



'Care Share

New Medicare Card Scam Targeting Seniors

Scams targeting older adults are endless, primarily because they keep working. The newest version of an ongoing scam is one where an "official" with Medicare is calling because Medicare is sending out new cards and he needs to verify some information. Of course the information he is looking for is your banking information.

Please remember that: 1) Medicare will NEVER call you on the phone; and 2) Medicare and Social Security do not need your banking information, (the crooks do so they can steal your money).

Even the most knowledgeable person can fall prey to this scam. The callers are convincing. They often have some of your banking information already, and the longer they keep you on the phone, the more likely it is they can get more information out of you.

What can you do? You can begin by not answering your phone. Use your answering machine or caller ID to screen all your calls. Do not even waste your time telling them not to call. This just gives them an opportunity to hook you in and make you a victim. Remember, these crooks are successful because they are good at what they do.

Another idea is to have a safety script by your phone. You can follow it to make sure you tell

people that you do not give out personal information to anyone who calls on the phone. Tell them you have to verify who they are and you need their name, agency name, and call back number. Stick to the script no matter what they say to convince you otherwise. Most likely, they will hang up and move on to the next potential victim.

If you do get a call, report it to the Montana Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-800-551-3191. Then, take the time to spread the word to your friends and family to be on the lookout for the latest scam targeting seniors, and share your experience.

If you gave out your Medicare number, it may be compromised. This is suspected medical identity theft. Please report this immediately to SMP or Medicare.

If you did not give out personal information, please report this activity also to your local SMP. These types of solicitations aimed at Medicare beneficiaries are scam attempts. These calls will be collected and the data used at the national level to respond to requests for scams and trends seen by SMP's.

Though the message "Medicare will never call you" has become clouded in recent years, due to the changing nature of Medicare and national Medicare fraud prevention and detection, the fact still remains that no one should need to request your Medicare number.

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) helps to educate Medicare beneficiaries about ways to prevent, detect, and combat Medicare fraud. For more information about Medicare fraud, visit the Stop Medicare Fraud website at www.stopmedicarefraud.gov.

- Sign Up / Change Plans
- Your Medicare Costs
- What Medicare Covers
- Drug Coverage (Part D)
- Supplements & Other Insurance
- Claims & Appeals
- Manage Your Health
- Forms, Help, & Resources

Is my test, item, or service covered?

type your test, item, or service here **Go**

- Find health & drug plans
- Apply for Medicare
- MyMedicare.gov login



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the redesign of the compare website to help consumers search for physicians. You can access Physician Compare by going to Medicare.gov. It is a website used to search and compare information about hundreds of thousands of physicians and other health care professionals, and has been redesigned to make it easier to use.

This redesign includes an improved search function and more frequently updated information.

Stopping Medicare and Medicaid waste is just as important as stopping fraud or abuse. Understanding your benefits and being able to search for reputable providers, whether they be a nursing home, durable medical equipment supplier or a physician, can help you choose the one that is right for you, and one that is also credible. Please use Medicare.gov and you'll find these useful resources at your fingertips.

Address change/Medicare card issue?

Select your card issue... **Go**

Information for my situation

Select your situation... **Go**

Find someone to talk to

Select your state... **Go**

Find doctors, providers, hospitals, plans & suppliers

- Find doctors & other health professionals
- Find nursing homes
- Find hospitals
- Find home health services
- Find dialysis facilities
- Find health & drug plans
- Find suppliers of medical equipment & supplies

More quality, planning, & compare tools

From reporting a stolen card to searching for reputable providers, the Medicare.gov site has helpful information.

One of the best ways to stop waste, fraud or abuse remains reading the Medicare Summary Notice. On this site, you can choose to receive your statements electronically, or you can access MyMedicare.gov to look at your statements any time, day or night. Knowing

- Get help with costs
- Explore Medicare health plans
- Find out how Medicare works with other insurance
- Mail you get about Medicare
- Go paperless: get Medicare & You electronically

your benefits and knowing what is being billed in your name is the #1 way to deter waste, fraud and abuse.