

# Newsletter

*The latest news, views and announcements for the staff at Main Street Medical Supply.*

## *In This Issue*

### **A Spotlight on Medicare Fraud**

### **A SPOTLIGHT ON MEDICARE FRAUD**

Healthcare is a massive industry, involving billions of dollars. With 380 million Americans, half of whom have chronic diseases, the need for healthcare services is immense. Medicare, supported by taxpayers, plays a significant role in funding this care. Unfortunately, this vast flow of money attracts fraudsters. Durable medical equipment (DME) accounts for a small percentage of Medicare spending but frequently makes headlines due to fraud. The latest example involves urinary catheters, following the pattern of previous fraud cases involving items like power wheelchairs and diabetic supplies. Fraudsters exploit Medicare by billing for unnecessary or non-existent products, and urinary catheters have become their latest target. Think about it. Many catheter patients will need disposable catheters for the remainder of their lives. Each such patient is like an “annuity.” Once the patient is signed up, then he/she (or more accurately, Medicare) will generate payments for catheters for the lifetime of the patient. This is a target rich environment for fraudsters. A recent Washington Post article uncovered a \$3 billion fraud scheme involving urinary catheters. Companies used personal information from Medicare beneficiaries and physicians to bill for catheters that *(continued on page 2)*

### **Product Spotlight**

## **Main Street Medical Supply**

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were never needed or received. This prompted Medicare to propose new payment rules to address the issue. Medicare identified 11 companies responsible for over \$3 billion in fraudulent catheter billings between January 2023 and March 2024. While payments have been blocked, concerns remain about how patient and provider data was accessed and misused.

At Main Street Medical Supply, we genuinely care about your well-being. We want to alert you to the potential for fraud involving medical equipment, particularly urinary catheters. As a trusted local supplier, we encourage you to be vigilant. If you receive bills or notices for medical equipment you did not request or need, please report it immediately. We believe in the importance of self-policing within the DME industry to protect our customers and maintain integrity. In fact, one fraudulent company has been using a name similar to ours causing lots of confusion. **Main Street Medical Supply does not bill Medicare**, Medicaid or any insurance companies and is absolutely not responsible for these charges. Main Street DME from Georgia has been creating fraudulent charges. We have received multiple calls and emails about these Medicare charges. We have two retail locations called Main Street Medical Supply which are both located in Texas. Below is the information we have found on Main Street DME:

MAIN STREET DME, INC.  
2959 CHEROKEE ST NW STE 103C  
KENNESAW, GA 30144-6522  
Phone: 678-387-5620 Fax: 678-638-2857

Please make sure you reach out and report the fraud correctly. (Source: MedTrade.com, Jeffrey S. Baird, JD)

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

We love the new Nova Swivel Transfer Bench because it's our most versatile transfer bench yet. It swivels with the pull of a lever, and also slides from side to side, allowing the user to easily transfer into the shower or tub. Best of all, it can be assembled easily in under 5 minutes - tool free! We also love the new Nova Swivel Bath Seat because it's our most versatile shower chair yet. It swivels with the pull of a lever, allowing the user to more easily get in and out of the chair. Both have seats that swivel 360° with the pull of a lever. They have tool-free assembly that can be done under 5 minutes. Both feature comfortable padded arms provide support and stability, and are easily removable. They also have slip-resistant rubber tips for added stability, and non-corrosive aluminum legs that will not rust. Come in to your local Main Street Medical Supply location and try out the NEW Nova Swivel bathroom safety items.

