



ND SMP Scam of the Month – May 2021

Medicare Beneficiaries Being Targeted by Medicare Card Scams

ND SMP is asking North Dakotans to protect their Medicare number and not give it to unknown callers. An important tip to prevent Medicare fraud:

- ❖ Medicare will rarely contact you by phone. If you get a call from someone claiming to be from “Medicare,” **hang up and call Medicare back at 1-800-633-4227 to confirm that the call is legitimate** and not a scam.

Medicare scams may include the following examples:

- ❖ Scammers falsely tell Medicare beneficiaries that Medicare is issuing new Medicare cards.
 - Medicare isn't issuing new cards.
 - Medicare employees don't contact beneficiaries through unsolicited calls, emails, or visits.
 - Medicare communicates with beneficiaries via mail.
- ❖ Scammers falsely allege Medicare is issuing new plastic or metal Medicare cards or black and white COVID-19 Medicare cards.
 - The scammers state that in order to get the new card, the beneficiary must provide personal identifying information such as their current Medicare number, date of birth or even financial account numbers.
 - Medicare will NEVER ask for personal information or your Medicare number unless you contact Medicare yourself.
- ❖ Scammers falsely allege Medicare is replacing the Medicare card due to suspicious activity, or promise a new Medicare card which will give the beneficiary enhanced Medicare benefits not available on their current card.
 - Scammers often threaten that the current Medicare card is going to be deactivated...**this is not true!**
- ❖ “Spoofing” is a process often used by scammers.
 - Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity.
 - Scammers also often use “neighbor spoofing” so it appears that the call is an incoming call from a local number.
 - Scammers also spoof numbers from a local company or agency or even a government agency like Medicare or Social Security Administration, numbers that you already know and trust.

If you suspect Medicare fraud, contact ND SMP at 1-800-233-1737 or ndsmp@minotstateu.edu

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Tom (2021). *Medicare beneficiaries being targeted by Medicare card scams* [Radio Broadcast]. KIWA Radio. <https://kiwaradio.com/local-news/medicare-beneficiaries-being-targeted-by-medicare-card-scams/>

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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