

HEALTH CARE FRAUD



AND WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE U.S.



The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that tens of billions of dollars are lost every year due to fraud in the healthcare industry.



Medicare is considered at particularly "high-risk" for fraud due to the complex and widespread reach of the program.

SOME OF THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF HEALTHCARE FRAUD ARE

- Medical identity theft
- Stolen beneficiary payments
- Billing for unnecessary services or products, or for services or products not rendered
- Upcoding, or billing more for services than were actually provided
- Unbundling
- Kickbacks to providers or medical centers that make referrals

WHAT TO LOOK FOR..

- Parties who request your personal information - Social Security number, insurance information, etc. - especially in informal settings or when contacted via phone or e-mail.
- Billing that reflects services not rendered or billing that is itemized in a suspicious manner.
- Medical facilities that look under-equipped or that fail to provide thorough health checks.
- Offers that include cash prizes or other free health care offers which are unsolicited or unwarranted.

THE ROLE OF WHISTLEBLOWERS IN STOPPING FRAUD...

01. Whistleblowers are often - but not always - employees of fraudulent companies.
02. Whistleblowers use a law called the False Claims Act to file lawsuits on behalf of the government.
03. Whistleblowers receive anywhere from 15 to 30 percent of recoveries made by the government based on investigations from their information.
04. The Justice Department said that of the \$3.5 billion recovered from False Claims Act cases in the fiscal year 2015, \$1.9 billion were from companies and individuals in the healthcare industry.
05. The \$1.9 billion reflects federal losses only. In many of these cases, the DOJ was also instrumental in recovering additional millions of dollars for consumers and state Medicaid programs.
06. From 2008 to 2012 alone, authorities had recovered more than \$4.5 billion in False Claims Act cases.
07. Claims from whistleblowers helped the government recover over \$14.5 billion from 2009 to the fiscal year 2014, the majority of which were Medicaid and Medicare scams.

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE FACTS NEEDED TO BRING A WHISTLEBLOWER CASE?

**The Whistleblower Lawyer
CAN HELP!
CALL (803) 454-1200**

Helpful Resources:

- https://www.cms.gov/apps/files/2014_CMS_GAO_High_Risk_Program_Report.pdf
- <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-recovers-over-35-billion-false-claims-act-cases-fiscal-year-2015>
- <https://www.irs.gov/uac/statistical-data-healthcare-fraud>
- <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/white-collar-crime/health-care-fraud>
- <http://www.insurancefraud.org/statistics.htm>