

How to file a Medicare whistleblower complaint and get a reward

One common question is how to file a Medicare whistleblower complaint in order to receive a reward. There is a very specific process for filing a Medicare whistleblower complaint. If you do not follow every step you won't be eligible for a reward. That's because there is a federal statute known as the False Claims Act (FCA) that governs whether and how much in whistleblower rewards the Department of Justice may pay for reporting Medicare fraud. It begins by filing a Medicare whistleblower complaint. But this is not the same thing as calling a hotline or even sending Medicare or another government official a letter outlining the fraud. In fact, even if you trigger the investigation that leads to a healthcare provider repaying misused funds, the government cannot pay a reward unless you follow each and every step in properly filing a Medicare whistleblower complaint.

The purpose of this article is to outline the steps you must follow in filing a Medicare whistleblower complaint to get a reward.

5 steps to filing a Medicare whistleblower Complaint

First, the FCA statute requires you to hire an attorney to file a qui tam complaint alleging specific and detailed evidence of fraudulent billings by a healthcare provider. Again, there are no rewards for simply calling a hotline or reporting fraud to Medicare or other government employees. The good news is that you can ask an attorney to review your allegations in complete confidence. The information will be treated as privileged even if you do not file for a complaint and even if you do not hire that particular attorney. (You can ask Mr. Hesch to review your Medicare whistleblower fraud allegations and represent you in filing the complaint by **clicking on this link**: <http://www.HowToReportFraud.com/report-fraud/fraud-questionnaire/>)

Second, the Medicare whistleblower reward is based on results. The reward is a portion of the amount the Government collects back from the wrongdoer. The FCA provides that the reward is between 15% and 30% of the recovery from the fraudster—no matter how much is recovered. In one Medicare fraud case I worked at as an attorney with the Department of Justice, a whistleblower alleged that a large chain of hospitals was keeping two sets of books to keep track of how much it was cheating Medicare. We ended up settling the case for \$641 million and paid the whistleblower \$100 million! At the same time, if the government does not collect any funds, there is no reward no matter how good the complaint was prepared.

Third, the reward program only applies to fraud against the government, such as Medicare fraud or military fraud. It does not apply to overcharging private insurance companies for healthcare fraud. The good news is that rewards are available for reporting all types of Medicare fraud, whether it is a doctor, hospital, nursing home, dentist, or durable medical equipment provider. Unlike the government budget, there is no limit to the number or amount of rewards because whistleblowers get a portion right off the top of the money brought in for reporting Medicare fraud.

Fourth, the Medicare whistleblower must be the first one to properly file a fraud complaint following the procedures of the FCA as generally outlined in this article. Therefore, do not delay in contacting a Medicare fraud whistleblower attorney to review your potential case.

Fifth, the alleged fraud must not already be publicly disclosed in a news media article or certain other public forums, unless the whistleblower is considered an “original source” of the public disclosure. In short, if the media or certain government reports already contain the Medicare fraud allegations, there is little need to pay a reward. However, there is a significant exception to this rule, such as when you have “knowledge that is independent of and materially adds to the publicly disclosed allegations or transactions.” You’ll need the help of an experienced Medicare fraud attorney to determine if you meet this exception.

How to ask Mr. Hesch to help you file a Medicare whistleblower complaint

The government wants you to file a Medicare whistleblower complaint and it wants to pay you a reward, assuming you have the right type of information that uncovers Medicare fraud. However, by law a reward can be paid only if you follow the exacting procedures contained in the False Claims Act statute.

Mr. Hesch would be pleased to review your information in complete confidence and help you determine if you have the right kind of information to receive a significant reward and file your Medicare whistleblower complaint.

Click on this link: <http://www.HowToReportFraud.com/report-fraud/fraud-questionnaire/> to have Mr. Hesch review your Medicare whistleblower complaint fraud allegations. Click on this link <http://www.HowToReportFraud.com/about-us/representative-cases/> to see examples of Medicare whistleblower fraud cases Mr. Hesch worked on while working for the Department of Justice for 15 years and now in private practice exclusively representing whistleblowers (totaling over \$1.7 billion).

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