



Montana Senior Medicare Patrol

MEDICARE FRAUD ALERT

DATE: May 17, 2017

REMINDER: Social Security numbers to be removed from Medicare cards

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), passed in 2015, requires CMS to develop and implement a plan to give every Medicare beneficiary a new Medicare card with a new identifier that is not tied to a Social Security number.

The first cards will not be issued before April 2018.

This change has caused confusion, which means scammers are not far behind. ***If someone calls to tell you they're reprocessing cards, issuing new cards, assigning new numbers or anything similar, be aware.*** The fact is, Medicare already has your information, including your mailing address. When CMS sends a new Medicare card, they will mail it to you automatically.

While you wait for the new card and number to be issued, making your Medicare card safer, be aware of those out to steal your information while taking advantage of these changes. The only way to replace a lost or stolen card currently is through Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Presently, there is no way to change your number.

Report these calls to the Montana SMP office at 800-551-3191.

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