



ND SMP Scam of the Month – May 2016

Police Warn about Scam Targeting Elderly ND Residents

Police departments have received information about a possible Medicare scam targeting Medicare beneficiaries in the state. **The scam is not new.** However, police departments have received calls from citizens indicating recent phone calls related to this scam.

With this scam, the scammer calls the victim and tells them their Medicare card must be renewed in order to remain eligible for benefits. The scammers trick the victim into believing the request is real by revealing some of the victims' personal information, such as name and address; this information is most likely found through an Internet search. The scammer then pressures the victim to provide sensitive identifying information such as their Social Security number, Medicare number, and/or banking account information.

Medicare and Social Security already have all this information, they will not call beneficiaries asking for sensitive personal information, and Medicare does not visit you at your home. Also, Medicare cards are sent to participants when they first sign up and these cards do not expire and never need to be renewed.

It is true over that over the next few years Medicare recipients will receive a new Medicare number and card that will replace their Social Security number on their current Medicare card, however, **new cards will not be released for existing Medicare beneficiaries before 2020.**

What can you do if you get these types of calls?

- Hang up. It's Shrewd to Be Rude!!
- Call the ND SMP office.
- Contact CMS at 800-Medicare (800-633-4227)

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Minot Daily News. April 18, 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

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