



BEWARE: NEW PLASTIC MEDICARE ID CARD SCAM

Companies claiming to provide Medicare assistance so you can have a new plastic Medicare ID card are calling seniors to obtain their Medicare number that they then use to commit fraud.

Here's how it works. The caller says they are from Medicare Assistance (a nonexistent organization) and that Medicare has issued new plastic ID cards but they've been delayed in the mail. The caller asks if you've received your new card. Your answer is always no because **Medicare has not issued new plastic ID cards**. The caller knows your name, birth year and zip code and asks you to verify this information. The caller then asks you for your Medicare enrollment date, the correct spelling of your name and your Medicare ID number so they can be "verified" for the new card. Once they have your name and number, they will use it to get drugs or file claims for medical equipment and services that you will be billed for. You will never receive a plastic ID card.

Here's how you'll know it's a scam:

- Medicare will never call you. They will send you a letter if they need information.
- There is no federal or state agency called Medicare Assistance or anything like it.
- The call is from someone you don't know who is asking for your personal information over the phone.

IF YOU GET SUCH A CALL, DO NOT PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION. HANG UP IMMEDIATELY AND CALL THE NUMBER ON THE BACK OF YOUR MEDICARE CARD TO REPORT IT.