

### **BEWARE – MEDICARE SCAM!**

This is pretty important to get to people with Medicare, their families and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare. Here is what you need to know to protect yourself, family, and friends throughout the U.S.

Starting 4/1/2018 Medicare will start a yearlong project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to an alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. Your new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

WHAT'S THE SCAM? Somebody from "MEDICARE" will call you to tell you that you are getting a new Medicare card but until it comes to you, you will need a temporary card. The fee for this temporary card is \$5- \$50. The caller will want personal information, bank account or credit card so that they can process your temporary card.

THINGS TO REMEMBER - Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call. Ditto for anybody saying they "work for Medicare to make sure you are getting everything you are entitled to.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE? First of all spread the word. Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize. If it has happened to you or your friends or loved ones and personal information has been given out immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft.

This is the Government website: <https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medicare-card.html>