



## ND SMP Scam of the Month –January 2021

### COVID -19 Vaccine Scams

Scammers rapidly alter their tactics and adapt fraud schemes to the ever-changing landscape. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Health and Human Services-Office of Inspector General and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid anticipate that fraudsters will leverage a scam to unsuspecting beneficiaries for the COVID1-19 vaccine that is now available.

#### How to protect yourself against these scams:

- Only get a vaccine from an **approved** medical provider.
- During this public health emergency, you will not need to pay anything out-of-pocket to get the vaccine.
- You **DO NOT** pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You **CANNOT** pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- **NO ONE** from Medicare or the Health Department will contact you.
- **NO ONE** from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer (like a private insurance company) will call to ask for your Social Security number, credit card or bank account information to sign you up to get the vaccine.
- **BEWARE** of providers offering other medical testing or procedures, products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. Always check with your own health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19 related treatment.
- If you get a **CALL, TEXT, EMAIL**, or even someone knocking on your door, claiming that they can get you early access to the vaccine, **STOP, this is surely a scam!**
- **Don't** share your personal or health information with anyone other than known and trusted medical professionals.
- **Always remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it is!"**

**Reporting Medicare fraud:** Unfortunately, scam artists are using the coronavirus pandemic to try to steal your Medicare Number and other personal data, but you can protect yourself. If you get a call or email offering the COVID-19 vaccine and they ask for your Medicare number, hang up or delete the email! **Guard your card.**

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to **ND SMP at 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-4477** or email **ndsmp@minotstaeu.edu**

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Federal Trade Commission (8 Dec 20). COVID-19 vaccines are in the pipeline. Scammers won't be far behind.

**North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580**

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit **www.ndcpd.org/smp**

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