



Celebrating Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week, Nov. 3-9, 2023 – also known as Compliance Week at the University of New Mexico and UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC).

Preventing Healthcare Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) puts our patients at risk and increases the cost of healthcare for all of us.

FWA can have serious consequences for individuals, organizations, and communities. By ensuring that our resources are used efficiently and appropriately, preventing FWA can serve to eliminate unnecessary healthcare costs, which can hurt the financial well-being of our patients, our community and our organization.

What is Fraud?

Fraud is defined as any deliberate and dishonest act committed with the knowledge that it could result in an unauthorized benefit to the person committing the act or someone else who is similarly not entitled to the benefit.

What is Waste?

Waste includes practices that, directly or indirectly, result in unnecessary costs to the Medicare Program, such as overusing services. Waste is generally not considered to be caused by criminally negligent actions, but rather by the misuse of resources.

What Is Abuse?

Abuse is defined as practices that are inconsistent with accepted sound fiscal, business, or medical practices, and result in an unnecessary cost or in reimbursement for services that are not medically necessary or that fail to meet professionally recognized standards for health care. This may occur when a procedure isn't covered by insurance so a different procedure is billed.

Addressing and understanding FWA is crucial for any organization to maintain ethical standards and ensure efficient use of resources. Therefore, it is everyone's responsibility to understand what FWA is and how to safeguard our organizational assets.

To report suspected or potential FWA, you may:

- Call the Compliance Officer: (505) 272-7069 or send a confidential email to angmvigil@salud.unm.edu
- Call the Compliance Hotline: 1-888-899-6092
- Submit a report via the online reporting tool at unm.ethicspoint.com

