SMP Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) Fraud

Tips for Protecting Yourself and Medicare

Remote patient monitoring (RPM) is the ability for health care providers to monitor certain parts of a person's health from their home. Providers collect and analyze different physiologic data (like heart rate, blood glucose, breathing rate, etc.) and then use it to make and oversee a person's treatment plan. RPM can be good for people with short- and long-term conditions because it can cut down on travel costs and reduce the risk of getting an infection or illness.

Note: Medicare uses the term "remote physiologic monitoring" in its coding and billing language.

What Can RPM Help Track?

Hypertension (high blood pressure)	**Diabetes** (blood glucose levels)	**Weight** (gains or losses)	**Heart conditions** (congestive heart failure)
Sleep apnea (stopping breathing during sleep)	**COPD** (lung disease)	**Asthma** (hard to breathe)	**Temperature** (high or low)

Medicare Coverage for Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)

- ✓ A relationship **must** have been established between the doctor and the patient/beneficiary, meaning the beneficiary would have needed to have had past appointment(s) with the provider before they start billing for RPM services.
- ✓ A beneficiary **must** consent to receiving RPM services.
- ✓ RPM **must** be used to monitor short-term (acute) care or a long-term (chronic) condition.
- ✓ Physiologic data (like heart rate, blood glucose, breathing rate, etc.) **must** be electronically collected and uploaded to a safe place where the data can be reviewed and understood by the doctor who is billing for it.
- ✓ The device used to collect and transfer the data **must** meet the definition of a medical device by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- ✓ Data **must** be collected for at least 16 days out of 30 days each month.

What are Examples of RPM Fraud?

- You see charges on your Medicare statements for remote physiologic monitoring services you didn't need, you didn't get, or were from a provider you do not know.
- You see charges on your Medicare statements for remote physiologic or remote therapeutic monitoring that you did not agree to.
- You are offered a "free" device that tracks your daily steps, like a smartwatch, in exchange for your Medicare number or other personal information.
- You are told RPM services are free to Medicare beneficiaries and then RPM services are billed to Medicare.
- Your doctor's office calls to ask how you are doing. Later, you notice they billed the phone call to Medicare as an RPM service.

What Can You Do to Protect Yourself from RPM Fraud?

- ✓ Read your Medicare statements to compare the services Medicare was charged for with what you received. Report charges for services you did not receive or that are different than what you received.
- ✓ Work with your doctor to determine your medical need for products or services.
- ✓ Do not accept gifts (such as wearable devices listed in the above chart) in return for your Medicare number or other personal information.

How Your Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Can Help

Your local 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 and their trained volunteers 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 can provide information and educational presentations.

To locate your state Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP):
Visit www.smpresource.org or call 1-877-808-2468.

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPRC0002 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.