
Making longer lives, better lives.

Medicare Scam

We were alerted to another scam targeting seniors. Callers are demanding Medicare numbers immediately. They threaten that if you do not comply and give those numbers, your Medicare coverage will be terminated.

Medicare will **never** call, email, or visit you and ask for your personal information. Examples of personal information include your Medicare number, social security number, bank account number, and address.

Scam artists may claim that Medicare is issuing new cards or updating forms, or that they need your financial information to process payment on an overdue medical bill. Even if they accurately cite a few numbers from your checks, do not assume the call is legitimate. Medicare already has this information and does not need to collect it from you. Medicare will begin issuing new cards by April 2019 that no longer contain your Social Security number, but [you will not be required to do anything](#). This change will happen automatically.

Please do not give out any information if you receive this call.

IRS Scam

A sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Note that the IRS doesn't:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.