




COVID-19 Consumer Tip Sheet

Tips for Protecting Yourself and Medicare


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- Fraudsters are attempting to bill Medicare for sham test and treatments.
 - Don't give your Medicare number or any other personal information out to anyone you do not know, that call, email, or texts you.


How to prevent Scams:

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- Scams related to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, are rapidly increasing. Scammers are targeting older adults and those with serious long-term health conditions.

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- Do not purchase medical supplies from unverified sources through online advertisements, emails or phone solicitation, including offers for vaccination, prevention or cures for COVID-19.

- There is no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time.
- Do not accept any free COVID-19 testing or treatment from an unsolicited vendor that comes to your house.

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- Do not donate money to a charity by cash, by gift card, or wire transfer.

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- Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations under COVID-19 quarantine.
 - Medicare Part B covers COVID-19 tests when ordered by your doctor or health care provider on or after February 4, 2020.
 - Always talk to your doctor about tele-medicine services that are available to you. There are different options for your doctor to contact you.
 - Be alert for “investment opportunities.” The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is warning people about online promotions, claiming that the products of publicly traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure COVID-19 and that the stock of these companies will increase in value.



COVID-19 Resources:

Administration for Community Living (ACL): [ACL.gov/COVID-19](https://acl.gov/COVID-19)

Senior Medicare Patrol National Resource Center (SMPNRC):

<http://www.smpresource.org/Content/Medicare-Fraud-Schemes/COVID-19-Fraud>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

[CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

Federal Trade Commission (FTC): [FTC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus)

Medicare: [Medicare.gov/Medicare-coronavirus](https://www.medicare.gov/Medicare-coronavirus)



Protect, Detect and Report your Medicare benefits

Illinois SMP is ready to provide you with information you need to **PROTECT** yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; **DETECT** potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and **REPORT** your concerns.

We help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud through educational presentations.

Contact Illinois SMP at Illinois SMP at (800)699-9043.

