



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – March 2026

Scams Targeting Medicare Beneficiaries

Scammers are targeting Medicare members with tricks tied to coverage updates in 2026! Scammers are talking about the new \$2,100 limit on Part D drug costs and using AI to pretend to be real officials. They try to steal personal information by promising lower costs or saying they need to “check” your enrollment. Scammers use this information to commit fraud or take money from Medicare.

Medicare Scams to Watch For

- **Prescription Drug Cap Scams:** Scammers say they can help with the new \$2,100 drug cost limit and ask for a fake “processing” fee.
- **AI Voice Scams:** Scammers use computers to copy the voices of doctors or family members to trick people into sharing Medicare numbers.
- **“2026 Enrollment Check” Calls:** Calls or messages saying you must confirm your personal information to keep your Medicare coverage next year.
- **Hospice Enrollment Scams:** Offers of free groceries or medical equipment that secretly sign someone up for hospice care without their knowledge.
- **Fake Medicare Chip Cards:** Scammers claim Medicare is sending new cards with a chip and asking for personal information to replace your card.
- **Medical Equipment Scams:** Bills or deliveries for braces or other equipment that were never ordered or never received.

Tips to Stay Safe

- **Never Pay Upfront:** Real Medicare programs do not charge fees to get benefits.
- **Hang Up on Urgent Calls:** Medicare will not call to scare you or ask for your Medicare number or any personal information,
- **Check Your Statements:** Look at your Medicare Summary Notices or Explanation of Benefit statements for charges you don’t recognize.
- **Report Anything Suspicious:** Call ND Senior Medicare Patrol or 1-800-MEDICARE if something seems wrong.

Time is running short: From January 1 to March 31, 2026, Medicare Advantage members can change plans or return to Original Medicare. **Act now!**

Reporting Medicare fraud:

If you suspect fraud, contact the ND Senior Medicare Patrol (ND SMP) at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General’s Office at 800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Lankford, K. (2025, October 3). *New Medicare card scams*. AARP. <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/new-medicare-card/>

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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