[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]

**Home Health Care Fraud Can Start with a Friendly Approach**

Fraudsters can appear to be friendly people offering to help you, and they might approach you in familiar places, such as outside of your doctor’s office, on your front porch, or at your local senior center. They might say that they will clean your house, bring you groceries, or manage your medications for “free” because you have Medicare.

“Medicare will cover intermittent or short-term home health services, but these services must be provided by a Medicare-approved home health agency that works with your doctor to manage your care,” said [INSERT SMP CONTACT NAME AND TITLE HERE. Be sure to also include “Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)”]. “If you are in need of these services, speak with your doctor directly. Medicare beneficiaries are not entitled to home health services without a medical reason.”

To be eligible for Medicare coverage of home health care:

* Your doctor must determine that it is medically necessary for you to receive skilled care services at home. Skilled care services performed in the home could include part-time or “intermittent” nurse and nurse aide visits (personal, hands-on care) and rehabilitation services, which may include speech-language pathology, physical and occupational therapy, and medical social services.
* Your condition must be expected to improve in a reasonable amount of time or require skilled therapy to maintain the current condition or prevent or slow further deterioration.
* You must be considered “homebound.” This means you are unable to leave your home without assistance, leaving requires considerable and major effort, or leaving is considered dangerous due to your current health condition. You may leave home for medical care and some short or infrequent outings (for example, worship services) as long as you meet these conditions.

Look for red flags that suggest someone might be trying to commit home health care fraud. These may include unfamiliar provider(s) associated with claims for skilled nursing listed on your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB); offers for “free” groceries or rides in exchange for signed paperwork containing your Medicare number; or requests for you to sign forms verifying home health services were provided in exchange for house cleaning or grocery delivery.

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].