

Oregon Department of Justice Medicaid Fraud Unit

STOP FRAUD, FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION, NEGLECT & ABUSE

Save tax dollars while protecting Oregon's most vulnerable people.

What Is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a jointly funded state and federal program that provides health care benefits for low-income and disabled people. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) administers Oregon's Medicaid program, called the Oregon Health Plan.

As of June, 2022, the plan provides health care coverage to over 1.3 million Oregonians, including veterans, the elderly, physically disabled, developmentally disabled, and children.

There are over 81,000 Medicaid providers in Oregon. They include doctors, nurses, dentists, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, durable medical equipment suppliers, home care workers or anyone else who bills the Medicaid program for health care goods and services provided to a Medicaid recipient.

Medicaid Fraud Unit (MFU)

Oregon's MFU is part of the Oregon Department of Justice and is responsible for investigating and prosecuting:

- Billing fraud committed by Medicaid providers.
- Abuse, neglect and financial exploitation in Medicaid funded health care facilities and of Medicaid recipients in non-institutional settings if the alleged conduct was committed by a health care provider in connection with the provision of health care services.

What Is Provider Fraud? The MFU investigates and prosecutes fraud committed by Medicaid providers. Examples of provider fraud include:

- **Phantom Billing:** billing for services not rendered. (e.g., Dentist bills for a filling that was not done.)
- **Upcoding:** Provider inflates the level of service performed or the length of time spent with a patient. (e.g., Podiatrist billing for surgery when the patient's toenails were trimmed.)
- **Billing for medically unnecessary services.**
- **Duplicate Billing:** billing Medicaid and the recipient or private insurance for the same service.



Oregon Department of Justice
Medicaid Fraud Unit
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Medicaid Fraud Drives Up the Cost of Health Care For Everyone.

All of us have the responsibility to report fraud and abuse.

The **Oregon Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit** investigates and prosecutes fraud, financial exploitation and abuse and neglect, and brings the perpetrators to justice.

Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect

Oregon abuse reporting hotline: 1-855-503-SAFE (7233)

If you think someone is in danger or being hurt, call 911.

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Reporting Suspected Fraud to the MFU

By Email:

Medicaid.Fraud.Referral@doj.state.or.us

By Phone:

971-673-1880

By Mail:

Oregon DOJ – MFCU
100 SW Market Street, Portland, OR 97201

Financial Exploitation

Sadly, some health care providers use their position of trust to take advantage of our most vulnerable populations by stealing money, property, and even prescription drugs, or coerce them into giving up their possessions. Examples include:

- A nursing home administrator who writes and cashes checks for him/herself from the patient's accounts.
- An adult foster home owner who uses his or her influence and position of authority to coerce a patient to make her the beneficiary of the patient's will.

Abuse and Neglect

Worse still are health care providers who physically abuse or neglect their clients. Warning signs include:

- A patient whose medication is missing or suddenly appears to be ineffective.
- Cuts, black eyes, bruises and burns, especially when the caregiver cannot explain how they happened.
- Patient fears being alone with caregivers.
- Patient or resident is unkempt or his/her room is extremely dirty.

Drug Diversion

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has labeled prescription drug abuse an epidemic. Many controlled prescription drugs are attractive to substance abusers, especially opioid pain relievers and high-cost anti-psychotics. Drug diversion schemes include:

- A home health care worker who steals a patient's medications to sell.
- A nurse who steals prescription drugs from a computerized dispenser at the nursing home.
- A physician who operates a "pill mill" providing no legitimate care while writing unlawful, medically unnecessary prescriptions.



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