



**Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)**  
a Project of *Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A)*  
November 2015 **News You Can Use**

**Scammers are Getting More Active Trying to Steal Your Identity and Your Money**

Experts say the thieves are out in full force because we're in the middle of Medicare's open enrollment, which runs October 15 – December 7.

- One common scam involves someone knocking on your door saying they're an "official Medicare agent" selling Medicare insurance. **Medicare will never go door-to-door!**
- Another scam involves a phone call from someone saying you'll lose benefits if you don't sign up for a prescription drug coverage plan, or one saying you're due a \$250 refund. **Medicare is not going to call you!** You're going to receive a formal letter in the mail from them, also refunds don't normally exist.
- Another scam involves "official looking" brochures about new Medicare products available at discounted prices, also fake. "Nowadays you can go online and if you're any type of person who can cut and paste on the computer, you can create your own official looking documents and print them out yourself."
- A popular scam trending this year involves someone asking for your personal information in order to send you a new Medicare card. Existing Medicare customers will receive their new cards in 2020, and won't have to do anything to get them.

**YOU WILL NEVER WIN THE JAMACIAN LOTTERY!!!!!!**

What might happen instead?

- Loss of life savings
- Victim of Identity Theft
- Never ending harassing calls

Unless you're expecting a call from Jamaica (area codes; 876, 809, 284, and 649 which are all area codes from the Caribbean Islands) it is a **SCAM!**

**Foreign Lotteries Are Illegal! If someone claims you've won a lottery in another country, it is a SCAM! Hang up the telephone immediately. Do not provide any information to the caller and do not engage in any conversation. Scam artist can be dangerous criminals!**

**Remember.....it is hard to win a lottery you have entered and it is IMPOSSIBLE to win one that you have never entered!**

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