



NEW MEDICARE CARD SCAMS

MEDICARE SCAM

This is important for people with Medicare, their families and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself, family and friends throughout the country.

Starting April 1, 2018 Medicare will start a yearlong project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. This is beginning to be covered by the media.

Scammers are opportunistic - First of all the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

WHAT'S THE SCAM?

Somebody from "MEDICARE" will call to tell you, you're getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between \$5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account, or credit card, so they can process your temporary card.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call. Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled to."

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE?

First of all spread the word. Feel free to share these notes. Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize. If it has happened to you or your friends or loved ones and personal info had been given out (happens considerably more often than you think so don't feel bad or stupid) immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft.

***"IF SOMETHING SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE,
IT PROBABLY IS!"***



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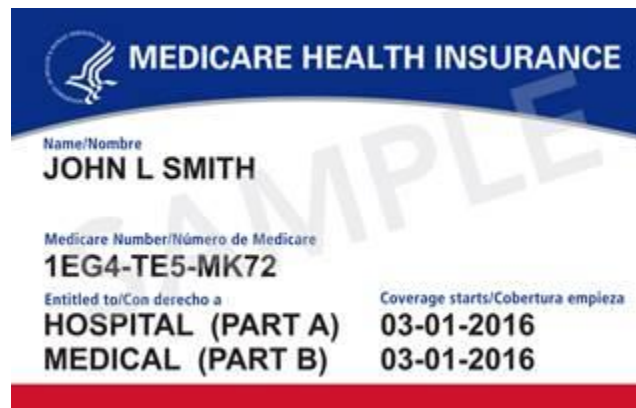
This is the Government website;

<https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medic-are-card.html>

New Medicare Cards are coming

Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare starting in April 2018.

[See an example of the new Medicare card.](#)



Watch out for scams

Medicare will never call you uninvited and ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card. Scam artists may try to get personal information (like your current Medicare Number) by contacting you about your new card. If someone asks you for your information, for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call:

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

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10 Things to Know About Your New Medicare Card

1. Your new card will automatically come to you. You don't need to do anything as long as your address is up to date. If you need to update your address, [visit your mySocial Security account](#).
2. Your new card will have a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security Number. This will help to protect your identity.
3. Your Medicare coverage and benefits will stay the same.
4. Mailing takes time. Your card may arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.
5. Your new card is paper, which is easier for many providers to use and copy.
6. Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.
7. If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card is your main card for Medicare—you should still keep and use it whenever you need care. However, you also may be asked to show your new Medicare card, so you should carry this card too.
8. Doctors, other health care providers and facilities know it's coming and will ask for your new Medicare card when you need care, so carry it with you.
9. Only give your new Medicare Number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.
10. If you forget your new card, you, your doctor or other health care provider may be able to look up your Medicare Number online.

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