



## ND SMP Scam of the Month June – 2016

### Did I Dial 1-800-Medicare?

The ND SMP encourages Medicare beneficiaries to call 1-800-MEDICARE (the number found on the back of your Medicare card: 1-800-633-4227) if they need to know more about their benefits or have questions about claims. But what happens if you misdial the number?

Recently one ND beneficiary thought that he was calling 1-800-MEDICARE, but instead, he was asked if he would like to complete a survey. When he pushed a button to say "yes," he got an agent who offered him a "free" medical alert system. The agent then asked for the man's Medicare number and bank account number. Medicare does not offer free equipment in exchange for personal information. We believe that this man may have misdialed at least one number.

When you misdial a friend's number, you usually get someone politely telling you that you have the wrong number. With Medicare though, **a lot of companies have numbers that are similar to 1-800-MEDICARE** and often what those companies are offering is related to health care, including medical alert systems or supplement insurance. **If you call 1-800-MEDICARE and someone is offering you something for free or tries to sell you something, you have dialed the wrong number.**

What can you do?

- Hang up on this call immediately and redial the 1-800-Medicare number.
- When you call 1-800-MEDICARE, be careful to enter the correct number which is **1-800-633-4227**.
- If you give personal information to someone other than Medicare, you can call the NDSMP at (800) 233-1737 or (701) 858-3580.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Illinois SMP/ AgeOptions Fraud Alert. February 2016.

**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](http://www.ndcpd.org/smp)**

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