



Medicare Set Asides 101: When to Engage a Professional Administrator

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Whether you're a structured settlement broker, plaintiff attorney, applicant attorney, or insurance adjuster, involving a professional administrator during the settlement of future medical can relieve a tremendous amount of stress from all parties. But there are many questions surrounding professional administration, including what is it, when to involve a professional administrator, and what benefits do they offer?

What is Professional Administration?

Professional administration is when a third party, like CareGuard, establishes a custodial account for future medical funds from a settlement on behalf of the injured party. These funds are used for treatments, prescriptions, durable medical equipment, and home healthcare related to the injury. A professional administrator makes life easier for an injured party after settlement by handling the paying of medical bills, removing previous restrictions on treatment such as utilization review, aiding in finding new doctors and providers, and helping assign a beneficiary for the funds. In the case of a Medicare Set Aside, a professional administrator also helps with completing the required annual reporting to Medicare and protecting the injured party's Medicare benefits.

When Should I Involve a Professional Administrator?

You should involve a professional administrator if the injured party:

- Doesn't want to manage their own medical care
- Is afraid their settlement money will run out for their future medical care
- Is frustrated with the Workers' Compensation system and utilization review
- Has MSA reporting concerns
- Would want to pay less than full price for medical care

The best time to involve a professional administrator, such as CareGuard, is as early as possible. A professional administrator can provide all parties with the assistance they need to come to a mutual agreement around settlement. CareGuard can often provide the injured party with peace of mind that their settlement offer is sufficient, and they will be take care of post-settlement. CareGuard's CareQuote service can provide transparent pricing into the real post-settlement cost of prescriptions, home health services, and durable medical equipment. This pricing allows injured parties to have insight into what the cost of their future medical care will be. CareGuard saves injured parties on their medical expenses through our doctor and pharmacies networks. This money can be used to help extend the life of the medical funds.

What Benefits Does a Professional Administrator Offer?

A professional administrator can help all parties throughout every stage of the settlement process. CareGuard will perform outreach to the injured party and/or their attorney to determine and address their concerns about settlement. By discussing the benefits of using CareGuard, including transparent pricing into future medical costs, and cost savings through our network of doctors, providers, and pharmacies, the injured party sees a clear path to how we can help them continue and improve their care after settlement.

CareGuard will also speak with adjusters, structured settlement brokers, Medicare, and medical providers, creating coordination amongst all parties. Many times during settlement, parties can be on different pages when it comes to healthcare costs, and it is difficult to relay information amongst everyone. CareGuard makes it easy. We can also attend or call into mediations, encouraging settlement and explaining the benefits CareGuard can provide to each party.

Once the injured party is a CareGuard member, CareGuard's team of Care Advocates will contact all of their doctors, providers, and pharmacies so the injured party can use their CareGuard card like a traditional insurance card. Through CareGuard's savings network members save on average 28% off the pricing in their settlement projection and the Care Advocates are available to answer any questions and provide support.

How Do I Include Professional Administration During Settlement?

When a professional administrator is involved early in the settlement process, administration can be quoted and included in the settlement offer and in negotiations. This not only benefits the injured party, as typically the carrier will cover the cost of the service so they do not have to pay for the service out-of-pocket, but it also benefits brokers, attorneys, and adjusters who can use it as a service to make the transition to settlement easier.

After all, once the injured person finalizes their settlement, they become a client of CareGuard for the rest of their life. At CareGuard, we provide all parties with the language to include professional administration into the settlement documents, saving you time and hassle.

Ultimately, professional administration creates a seamless settlement experience, and makes settling easier for all parties involved.

Want to find out more about how to utilize professional administration in your cases? Call us at **877.275.7415**, email us at **referral@careguard.com** or watch our video here. Check out our infographic below to see how we can help you through every step of the settlement process.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION

