SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

LEE-RUSSELL
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HOW SCAMS WORK

1 THE HOOK

Scammers start by gaining your trust. This might come in the form of a phone call, a text message, a knock at the door, or even a pop-up ad online. They may pretend to be from Medicare, a medical provider, or a trusted organization. Common tactics include offering “free” medical equipment, genetic testing, or new Medicare cards.

Medicare will never call you out of the blue to ask for your personal information.

2 THE ASK

Once they have your attention, the scammer will ask for your Medicare number. They might say it’s needed to verify your identity or to send you a new card or brace. Some will try to rush or pressure you into sharing information before you have time to think it through.

If it feels too good to be true, it probably is.

3 THE FRAUD

With your Medicare number in hand, scammers can bill Medicare for services or supplies you never received or never ordered. You may not even notice unless you carefully read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) carefully.

Look for charges on your Medicare statements for equipment, tests or services you don’t recognize or never received.

4 THE FALLOUT

Medicare fraud puts **your** benefits and **your** health at risk. If someone bills Medicare in your name, it could limit your access to the care you really need later on. It can also lead to identity theft and financial stress.

Contact your Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to report potential Scams or Fraud!
Local: 1-334-749-5264 or 334-528-9226
Toll Free: 1-800-AGE-LINE