

MEDICAL SCAMS

Being educated is one of the best ways to avoid scams. Learning how reimbursement works can keep you from being ripped off. FAIR Health is a national independent, not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to bring transparency to healthcare costs and health insurance information through comprehensive data products and consumer resources. FAIR Health uses its database of billions of billed medical and dental services to power a free website that enables consumers to estimate and plan their medical and dental expenditures. The website also offers clear, unbiased educational articles and videos about the healthcare insurance reimbursement system. Click here to go to [FAIR Health](#).

If you're having trouble paying your insurance bill, or you don't understand it, or you need help with paying for prescriptions, contact the Governor's Office of Consumer Health Assistance: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/>.

In 2008, Medicaid fraud units collected more than \$1.3 billion in restitution, fines, penalties and settlements, according to an annual report issued last month by the HHS inspector general's office. The Medicaid fraud units, most of which are housed in each state's attorney general's office, also led to 1,314 convictions and the exclusion of 755 providers from participating in Medicare or other federal health programs.

Medical Scams may include the following:

- Billing for services not rendered or not medically needed.
- “Up Coding” - billing for a higher medical diagnosis or more services that are more lucrative.
- Kickbacks – receiving and giving money, assets or services for patients.
- Physicians who financially benefit by working with outpatient providers, such as home health agencies, durable medical equipment firms and rehabilitation providers and others, to improperly approve medical services.
- Recruiters who go door-to-door to solicit Medicare beneficiary numbers to sell to health care providers.