**What are Health Scams?**

**What is happening:**
Some companies may market a product that promises a cure, treatment, or prevention method that leads to better health. This is misleading, as the product is often not proven safe or effective for its intended use. Health scams waste consumer money and may delay proper treatment and diagnosis.

Areas where health scams and misleading products are common include addiction treatment, memory loss, anti-aging, arthritis, cancer, chronic pain, diabetes, and cosmetic procedures.

**If you are impacted:**
- Tell friends and family so they can avoid the scam
- File a report at [https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov) or call 1-877-382-4357
- If you are experiencing side effects, adverse reactions, or sickness resulting from the use of a product, contact your doctor or health care provider immediately. Report your experience to the FDA MedWatch website or call 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

**Beware of Common Health Scams**
- Product claims to cure a range of health issues and diseases
- Personal testimonials that are difficult to verify
- Promising immediate or quick results
- Assurance of a money back guarantee
- Claims that you must “act now” on the product offer
- Use of unclear scientific explanations or medical jargon
- Product marketed as being “natural”
- Product claims to be a new “innovation” or “miracle cure”
- Marketing to undermine the medical profession

**Preventing Health Scams**

**Do Your Research**
Search on the Internet the product name with keywords such as “review” “complaint” or “scam.” To learn about treatments for diseases, visit [MedlinePlus.gov](https://medlineplus.gov). To learn about alternative and complementary medicine, visit [nci.nih.gov](https://nci.nih.gov).

**Ask Your Doctor**
Check with your health care provider to learn more about the product’s use and potential side effects.

**See if Insurance Covers the Product**
Knowing whether medical expenses are covered by insurance can help inform a product purchase.

**Check with BBB or CO Attorney General**
These sources will explain if there are other consumer complaints for the product or treatment.

**Contact a Health Professional Group**
Organizations such as the American Heart Association and the National Arthritis Foundation can answer questions on the product’s intended use for a particular health problem. Local chapters of health groups may also provide resources about your disease.

**Reach out to Your Local FDA Office**
The FDA will let you know whether they have pursued any measures against a product or its vendor.

**Call the DA’s Community Protection Division for questions**
303-441-3700