Healthcare Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in the Context of COVID-19

A white paper by the Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership (HFPP)

Learn about concerns surrounding fraud, waste, and abuse schemes related to the delivery of care for COVID-19, as well as schemes that capitalize upon the Public Health Emergency (PHE), occurring from the beginning of the PHE through January 2021. Additionally, this resource provides methods to consider when responding to this and future challenges.

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OVERVIEW:

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly shaped public life and healthcare delivery across the country. Swift, necessary, and comprehensive changes to healthcare practices and policies regarding billing codes, telehealth, and prescriptions, among other areas, enabled the U.S. healthcare system to successfully adapt delivery of care processes. These changes also created potential vulnerabilities for bad actors to apply repurposed fraud, waste, and abuse schemes.

In response, the HFPP — a voluntary, public-private partnership that seeks to identify and reduce healthcare fraud, waste, and abuse — developed this resource in collaboration with Stanford University School of Medicine and the Partnership. Learn more about the HFPP.

RESPONSE METHODS DISCUSSED:

- Increasing collaboration with stakeholders and using focused data analytics to speed and bolster detection efforts.
- Taking and supporting enforcement actions through increased communication with and amongst law enforcement about identified vulnerabilities.
- Educating providers about policy changes and members, beneficiaries, and patients on best practices to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.

If you have other questions or are interested in joining the HFPP, please contact the HFPP's Trusted Third Party (TTP) Engagement Team at ttp@gdit.com or visit our website at hfpp.cms.gov.