

# SPOTTING SCAMS

## LURING PATIENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENTS

The majority of substance treatment providers are acting in good faith and are here to support their patients and provide them high-quality care. However, some bad actors are trying to take advantage of individuals looking for treatment for themselves or those they care about. This includes offering to cover airfare, hotels, or other perks to convince patients to travel out-of-state to substandard or even nonexistent treatment centers. Luring patients out of state allows for less oversight from families and loved ones.

### EXAMPLES INCLUDE



A person, often referred to as a “broker,” is paid by the treatment center to recruit patients or clients, including convincing them to travel out-of-state.



The treatment center offers to cover your travel expenses to get to the treatment center but does not mention how to return home after.




A treatment center offers to help a patient enroll in private insurance but then the centers stop paying premiums and the plan is soon canceled.




Some marketers for rogue facilities go to family support groups pretending to be grieving mothers intending to patient broker other people’s children. They’re known as mom-keters.


### POTENTIAL SIGNS




Ads for a treatment center include a phone number, website link, or physical address for a totally different center, sometimes in a completely different state.




The treatment center offers to help you enroll in private insurance before you receive treatment.



False claims about efficacy of treatment, including toxicology, and excessive and unnecessary testing.




Someone mentions that they are paid a referral fee for recommending a particular treatment center to you or your loved one.




The treatment center offers to cover your travel expenses to get to the treatment center but do not mention how to return home after.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO



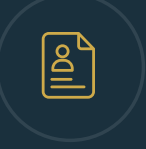
Be wary of anyone offering to pay for your insurance coverage. They can stop paying your premiums at any time, which will result in the cancellation of your insurance.




If you accept an offer by someone to pay for travel to an out-of-state clinic, make sure you have a plan and the means to pay for a trip back home.



It is a type of insurance fraud (known as inducement) for a facility to pay for a patient's insurance/ deductible/out-of-pocket expense. A facility should never provide travel beyond reason, such as transporting a patient from an inpatient treatment center to their next facility for care. They can never buy train/bus/place ticket under federal law.



Be careful about giving your personal information – including your social security number or insurance member id – to a recruiter, unless you can confirm that they are actually employed by a medical provider or insurance company.



If you think you’ve spotted this kind of scam, report it to your attorney general at: <https://www.consumerresources.org/file-a-complaint/>