



Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

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

July 2016 *News You Can Use*

Reported Scams in Iowa:

- Facebook Scam: Individual built rapport with someone on Facebook and sent him money to help out. When individual could no longer send additional money, contact disappeared.
- An elderly woman contacted Clinton police to report she received a call from someone posing as a CVS Caremark rep. The woman receives Rx meds from CVS via mail. The caller posed as a CVS Caremark rep, and wanted to know her Rx #. When the woman challenged the caller, she heard him asking someone in the background, "Who do I say that I am?" The woman hung up on the caller, and called CVS. They denied making this call.
- Caller reported that "Family Member" came up on her caller-id. Number originated from Brooklyn, NY. Caller did not pick up.

Phone Seller Wants Quick Electronic Payment? No! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

Thanks to a change in federal rules, beginning June 13, 2016, fraudulent telemarketers will have fewer ways to take money away from your wallet or bank account, and consumers will have greater protections.

Under the new changes to the Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR), which take effect June 13, telemarketers will be prohibited from accepting funds through these payment methods:

- **Wire Transfer**: This is a "cash-to-cash" money transfer, through services such as Western Union and MoneyGram. When a consumer pays for a wire transfer, the funds are loaded into a worldwide system and picked up by the recipient as cash. Once the transaction is complete, the money is gone—just like cash. Criminals try to convince their victims to wire money to a stranger, and the money often ends up in a foreign country.
- **Reloadable Prepaid Card**: This is commonly referred to as a prepaid money card or prepaid cash card. A consumer generally pays a service fee to obtain and activate a one-time use or reloadable card, and then load funds onto the account. Criminals seek a card number and Personal Identification Number (PIN) from consumers, and then transfer the funds out of the consumers' prepaid card accounts. While these cards seem similar to credit cards, they do not carry the same protections--they are much more like cash.
- **Remotely Created Check**: A remotely created check (RCC) is also known as a demand draft. With a demand draft, a consumer is supposed to give a merchant permission to withdraw funds directly from his or her checking account without a signature. In other words, it's an approved payment transfer from one bank account to another. A criminal may seek to trick a victim into providing account information over the telephone or the Internet.
- **Remotely Created Payment Order**: A remotely created payment order (RCPO), also called an electronic check, or eCheck, is an electronic version of a remotely created check. It poses many of the same risks posed by remotely created checks when scammers are involved.

The rules are designed to reduce the options for scammers to arrange counter-to-counter cash transfers or directly access bank accounts for withdrawals. **These payment methods are not what reputable telemarketers use to do business.**

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