[USE YOUR OWN LETTERHEAD, INCLUDING LOGO]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information

[INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME. INCLUDE SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL.]
[INSERT CONTACT NAME]
[INSERT PHONE NUMBER]
[INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS]

**Beneficiaries Shorted Pills in Prescription Scam**

When it comes to purchases, you don’t always get what you pay for. When it comes to purchasing prescriptions, not getting what you need could be hazardous to your health. Be aware that if you are shorted pills, you might also have to go without necessary medication while waiting for a refill.

The Senior Medicare Patrol program, which fights health care fraud nationwide, has seen cases where pharmacy employees purposely gave less pills than a provider ordered with the intent to sell the rest of the prescription elsewhere. Criminals, ranging from health care providers to drug trafficking organizations, commit prescription drug fraud because it is profitable. Unfortunately, there is a strong illegal market for prescription drugs – including controlled substances such as opioids and expensive prescriptions such as autoimmune medications.

Senior Medicare Patrol programs throughout the country, including here in [INSERT AREA], educate people on how to avoid scams and fraud. [INSERT SMP CONTACT NAME AND TITLE HERE. Be sure to also include “Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)”] said drug diversion is just the tip of the iceberg. Another common prescription scam is when Medicare is billed for a medication that is never received or even prescribed. “Let’s say you don’t pick up a prescription. The pharmacy is not allowed to bill you or your insurance for it – even if it was an automatic refill,” said [INSERT CONTACT LAST NAME].

Other types of pharmacy fraud include:

* Billing Medicare for prescription drugs that were prescribed by a health care provider you have never seen
* Billing Medicare for medication amounts beyond the quantity you were prescribed
* Billing Medicare for a different prescription drug (often more expensive) than the one you were originally prescribed

Sometimes, scammers aren’t local. Callers from around the world perpetrate fraud every day, disguising their phone numbers to appear to be calling from local numbers. “Be suspicious of all unsolicited calls and offers for ‘free’ or ‘discount’ prescription drugs,” said [INSERT CONTACT LAST NAME]. “Do not give out your Medicare number or other personal information to unknown individuals for prescription drug services, and always make sure your Explanation of Benefits (EOB) accurately reflects the products and services you received.”

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is ready to provide you with the information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns. SMPs help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud. Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations. To locate the local Senior Medicare Patrol, contact [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION].