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What Is Medicare Fraud?

Most Medicare payment errors are simply billing mistakes and are not the result of someone such as a physician, provider or supplier trying to take advantage of the Medicare Program.

Fraud occurs when someone intentionally falsifies information or deceives the Medicare Program for the purpose of generating more revenue. A common example of fraud is purposely billing Medicare for services which were never provided or received.

A complaint about the quality of care received from a doctor, other health-care provider, hospital, skilled nursing home facility or home health agency is not considered fraud.

Most physicians, providers and suppliers are committed to providing high-quality care to their patients and to billing Medicare only for the services they have provided. However, Medicare billing codes and processes can be very confusing, and sometimes providers simply make mistakes.

However, there are a few individuals who intentionally abuse or defraud Medicare by cheating the program. They create a negative image for honest providers.

The Hospice Medicare benefit is unique. Patients who elect Hospice Medicare receive all services, medical equipment, medical supplies and medi-

Some Examples Of Possible Medicare Fraud

- A healthcare provider bills Medicare for services never received.
- A supplier bills Medicare for equipment never received.
- Someone uses another person's Medicare card to get medical care, supplies or equipment.
- Someone bills Medicare for home medical equipment after it has been returned.
- A company offers a Medicare drug plan that hasn't been approved by Medicare.
- A company uses false information to mislead you into joining a Medicare plan.

cations at no charge to them. Hospice bills Medicare on a fixed per diem rate based on level of care.

Hospice is required to also report "the value" of nursing, social work and home health aide visits and services which are provided to the patient. The Hospice Medicare bill will reflect both the per diem billing and the value of services provided. Hospice is reimbursed only for the per diem amount. This is very confusing for the Medicare patient.

For answers to your questions or for more information about the Hospice Medicare benefit, call 866.642.0962 or visit www.hospiceofcitruscounty.org or www.hospiceofthenaturecoast.org.



Tri-County Nursing Home



Embracing Dixie, Gilchrist & Levy Counties



It was about 20 years ago that Tri-County Nursing Home opened its doors as a not-for-profit entity, bringing quality care to the residents of the Lower Suwannee River Valley. Still independent today, this 81-bed facility takes pride in the easy-going atmosphere its residents enjoy and the family-like environment in which these true neighbors thrive, sustained by the fact that they are not far from their loved ones and friends.

Offering a comprehensive range of services to the rural communities it serves, Tri-County Nursing Home is staffed to provide numerous levels of care, including skilled nursing, intermediate care, Alzheimer's and dementia patient care in a Special Care Unit, rehabilitation and long-term care. The

goal of its care regimen is to help short-term patients recuperate so that they can return to their homes and resume their lifestyle. For long-term patients, the goals center on keeping them healthy and as independent as possible. Both missions are supported by a dedicated staff of professionals and support personnel who take a personalized approach to care, many with 15 to 20 years on the Tri-County Nursing Home team.

Licensed by the State of Florida, Tri-County Nursing Home is also certified for Medicare, Medicaid, Hospice and the Veterans Administration.

Proud of their facility and the care they provide, the staff at Tri-County Nursing Home welcome visitors and enjoy giving tours to show what they have to offer.

Located in Trenton at 7280 S.W. State Road 26 (6.7 miles west of the intersection with U.S. Hwy. 129), Tri-County Nursing Home can be reached at 352.463.1222, or visit their website at www.tricountyinh.org.



Administrator Faye Hurst (left) and Director of Nursing Margo Chancey.

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Just Some of the Many Amenities, Programs and Resident Services Available at Tri-County Nursing Home

Onsite Amenities

- Spacious, Attractive Patio, Gazebo and Community Rooms
- Individual Heating and Air-Conditioning for Personal Comfort
- Onsite Beauty Shop
- Library
- Activity Room
- Large Dining Room

Programs

- 24-Hour Skilled Nursing
- Private Rooms Available
- Special Care Unit for Alzheimer's and Dementia-Related Diseases
- Long-Term Care
- Rehabilitation Services (Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy)
- Nutritional Services by a Registered Dietician
- Wound Care

Resident Services

- Housekeeping
- Linen Services
- Recreational Activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Visits by Eye, Foot and Hearing Aid Professionals

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Hospice Pharmacist Jim Finney Achieves Board Certification

Dr. Jim Finney recently earned board certification in pharmacotherapy from the Board of Pharmacy Specialties, recognized as the single agency which operates across the pharmacy profession to provide specialty certification of

pharmacists.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, Jim has practiced pharmacy in Citrus County for the past 20 years and has been pharmacist for Hospice of Citrus County/Hospice of the Nature Coast since 2004.