


Independent @ Home Program
Medicaid Fraud FAQs

1. What is Medicaid Fraud?

The crime of Medicaid fraud is the act of any person who, with the intent to defraud New York State through any medical assistance program created under the federal Social Security Act and administered by the Department of Health, knowingly:

- Allows to be paid any false or fraudulent claim for furnishing services or;
- Submits false information for the purpose of obtaining greater compensation than that to which he/she is legally entitled for furnishing services or;
- Submits false information for the purpose of obtaining authorization for furnishing services.

2. Who can Commit Medicaid Fraud?

Anyone involved in a Medicaid program can commit Medicaid Fraud, including:

- People with Medicaid;
- Doctors and healthcare professionals;
- Suppliers of medical equipment;
- Employees of physicians;
- Employees of companies that manage Medicaid billing.

3. What Does Fraud Look Like in CDPAS?

- Submitting Personal Assistant time that wasn't actually worked;
- Consistent failure to complete the Plan of Care;
- Receiving accidental overpayment and not reporting and returning it;
- Requiring the Personal Assistant to do work not listed on the Plan of Care.

4. How is Fraud Detected?

There are multiple efforts in place to detect fraud. These include:

- CMS Fraud Prevention System - Similar to credit care technology, screens every Medicaid claim;
- Integrity Contractors - Teams hired to gather information and investigate claims across the country. These include: HEAT Strike Force Teams; Zone Program Integrity Contractors; Recovery Audit Program; and Medicaid Integrity Contractors.

5. What are the Penalties for Committing Medicaid Fraud?

- You could be required to pay a fine;
- You could lose your Medicaid benefits;
- You could be arrested and spend time in jail;
- You could be excluded from participating in any Medicaid funded program again.

6. Who do I Contact if I Suspect Fraud?

Call the New York State Office for the Medicaid Inspector General at 1.877.873.7283 and Independent @ Home at 1.800.234.2211