



The **UNM Health and Health Sciences Compliance Department** will be celebrating Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week November 6-12!

The focus of our announcement this week is **Fraud, Waste, and Abuse**.

Every year, instances of healthcare fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) costs organizations and the government millions in misspent dollars. Fortunately, educating and training employees to recognize and report FWA is the best deterrent.

**Fraud** is intentional deception to obtain financial and/or personal benefit that one is not authorized to receive. For example, billing for services that were not provided or for patients who were not seen (phantom billing or phantom patients; kickbacks and bribery).

**Waste** is the overuse or misuse of healthcare resources or services that results in unnecessary costs to federal healthcare programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Examples for waste are lab tests that are not medically necessary; scheduling and billing unnecessary appointments.

**Abuse** is when best practices are not followed resulting in unnecessary costs or reimbursement for services that are not medically necessary. Some examples for abuse are charging excessive amounts for supplies or services; using incorrect billing codes.

Penalties for violating FWA laws include Civil Monetary Penalties, imprisonment, and exclusion from participation in all Federal healthcare programs.

If you suspect instances of fraud, waste, or abuse, please report your concerns to a supervisor, the Compliance Department, or the EthicsPoint hotline at 1-888-899-6092 or online [unm.ethicspoint.com](http://unm.ethicspoint.com).

Thank you,  
- UNM Health & Health Sciences Compliance Staff

