

https://www.eagletribune.com/news/lifestyles/be-wary-of-tv-pitches-for-back-and-knee-braces/article_0e055514-176d-50b8-a070-b142bbacfc81.html

Be wary of TV pitches for back and knee braces

Joan Hatem-Roy Elder Q&A May 5, 2019



Joan Hatem-Roy



Q: I've been having lower back pain for quite some time. It gets worse after too much physical activity. I've seen commercials on T.V. promoting back and knee braces covered by Medicare. If it isn't going to cost me anything is there any reason why I shouldn't call the number?

A: So glad you contacted us before you made that call. Our advice ... don't make that call. We have been receiving numerous questions and complaints from consumers regarding the various braces advertised. First of all, while you may actually receive a brace there is no guarantee the brace will be what you expected or be the kind of brace that will actually provide relief for your discomfort. It is risky to use any brace that has not been prescribed by your personal physician or physical therapist that is familiar with your condition. A specialist would take precise body measurements to insure the brace would fit properly.

The ads can be misleading, you could actually be responsible for a co-payment. Some consumers have received additional products they had absolutely no use for nor had they ordered. In addition Medicare could incur an exorbitant amount for a device that is not of good quality. Consumers are reminded to be diligent in never providing your Medicare or Social Security numbers to anyone other than trusted and known medical providers. Once a company that may be fraudulent or disreputable has your personal information they could conceivably pass this on to other companies.

We strongly encourage any Medicare beneficiary who has received any kind of brace whether it was in response to an ad, postcard or in some cases unsolicited, to contact the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at 1-800-892-0890 or www.MASMP.org. You are advised to keep all package contents. Carefully check any Medicare Summary Notices received. The goal of SMP is to prevent healthcare errors, fraud and abuse.

Are you struggling caring for an older adult or having difficulty locating resources? Our experienced staff are available for no cost consultations in the home, office or community. For additional information or to schedule an appointment call 1-800-892-0890. Do you have a question? We encourage inquiries and comments from our readers. Direct correspondence to ageinfo@esmv.org or Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc., AgeInfo Department, 280 Merrimack Street, Suite 400, Lawrence, MA 01843. Joan Hatem-Roy is the CEO of Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.

0 comments

Sign in

2 people listening

		+ Follow	Post comment as...

Newest | Oldest

Eagle Tribune Events

See All Events Add your event

Fri, May 10

Fri, May 10

Fri, May 10

Fri, May 10



Haunted Footsteps Ghost Tour

Salem Historical Tours

John Goodman: not recent color

Addison Gallery of American

In and Out of Place

Addison Gallery of American

Harlem: In Situ

Addison Gallery of Am



FRI 10

SAT 11

SUN 12

MON 13

TUE 14

WED 15

THU 16

FRI 17

SAT 18

SUN 19

MON 20

**WRIGHT ROOFING
GUTTERS & HOME
IMPROVEMENT**
All Types of Roofing & Gutters

Over 20 Years Experience
Free Verbal Estimate - Fully Insured - No Contractors
OWNER OPERATED | NORTH ANDOVER
(978) 687-2247
wrightgutters@gmail.com
CONSTR. SUP. LIC. # CS 102663 • HIC LIC. # 138569

