

Fraud and Abuse

Fraud is when someone knowingly does something wrong or dishonest in order to benefit himself or someone else. Abuse consists of behaviors or actions that are unnecessary and create waste and could be dangerous in a healthcare setting.

You must report fraud and abuse when you think it might be occurring. Some examples of healthcare fraud are:

- Not reporting all of your financial information or giving false information when you apply for benefits
- Allowing someone else to use your health insurance card
- Permanently living in another state while still receiving health benefits from Maryland
- Selling medicines or supplies given to you by your doctor
- Changing or forging prescriptions given to you by your doctor

Some examples of how providers might commit fraud and abuse are:

- Performing services that are not needed
- Billing for services that were never performed
- Billing numerous times for the same service

When someone is reported for possible fraud and abuse, MedStar Family Choice will perform an investigation. The results are reported to the Department of Health Care Finance. The Department of Health Care Finance may perform its own investigation too. People who perform these activities or any other dishonest activity on purpose may lose their health benefits, be fined or jailed.

While MedStar Family Choice looks for possible fraud and abuse activities, we need your help to stop fraud and abuse. MedStar Family Choice has a strict nonretaliation policy. You do not need to give your name. However, if you choose to give us your name, you don't have to worry about anyone denying you service, removing you from the managed care organization or treating you in any way that would cause you or a family member from feeling that you did something wrong for reporting any incident. If you know of a situation that may involve fraud and abuse, please report it immediately by calling our compliance director at 855-210-6203 or you may call Member Services at 888-404-3549. Your report will remain confidential.

You may also call the Department of Health Care Finance at 877-632-2873. Or, you may report it in writing at 899 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington, DC 20002. Again, you do not have to give your name.

