



Preventing Medicare Fraud

## ND SMP Scam of the Month – December 2023

### Medicare Open Enrollment Ends December 7

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period (OEP) is the time when Medicare beneficiaries can review their Medicare plan and make changes to their current coverage, enroll, or unenroll from Part D or Part C plans. Plans affected during OEP are prescription drug plans also known as Part D, and Medicare Advantage Plans also known as Part C. Changes in coverage begin January 1<sup>st</sup>. Even if you are happy with your current coverage, plans change each year, so it is a good idea to review your plan for the upcoming year.

- This is also the time of the year to be on the lookout for uninvited calls that try to switch you to plans that may not be the best to meet your needs.

### Medicare is NOT Issuing New Medicare Cards

**This scam continues to be a favorite among scammers.** As we approach the end of 2023, beneficiaries may receive calls from scammers stating that they must renew their Medicare card before January 1, 2024. The caller may tell you that if you don't verify your Medicare number for the new card, you will lose your benefits. **This is NOT TRUE and is a SCAM!!**

**There are two important things to remember when it comes to Medicare:**

- 1. Medicare WILL NEVER issue new cards en masse to all Medicare beneficiaries as was done in 2018.** This took place only to remove the SSN from Medicare cards.
  - a. The only way a new number may be issued is if there has been identity theft compromising the beneficiary's Medicare number, and the beneficiary requests a new number.
- 2. Medicare will NOT CALL unless you call them first and ask them to return a call to you.** Medicare will never ask you to verify your personal information such as you or a spouse's Medicare number because they already have that information.

**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 1-833-818-0029. 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: SMP National 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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