



## Medical Identity Theft—Protect Yourself and Your TRICARE Benefit

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Medical identity theft is a hidden crime on the rise that often goes unnoticed and victims seldom report. As a TRICARE beneficiary, you are not immune to this crime. Medical identity theft and fraud occurs anytime someone other than you uses your name or uniformed services identification card to receive care. They also may occur if someone files a claim in your name for care or services you never received.

TRICARE and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service collaborate to pursue and prosecute medical identity theft cases. A recent case successfully prosecuted involved a person who posed as an eligible TRICARE beneficiary and used a stolen uniformed services identification card to get medical care totaling more than \$60,000.

Medical and financial problems may occur if your medical identity is compromised or stolen. TRICARE may recoup or your provider may bill you for medical care and services provided to the person who stole your identity. Your medical record and history may also be altered, causing providers to prescribe the wrong treatments or medications.

Protect yourself and your TRICARE benefit. Don't give a thief a chance to steal your medical identity. Be suspicious of any person or agency who contacts you by mail, telephone or in person with an offer for "free" medical treatments or services. Never release or share your private medical information with anyone who contacts you first, unless you or a person designated to act on your behalf initiated the contact by calling one of the toll-free TRICARE numbers or by visiting the TRICARE Web site.

Whenever you receive an explanation of benefits, be sure to read it. Make sure it reflects the care or services you or your eligible family member received. If it doesn't, contact your TRICARE claims processor or insurance provider for help.

Report medical identity theft or fraud to TRICARE by mailing a letter to:

TRICARE Management Activity  
Attn: Program Integrity Office  
16401 East Centretch Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80011-9066.

You may also report medical identity theft or fraud by calling (303) 676-3824, sending a fax to (303) 676-3981, or e-mail to [fraudline@tma.osd.mil](mailto:fraudline@tma.osd.mil).

