



Preventing Medicare Fraud

## ND SMP Scam of the Month – December 2022

### Medicare is NOT Issuing New Medicare Cards

**New Medicare card scams continue to be a favorite of fraudsters.** As we approach the end of 2022, beneficiaries may receive calls from scammers stating that they must renew their Medicare card before January 1, 2023 or lose their benefits. This is untrue and a SCAM.

**There are NOT new plastic, microchipped, or gold Medicare cards with a strip that are being issued. And Medicare IS NOT issuing Medicare cards with new enhanced benefits.** Other reasons scammers give when they call beneficiaries to tell them Medicare is issuing new Medicare cards:

- Because of COVID
- Issuing a black and white card
- Issuing a red, white and black card
- Issuing plastic cards with a strip...
- Issuing a new “gold” card....and on and on!

The callers are known to tell the beneficiary that if they don't verify their Medicare number for the new card, they will lose their benefits. This is an untrue statement. **There are two important things to remember when it comes to Medicare:**

- 1. Medicare WILL NEVER issue new cards in mass like in 2018.** This took place only to remove the SSN from Medicare cards and replace it with an 11 alphanumeric digit identifier.
  - a. The only way a new number may be issued is if there has been medical identity theft compromising the beneficiary's Medicare number, and the beneficiary requests a new number.
- 2. And Medicare will NOT call unless you called them first and asked them to call you.** Medicare will never ask you to verify your personal information such as you or a spouse's Medicare number. *They do not cold call beneficiaries.*

**Reporting Medicare fraud:** If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP helps Medicare beneficiaries prevent Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at [ndsmp@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndsmp@minotstateu.edu) or call 1-833-818-0029. 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: Senior Medicare Patrol Program. (8 March 2022). People report Medicare card scam. *SMP Resource Center.*

**North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580**

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

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