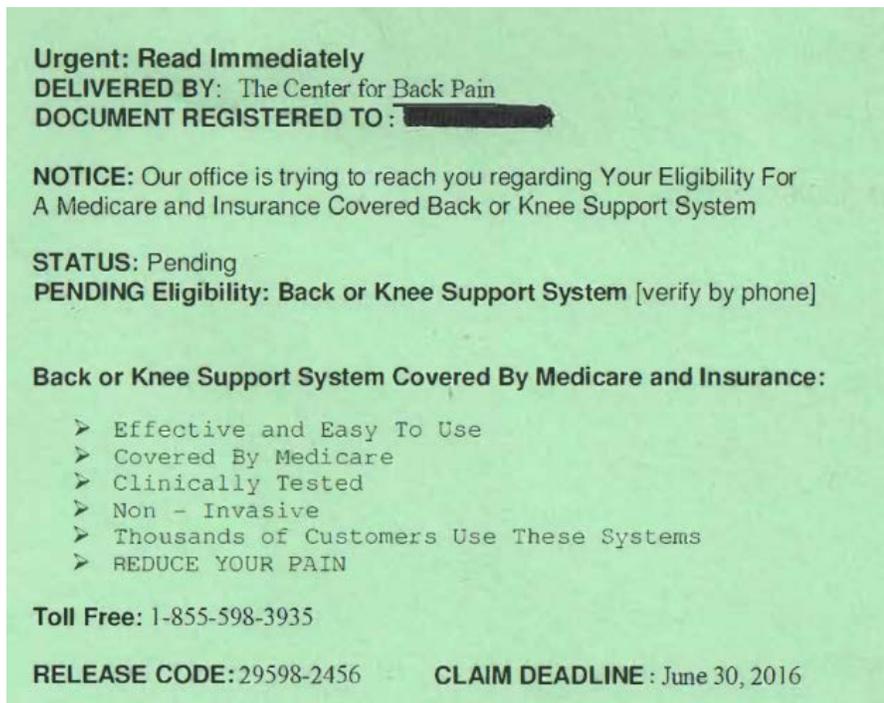




ND SMP Scam of the Month August 2016

Scams Too?

Have you received one of these postcards in the mail recently? While this is not a true Medicare scam, it borders on unethical practice. There is a lesson here. Some free offers are well intended. Others are not and these companies may bill Medicare for hundreds of dollars more than the product's actual cost through local providers.



You might think that this is illicit marketing, but the companies sending these cards stating eligibility for back or knee support systems are purchasing consumer lists from Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers, which is an accepted practice. The best rule of thumb to follow with this type of advertising is to shred these cards. If you think a piece of DME equipment could help you, check with your medical provider first to discuss options and obtain a referral to your local DME provider.

It is hard to resist those magical words.....“It’s Free” or “You Won’t Have to Pay a Thing!”

(Remember that you are still responsible for your 20% coinsurance charges).

What to do if you responded to one of these marketing ploys?

- Contact the ND Attorney General Consumer Protection office at 1-800-472-2600.
- Call the ND SMP office if you have questions about Medicare fraud.

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit www.ndcpd.org/smp