

Medical Identity Theft

*Provided by the Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Kyle Witt
Office of the Victim Assistance Division*

What is it?

Medical Identity Theft is similar to traditional identity theft. It is when dishonest people working in the medical field use your personal information to have themselves or someone they know treated medically, fill prescriptions or have surgery using your identity.

How to know if you are a victim of Medical Identity Theft?

- You get a bill for medical services you did not receive.
- A debt collector contacts you about a medical debt you don't owe.
- You receive a copy of your credit report and see medical collections you don't recognize.
- You try to make an insurance claim and your health insurance has reached its limits.
- You are denied insurance because of a medical condition you don't have.

*For more information about your rights under **HIPPA**, visit the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights** at:*

www.hhs.gov/ocr

Tips for Avoiding Health Care Fraud or Heath Insurance Fraud

- Never sign blank insurance claim forms.
- Never give blanket authorization to medial provider to bill for services.
- Ask your medical providers what they will charge and what you will be expected to pay out-of-pocket
- Carefully review your insurer's explanation of benefits. Call if you have questions.
- Do not do business with door-to-door or telephone salespeople who say services are free.
- Give insurance/Medicare identification only to those who have provided you with medical services.
- Keep records of health care appointments
- Know if your physician ordered equipment for you.

If an imposter gets care using your information, it could put your life in danger because hospital records could show wrong information for you:

- Record of wrong blood type
- Medication Allergies
- Illnesses/Injuries
- Inaccurate history of drug/alcohol abuse
- And many others....

ALSO SEE OUR INFORMATION ON IDENTITY THEFT