



# Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

a Project of *Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A)*

## November 2017 News You Can Use

### Starting April 2018: New Medicare Numbers!



To help protect your identity, Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards. Your new card will have a new Medicare number that is unique to you, instead of your Social Security Number. The primary goal of new Medicare cards is to decrease Medicare beneficiary vulnerability to identity theft by removing the SSN-based number from one's Medicare cards and replace with a new unique Medicare Number. Medicare will be removing the gender and signature line from the new cards.

#### Watch out for scams

Scam artists may try to get your current Medicare number and other personal information by contacting you about your new Medicare card. They often claim to be from Medicare and use various scams to get your Medicare Number including:

- Asking you to confirm your Medicare or Social Security Number so they can send you a new card.
- Telling you there's a charge for your new card and they need to verify your personal information.
- Threatening to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your Medicare Number or other personal information.

#### What do the new Medicare cards mean for people with Medicare?

The new Medicare number/card won't change Medicare benefits. People with Medicare may start using their new Medicare cards as soon as they get them. Please destroy your old Medicare card. The effective date of the new cards, like the old cards, is the date each beneficiary was or is eligible for Medicare.

**“Together, let's prevent, detect, and report healthcare fraud, errors, and abuse”**



**Look for us on Facebook; Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol-SMP**

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