



## ND SMP Scam of the Month – April 2022

### Help Shut Down Scammers

Too many Medicare beneficiaries have been tricked into handing out information to scammers. There are ways to protect yourself:

- If you receive a call from anyone claiming to be from Medicare or Social Security, hang up. **It's a scam!**
- If you answer a call and someone threatens you with arrest, freezing your bank account, or promises to increase your Social Security payment, hang up. **It's a scam!**
  - You can always get more information on scams at [www.oig.hhs.gov](http://www.oig.hhs.gov)
- Under no circumstances should you give callers any personal information or money.
- Never let a caller press you for immediate payment with gift cards, cash, bank account numbers or credit-card information.
  - Ask for their information so you can think about it and return their call. Often this will prompt the caller to disconnect the call, which means it was a scam!
- Even if a caller knows part or all of your Social Security or Medicare number, don't give in to their demands or threats.
- The best way to stop a scammer is to report it to the Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the ND States Attorney General's office, or reach out to your ND SMP office for additional assistance.

### DIABETES SUPPLIES: Latest Scam News

People with diabetes, especially seniors on Medicare, are prime targets for healthcare scams. Someone may call, pretending to be from "the Government," Medicare, or a fake diabetes association (like the phony "National Diabetes Association").

The caller offers "free" diabetic supplies, such as the new smart meter which is a cellular remote patient monitoring device. The caller may also offer other supplies, such as heating pads, lift seats, foot care products, or joint braces. All the caller wants is your Medicare number and personal or financial information. **The call is a scam!** You may receive some items in the mail that you did not order, or you receive items that just keep coming, whether you need them or not.

**Reporting Medicare fraud:** If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at [ndsmp@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndsmp@minotstateu.edu) or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: U.S. Dept. of Justice (2 August 21). *Mail-order diabetic testing supplier and its parent company agree to pay \$160 million to resolve alleged false claims to Medicare.* A Fraud Alert for people with Diabetes. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdtn/pr/mail-order-diabetic-testing-supplier-and-its-parent-company-agree-pay-160-million>

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

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0021, from the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.



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