

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### MEDICARE FRAUD and ABUSE

Did you know that 37% of Americans ages 62 – 75 ranked fear of fraud ahead of concern for health crises and terrorism?

Health care fraud is not just about losing money, it can make you sick or hurt you. From unsafe drugs sold on the Internet as a “cure” for cancer, to wheelchair billing plots that try to bilk consumers and Medicare out of millions of dollars for unneeded or improper equipment, health care fraud is EVERYONE’S CONCERN!

Did you know that health care fraud, errors and abuse costs the US between \$80 to \$160 billion a year? \$1 of every \$10 spent on public insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid is lost to fraud.

### **Don't Be a Victim!**

Consumers like you play a big role in the fight against health care fraud by reporting errors and possible fraud. Law enforcement is important, but the best protection comes from preventing people from being cheated in the first place.

*To learn more about how to protect yourself or join in the fight against fraud, contact your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) project which is locally sponsored by UPCAP Services – The UP's Area Agency on Aging. They can provide information and help with identifying or reporting health care fraud.*

**Dial 2-1-1  
or  
1-800-803-7174**