SCAM ALERT

March 2021
Special Enrollment Period SCAMS

BEWARE OF MEDICARE SCAMS DURING THE HEALTHCARE.GOV SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD (FEBRUARY 15—MAY 15)
THIS IS NOT FOR YOU IF YOU ARE ON MEDICARE!

Due to the pandemic, many Americans were left uninsured and unemployed. Because of this, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is offering a special enrollment period for those uninsured on Healthcare.gov from February 15 to May 15. Scammers are using this extra enrollment period as an opportunity to scam unsuspecting Medicare recipients and other senior adults.

Victims are receiving phone calls from individuals stating they are "heath care benefit advocates" to help in selecting a better plan, or one with a lower premium; or they may use a scare tactic such as telling the victim they are going to lose their current health plan if they don't enroll at this time.

These calls usually lead to the scammer asking for personal information such as a Medicare number or social security number.

What You Should Know:

THIS SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD IS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNINSURED.
The healthcare.gov SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD is for individuals who do not currently have any insurance coverage. If you are on Medicare, or any other healthcare benefit plan, DO NOT enroll in or change your healthcare coverage during this special enrollment period. This is not a Medicare enrollment period. It is ONLY FOR the UNINSURED.

TIPS:

⇒ Do not answer unsolicited calls about healthcare coverage. Medicare will not contact you!
⇒ Be especially suspicious of threatening calls or calls with a sense or urgency that require a quick response or immediate payment.
⇒ Guard your Medicare number like you would a credit card number or bank account number.
⇒ Never give your Medicare number, Social Security number, health plan information or banking information to anyone over the phone or by unsolicited internet contact.
⇒ Hang up of robocalls.
⇒ Do not accept anything for "FREE" when asked for any type of personal information in exchange.

Best response?

If you see something, *say something*. Report all healthcare-related scams to the AR SMP at 866-726-2916.

REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP—866-726-2916

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