## COVID-19 Consumer Tip Sheet Tips for Protecting Yourself and Medicare

Scams related to the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, are rapidly increasing as the public health emergency develops. Scammers are targeting older adults and those with serious long-term health conditions who appear to have a higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

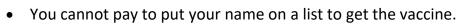
Fraudsters are attempting to bill Medicare for sham tests or treatments related to the coronavirus and are targeting individuals to illegally obtain money or Medicare numbers.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Schemes**

Scammers rapidly alter their tactics and adapt their schemes to the changing landscape, and we anticipate that they will leverage the COVID-19 vaccine to prey on unsuspecting beneficiaries. Be vigilant and protect yourself from potential fraud concerning COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

Here are things you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine:

 You likely will not need to pay anything out-of-pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.



- You cannot pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- You will not be solicited door to door to receive the vaccine.

No one from Medicare or the Health Department with contact you.



No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer, like a private insurance company, will call
you asking for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or your credit card or bank account
information to sign you up to get the vaccine.

## What Does Medicare Cover in Relation to COVID-19?

- Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers COVID-19 tests when ordered by your doctor or health care provider on or after February 4, 2020.
- Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations, including extra days in the hospital for patients who had
  to stay longer under COVID-19 quarantine.
- Medicare also recently expanded coverage of telehealth services to enable beneficiaries to access a wider range
  of services from their providers without having to travel to a facility.
  - This includes access to doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers.
  - O During this emergency, there are also more options for the ways your providers can talk with you under this provision.

For more information, contact the SHINE/SMP Program at 305-671-6356.