

Audits Conducted by SafeGuard-UPIC (Contracted by CMS)

March 28, 2019

Audits are being conducted by SafeGuard a UPIC (Unified Program Integrity Contractor) to identify cases of suspected fraud, investigate them, and take action to ensure any appropriate Medicare payments are recouped.

The SGS teams perform comprehensive problem identification, innovative data analysis, investigation, and research to identify potentially fraudulent Medicare providers, refer resulting cases to law enforcement, and pursue administrative actions to reduce, deter, and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The audit conducted consists initially of a telephone interview made with the beneficiary. Once the telephone interview is completed, a beneficiary attestation form is sent/mailed for the beneficiary to sign and send back. The form is an attestation recapping the telephone interview.

Unified Program Integrity Contractor (UPIC)

Fraud may include things such as:

- ⇒ Billing for services not furnished
- ⇒ Billing that appears to be deliberate for duplicate payment
- ⇒ Altering claims or medical records to obtain a higher payment amount
- ⇒ Soliciting, offering, or receiving a kickback or rebate for patient referrals
- ⇒ Billing non-covered or non-chargeable services as covered

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UPIC actions to detect and deter fraud and abuse may include:

- ⇒ Investigating potential fraud and abuse, including interviews and onsite visits
- ⇒ Perform medical review, as appropriate
- ⇒ Perform data analysis
- ⇒ Identify the need for administrative actions, such as payment suspensions and prepayment, or auto-denial edits
- ⇒ Referring cases to law enforcement for consideration and initiation of civil or criminal prosecution.

UPIC is broken down into 2 jurisdictions:

Northeastern Unified Program Integrity Contractor (NE UPIC)

The NE UPIC performs fraud, waste and abuse detection, deterrence and prevention activities for Medicare and Medicaid claims processed within the North Eastern Jurisdiction for the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the city of Alexandria in Virginia. General mailing addresses for NE UPIC include the following:

SafeGuard Services, LLC
Suite 200 1250 Camp Hill Bypass
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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Southeastern Unified Program Integrity Contractor (SE UPIC)

The SE UPIC performs fraud, waste and abuse detection, deterrence and prevention activities for Medicare and Medicaid claims processed within the South-Eastern Jurisdiction for the states of West Virginia, Virginia (excluding Part B for the counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the city of Alexandria), North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida and the territories of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Mailing addresses for SE UPIC include the following:

SafeGuard Services, LLC
3450 Lakeside Drive
Suite 201
Miramar, FL 33027