒ Paying kickbacks to providers for referring patients to nursing homes.
⇒ Receiving kickbacks for prescribing unnecessary medications and medical equipment.

TIPS

⇒ Read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) to compare the services Medicare was charged with what you received.
⇒ Be sure you work with your doctor to enroll you in any skilled nursing facility (SNF) therapy services you may need and to determine medical necessity for these services.
⇒ Do not accept gifts (such as money, gift cards, or groceries) in return for choosing a nursing home in which to receive skilled nursing.
⇒ Do not sign forms that you do not understand, including a Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON), an Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN), or any form that is blank.

How to Respond:

⇒ Report charges on your MSN or EOB for services or visits you did not receive.
⇒ Report charges on your MSN or EOB for services that are different than what you received.
⇒ Report nursing home fraud to the HHS OIG—800-447-8477 / www.tips.hhs.gov
⇒ Contact the Arkansas Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to report nursing home fraud—866-726-2916.

REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP—866-726-2916
SNFs are commonly used for short-term rehabilitative stays, which are at least partially covered by Medicare for up to 100 days in many instances. Medicare does not pay for long-term or permanent stays in nursing homes.