

## **PUBLIC ALERT–MEDICARE FRAUD SCAM**

**HOW IT WORKS:** Advertisements for “free medical equipment” to help seniors are placed in local newspapers and on the internet. Seniors are asked to call a 1–800 number. Once they call, they are asked to give their Medicare number and name of doctor. Seniors are told that it “looks like they qualify” for various medical equipment and then a call is placed to the doctor asking the doctor to sign a form. This is a way for aggressive medical equipment companies to harass seniors or dupe doctors office’s into authorizing unnecessary durable medical equipment that the senior doesn’t really need. Medicare fraud like this is rampant.

### **HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:**

- Protect your Medicare Number: Guard it the same way you protect all of your other financial information. Do NOT give out personal information over the phone.
- Don’t take the call: Anyone who calls or shows up at your door saying they are from Medicare or the Federal Government and asks you for your doctor’s name or personal information is almost certainly a fraud.
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice that comes in the mail.
- Report suspicious activity to the Senior Medicare Fraud Hotline at 1 855 613–7080.