

February 2023

Idaho SMP Brief



MEDICARE FRAUD NEWS FOR YOU!



Durable Medical Equipment Fraud: Don't Fall Victim to Scammers

Protect Your Medicare Benefits by Spotting Suspicious Activity!

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) is equipment that is medically necessary; prescribed by your doctor; can withstand repeated use, serves a medical purpose, and can be used in the home. Examples of DME can include equipment such as, but not limited to: blood sugar monitors/test strips, canes, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, and hospital beds.

What Does Durable Medical Equipment Fraud Look Like?

When scammers attempt to offer “free” equipment but bill Medicare, or if suppliers and/or doctors charge you for items that you never received, it is important that you identify these situations as potential Medicare fraud, error, or abuse. Some examples of what DME fraud can look like include:

- Suppliers who offer “free” equipment but bill Medicare;
- Suppliers who want you to use their doctors (not yours), who then prescribe unnecessary medicals equipment;
- Suppliers or doctors who provide medical equipment or supplies you never requested;

What Can You Do to Prevent Durable Medical Equipment Fraud?

- Be sure your doctor has assessed your condition and orders the equipment or supplies.
- Never sign a blank form from your health care provider or equipment supplier.
- Always review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB).



Help support the fight against fraud in Idaho!

What is the Idaho Scam Jam Alliance?

The Idaho Scam Jam Alliance (ISJA) is a broad-based coalition of local organizations throughout Idaho that partner together against one common cause: to prevent fraud in Idaho. Our members and partners come from a variety of different sectors including local universities, police departments, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

How can I support ISJA?

The ISJA educates Idahoans through events called Scam Jams. These interactive conferences are held in communities throughout Idaho and feature presentations by national, regional, and local fraud experts. Scam Jam participants also receive literature and other materials to share with friends and family to help them identify fraud and protect against victimization.

But why are Scam Jams important? How does this affect me?

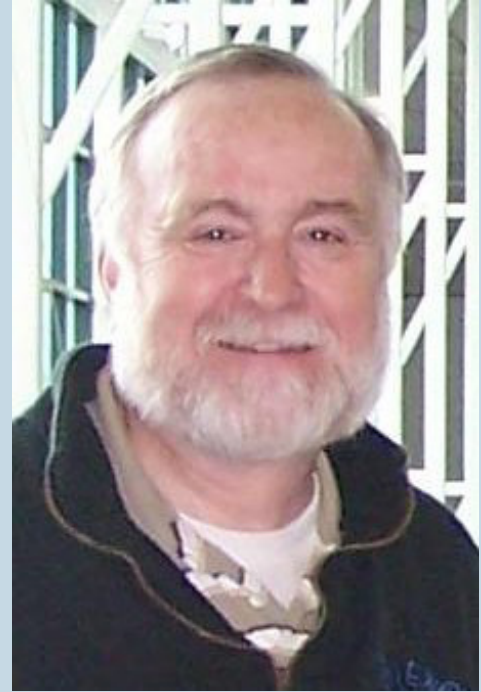
The ISJA believes problems are solved when people start talking. By having conversations at the community and local level, people are better able to spot and avoid scams. Scam Jams are important because con artists have several ways of stealing hard-earned money, including government imposter scams, phishing scams, tech-support scams, gold coin scams, oil and gas scams, sweepstakes and lottery scams, grandparent scams, and many more.

For more information on upcoming Scam Jams, or to report a scam, please visit the ISJA website: www.idscamjamalliance.org

Get to Know Your Local Idaho SMP Team

Winter Newsletter Spotlight – Joe Lykins

Joe Lykins is the SMP volunteer coordinator working out of our Coeur d' Alene office. Joe has an extensive background managing volunteers and has been a pivotal part of educating our local Idahoans up north about Medicare fraud. We thank Joe for all of the efforts and continued contribution that he has made to the Idaho SMP team.



Get to Know Joe...

1. What's your job title?

Senior Services Specialist

2. What's the best place you've traveled to?

Cruise ship to Alaska

3. What's your favorite food?

Mexican

4. What motivates you at work?

Helping people and learning things

5. Which historical figure would you most like to meet?

Epictetus

6. What's your favorite season?

Autumn

7. What's your idea of a perfect day?

Waking up after a good night's sleep, and having something to look forward to

Are you or a loved one needing to speak with an SMP team member regarding Medicare fraud, error, and abuse? Are you interested in becoming an SMP volunteer? Would you like more information on upcoming SMP presentations near you to learn more about Medicare fraud, error, and abuse topics? Reach out to your nearest SMP office and representative to inquire more information.

Organization	Address	Phone Number	Counties Served	Website
North Idaho – Area Agency on Aging	402 W. Canfield Suite 1 Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815	208-667-3179	Benewah, Bouny, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone	www.aaani.org
North Central Idaho – Area Agency on Aging	124 New 6th Street Lewiston, ID 83501	208-743-5580	Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce	www.cap4action.org/aaa
Metro Community Services	4307 Skyway Street Caldwell, ID 83605	208-459-0063	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, Washington	www.metrocommunityservices.net
Southern Idaho Council of Governments	214 E. Center Pocatello, ID 83205	208-233-4032	Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power	www.sicog.org/area-agency-on-aging
Area VI Agency on Aging	935 Lincoln Road Idaho Falls, ID 83401	208-522-5391	Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton	www.eastidahoaging.com
Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)	700 W State St. Boise, ID 83702	1-800-247-4422	Statewide	www.doi.idaho.gov/shiba

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