

Stop Prescription Drug Scams: Protect Your Personal Information and Report Complaints

Con artists and fake companies are taking advantage of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit to steal your information and money **or worse...**

How Do They Do It?

- Call and offer to sign you up for a **\$299 prescription drug plan (or similar amount)**
- Use emails and the internet to offer to help you find free or low-cost prescription drug programs for a fee— often asking **\$195** or as little as **\$5** for each prescription
- Pretend they are from Medicare, Social Security or the American Medical Association
- Ask you to sell your prescription drugs or use your Medicare benefit to buy someone else's drugs
- Offer bribes to pharmacies, doctors or other health care people to get them to change your prescription or prescribe drugs you don't need
- Prescription "shorting"— the pharmacy gives you 1 or 2 fewer pills

Know the Facts:

- The Social Security Administration and Medicare do **not call or visit**
- No one can come into your home uninvited
- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans are not allowed to ask for your bank account, Medicare number, credit card or other personal information over the phone
- Information on free and low-cost prescription drug programs is available **at no charge**. Ask your pharmacist or physician for information or check out websites like www.pparx.org or www.benefitscheckup.org

To Avoid These Scams, Take the Following Steps:

- Hang up the phone immediately. *It's shrewd to be rude!*
- Call 911 if you feel threatened
- Never give any personal information, such as Medicare, Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers to anyone who calls on the phone or comes to the door
- Sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov
- Count your pills before you leave the pharmacy or when you receive them in the mail
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- Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) with Medicare questions or concerns

Report Anyone Attempting to Steal Your Money or Personal Information or Selling Fake Prescription Plans, Call:

- Your local police department
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- 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379) **OR** 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)



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