

# **MEDICARE GOOFED AGAIN!**

**By Woodrow Wilcox**

One of the clients for this insurance agency sent a bill to me from The University of Chicago Medical Center and asked me why his insurance company had not paid the bill. This agency helps our senior citizen clients with such billing problems free of charge. Our agency is the largest senior citizen oriented insurance agency in the Midwest.

I checked with the client's insurance company. This was another case of Medicare goofing up in a way that costs millions of senior citizens millions of dollars per year. In other articles, I have estimated that Medicare goofs cost senior citizens about ONE BILLION DOLLARS per year in false charges for medical services. To read some of the articles that I have written over the past five years, visit [www.woodrowwilcox.com](http://www.woodrowwilcox.com). To watch my videos about senior citizen issues, visit [www.woodrowwilcox.tv](http://www.woodrowwilcox.tv) or [www.woodrowwilcox.com](http://www.woodrowwilcox.com).

The bills that the hospital reported to Medicare were for original amounts of \$3,072.00, \$1,187.00, and \$3,321.09. Medicare reported the original amounts of the bills to the client's insurance company as \$275, \$686, and \$1,120. The client's insurance company paid the claims based on the information sent to it by Medicare.

Medicare caused a problem that could have cost our client hundreds of dollars in "false charges". By "false charges" I mean that the senior citizen on Medicare is getting billed an amount which would not be billed if Medicare (or someone involved in the Medicare process) had done the job correctly. Senior citizens who are on fixed incomes are getting cheated by millions of dollars per year because of Medicare goofs.

I helped our client to avoid hundreds of dollars of "false charges" by contacting the hospital, explaining the situation, and requesting that the hospital send certain information to the client's insurance company so that the claim could be processed and paid properly.

I am glad that I was able to help our client. But, I worry about other senior citizens on fixed incomes with Medicare who don't have anyone to help them avoid the "false charges" that happen when Medicare goofs.

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