

PROTECT

DETECT

REPORT

The Senior Medicare Patrol is.....

LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

DATE: 9/7/2016

SUBJECT: BE AWARE OF BACK BRACE SCAM

- Medicare beneficiaries are receiving unsolicited mailings and phone calls regarding their eligibility for a Medicare approved back or knee brace system.
- Various reports show that beneficiaries who have responded to such claims have received shoddy equipment, with no way of returning. Additionally, they have received bills for in excess of \$200, with Medicare being billed for \$1400.
- And to seal the deal, seniors are told the equipment is clinically tested, non-invasive and thousands of people use the back support system.
- Protect yourself from fraud – Medicare covers durable medical equipment (DME) that is prescribed by your doctor and is medically necessary. Make sure the DME supplier is approved by Medicare.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

If you are in need of medical equipment of any kind, it is best not to respond to unsolicited mailings, commercials or phone calls, but rather talk to your doctor.

Do NOT give out your Medicare number. Without your Medicare number, companies cannot charge Medicare over a thousand dollars for equipment that may not be necessary.

Report incidents to the Virginia SMP. Call us at 804-644-5628 or 800-938-8885.



The production of this flyer was supported by Grant #90MP0206 from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Its contents are solely the responsibility of Virginia SMP and do not necessarily represent the official views of ACL.