



Health Treatment & Products Scams

Community Protection Division
Boulder County District Attorney's Office

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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> 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**. To learn about alternative and complementary medicine, **visit nccih.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**



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