



Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)
a Project of *Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A)*
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BEWARE MEDICARE FRAUD SCHEMES

Getting a phone call offering items for free may sound great, but it's just one example of how fraudsters steal tax payer dollars from the federal health care system. Scam artists often offer 'free' back/knee braces, glucose monitors, scooters, or diabetic supplies. They always say it's free, and **they always ask for your Medicare number!**

Medicare is not free. Medicare is insurance paid by taxpayer dollars, and it's important to protect your benefits and your money.

Never accept free items or services from strangers who call or come to your door. Never give out your Medicare number to strangers, including people at health fairs providing 'free' services like toe nail clipping, eye exams, blood pressure and cholesterol checks, and diabetic shoes.

Detect possible fraud by reviewing your Medicare Summary Notices for any suspicious charges or items that have been double billed. Then report any suspected fraud to the Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at 1-800-423-2449. The Iowa SMP works to educate beneficiaries about Medicare fraud and abuse.

STOP ROBOCALLS! *LET VOICEMAIL AND CALLER-ID DO ALL THE WORK!*

Never answer your phone unless you recognize the caller-id. Allow all calls with IDs that you don't recognize go to voice mail.

If you happen to answer a sales-telemarketing robocall (those prerecorded, unsolicited annoyances that are invading homes every day like a swarm of gnats!) hang up immediately; don't press any number option. If you do, you're signaling that you're a live human being at a working number, which may result in more, never ending robocalls!

- News distributed by Nancy Creery, Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol Program Coordinator, Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), Waterloo, IA, ncreery@nei3a.org 1-800-423-2449.