

# Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

## Make sure that Medicare will cover it!



### WHAT IS DME?

Ex: Walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds & back/knee braces. DME is mainly used in the home.



### TALK TO YOUR DR.

If you need DME, you and your Doctor can make that decision. They know your health needs.



### PRESCRIPTIONS

Prescriptions are mandatory. Your Medicare enrolled Dr. will write an order for DME when medically necessary.



### DME IS NOT FREE

DME usually has a copayment. Be careful of taking "free" DME.



### PROPER FIT?

Some DME must be sized so it will work best for you and fit into your home.



### FIND A SUPPLIER

Only a Medicare-approved supplier can bill Medicare. Call **1-800-MEDICARE** to find a supplier.



### BEWARE OF SCAMS

Do not give your Medicare number to someone you do not know, especially over the phone.



### LOOK FOR FRAUD

Read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) carefully & look for services & supplies you did not receive.



### CALL SMP

If you suspect Medicare fraud, errors or abuse, call the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). **1-877-808-2468**



# Protect Your DME Benefits

## A common example of fraud:

1. Mrs. Smith received a call from a man named Jim who said he worked for Medicare.
2. Jim asked Mrs. Smith if she had any pain, and she told him that sometimes her back was sore.
3. Jim told Mrs. Smith that she could receive a “free” back brace because Medicare will pay for it.
4. Mrs. Smith received the back brace and it did not fit so she never used it.
5. One year later, Mrs. Smith injured her back after a fall and her doctor wrote a prescription for a back brace for her.
6. Medicare would not cover the cost of the back brace because they had already paid for a brace for her. (The “free” brace that Jim sent her.) Mrs. Smith lost her benefit.

- ✓ Work with your doctor for your health care needs especially when it comes to DME.
- ✓ Always be careful with your Medicare number and never give your number to a stranger.



## A sales person who calls you on the phone **CANNOT**:

- ✓ **Diagnose or assess your health care needs** - That is the job of your doctor. Your doctor knows you and your health history. Don't let a sales person talk you into something you do not need.
- ✓ **Prescribe durable medical equipment (DME) for you** - Only your doctor can order DME for you after a face-to-face office visit.
- ✓ **Fit you for DME over the phone**—It is impossible for someone calling on the phone to make sure the equipment will fit you, and that is the job of a DME supplier. A good DME supplier will work with you until the equipment fits you just right.

**PREVENT** - Medicare fraud by not giving out your personal information to someone you do not know.

**DETECT** - Medicare fraud by reading your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) to make sure the claims for services and supplies are what you actually received.

**REPORT** - Medicare fraud by calling **Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), 1-877-808-2468**.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0034-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.