

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DME FRAUD

- Know what DME your health plan covers and the rules you need to follow
- Make sure the DME supplier is approved by Medicare and meets Medicare standards
- Protect your Medicare number from medical identity theft
- Beware of DME scams offered by phone, mail, door-to-door, the internet, and supplier storefronts that don't look quite right

*Remember — if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true!*

## REPORT ERRORS and CONCERNS

### Medicare

1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227)  
TTY users (1-877-486-2048)

### Office of Inspector General Hotline

1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)  
TTY users (1-877-377-4950)



The **Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** is a program of the U.S. Administration on Aging and based in the Executive Office on Aging, State of Hawai'i. **SMP Hawai'i** recruits and trains volunteers statewide to promote awareness of Medicare fraud and to help people with Medicare correct billing errors.

### SMP Hawai'i

808-586-7281  
1-800-296-9422 (toll free)  
Executive Office on Aging  
State of Hawai'i  
250 South Hotel Street, Suite 406  
Honolulu, HI 96813-2831

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*SMP Hawai'i Wants You to Know...*

## Durable Medical Equipment Fraud

Costs Medicare and You



# BILLIONS



## WHAT IS DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) is anything that can be used over and over and is for use in the home by someone sick or injured

### EXAMPLES:

- Hospital Beds
- TENS Units
- Walkers and Canes
- Blood glucose monitors
- Wheelchairs
- Home oxygen equipment
- Power Scooters (only if needed in the home)



## ***DME FRAUD*** is when The Supplier *Knowingly...*

- Bills Medicare for equipment you never received
- Bills Medicare for equipment different from what you received
- Bills Medicare for home medical equipment after you stopped renting

## Always Check Your Medicare Summary Notice Carefully

Your Medicare Summary Notice shows you the durable medical equipment and supplies Medicare paid for, how much, and how much you must pay. If you see something on your Medicare Summary Notice that you think may be wrong, call the supplier and ask about it. If you need more help, call SMP Hawai'i.

## ***Be Suspicious If ...***

- A supplier offers you equipment or supplies for free in exchange for your Medicare number
- A supplier tells you they know how to get Medicare to pay for an item that isn't medically necessary
- A supplier not approved by Medicare tries to sell you DME