



## Medicare and Medicaid Errors and Fraud

September 14, 2006

### The Issue:

Billions of dollars are lost each year as a result of Medicare and Medicaid errors and fraud. The vast majority of Medicare and Medicaid providers are honest but the activities of a few result in wasted dollars for these programs.

### What you can do:

Here are a few simple steps to help reduce errors and fraud.

#### Protect and guard your Medicare and Medicaid numbers.

- Never show or give your Medicare, Medicaid number or bank information to anyone who calls you or comes to your door. Hang up the phone; shut the door. *It's shrewd to be rude!*
- Do not accept offers of "free" medical services or supplies in exchange for your Medicare or Medicaid number.
- Never sign a blank form.
- Do not accept a gift or kickback in exchange for health information about someone else.

#### Review each Medicare Summary Notice carefully.

- Make sure that you actually received the services or supplies for which Medicare reimbursed the provider.
- Look for duplicate payments for the same service or supplies.
- Look for payments made for services or supplies that were not received, or for supplies received but no longer needed.

#### Report suspected Medicare or Medicaid fraud.

Have your Medicare Summary Notice with you when placing any of these calls.

- Call **404.463.0763**, the Atlanta Senior Medicare Patrol Project, for assistance.
- Call your health care provider's billing office and ask about any part of the Medicare Summary Notice you question.
- Call Medicare. This phone number can be found in the upper right box on your Medicare Summary Notice.

#### Call for a presentation:

To schedule a presentation for your group or for more information, call the Atlanta Senior Medicare Patrol at **404.463.0763**.

#### Atlanta Senior Medicare Patrol

Atlanta Regional Commission, Area Agency on Aging  
40 Courtland Street NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404.463.0763  
Fax 404.463.3264

This program is supported, in part by a grant from the Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration on Aging policy.