



Preventing Medicare Fraud

'Care Share

Protecting Your Medicare Card

Hello, Medicare Beneficiaries!

In this month's 'Care Share, we're looking at protecting your Medicare card.

Is Your New Medicare Card the Real Deal?

You may have heard news recently about a data breach involving a Medicare contractor. Because of this, Medicare is mailing out new cards and ID numbers to a small group of people whose information might have been at risk.

Even with this news, it's important to know that only about 2% of people on Medicare actually need a new card. For most of us here in Montana, our current cards are still perfectly fine to use

Spotting the "Old Scams"

We haven't seen any brand-new tricks yet, but we expect scammers to use this news to try their usual tactics.

Medicare won't call out of the blue. Medicare will never call uninvited.

They might call or mail you saying:

- You need to "verify" your information to get your new card.
- You have to pay a fee for a "new" plastic or metal card.
- Your benefits flagged at the state level if you don't act now.

What to Do if You Get a New Card

If a new Medicare card shows up in your mailbox unexpectedly:

1. Don't use it right away.
2. Verify it first. Call Medicare directly at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). They can tell you for sure if they sent it.



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Stay Connected with Your Local SMP

Not sure if a card is the real deal? You don't have to figure it out alone. Your local SMP is here to help you:

- Spot the difference: We can help you tell if a card or a call is legitimate or a scam.
- Resolve issues: If you have concerns about fraud, errors, or abuse, we're here to help you report and fix them.
- Learn more: We offer information and presentations to help you and your community stay one step ahead of scammers. Always feel free to reach out!

To Report a Scam or Ask a Question: Call the Montana SMP: 1-800-551-3191

Follow us for local updates and alerts:

Facebook: [facebook.com/MontanaSMP](https://www.facebook.com/MontanaSMP)

Instagram: [@smpresource](https://www.instagram.com/smpresource)



The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is ready to provide you with the information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns. SMPs help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud. Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations. To reach Montana Senior Medicare Patrol, call 1-800-551-3191 or visit www.smpresource.org.