

# HEALTH CARE SCAMS

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

You see an ad on TV, telling you about a new law that requires you to get a new health care card. Maybe you get a call offering you big discounts on health insurance. Or maybe someone says they're from the government, and she needs your Medicare number to issue you a new card.

Scammers follow the headlines. When it's Medicare open season, or when health care is in the news, they go to work with a new script. Their goal? To get your Social Security number, financial information, or insurance number.

So take a minute to think before you talk: Do you really have to get a new health care card? Is that discounted insurance a good deal? Is that "government official" really from the government? The answer to all three is almost always: No.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

### 1 Stop. Check it out.

Before you share your information, call Medicare (1-800-MEDICARE), do some research, and check with someone you trust. What's the real story?

### 2 Pass this information on to a friend.

You probably saw through the requests. But chances are you know someone who could use a friendly reminder.

## PASS IT ON!

Want to know more?  
Sign up for scam alerts  
at [ftc.gov/subscribe](https://ftc.gov/subscribe).

## PLEASE REPORT SCAMS

If you suspect a health care scam.  
Please report it to the Federal Trade  
Commission.

Call the FTC at **1-877-FTC-HELP**  
(1-877-382-4357) or TTY  
**1-866-653-4261**

Go online: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint)

Your complaint can help protect  
other people. By filing a complaint,  
you can help the FTC's investigators  
identify scam artists and stop them  
before they can access to a friend's  
hard-earned money. It really makes a  
difference.

