



CONSUMER WARNING: The Medicare "Spoofing" Scam

How does the Medicare "spoofing" scam work?

Medicare recipients receive a call from a con artist claiming to be a Medicare representative. The caller states that the new Health Care Reform Law requires new Medicare cards to be issued to each recipient. The caller claims to need bank account information in order to activate the new Medicare benefits.

What is "spoofing"?

"Spoofing" services allow a con artist to falsify the phone number displayed on caller ID so the call appears to come from a legitimate source. Some con artists "spoof" the contact information of a state or federal government agency to deceive consumers.

These Medicare scammers are "spoofing" various numbers, including 866-234-2255. If you return a call to this number, you will hear the following recorded message: "If you have received a call from this number, please contact your Attorney General or the FCC."

What should you do?

Never give out personal information over the phone, unless you have initiated the call and you know with whom you are speaking. Remember—scam artists will stop at nothing to steal your personal information.

If you have been a victim of this Medicare "spoofing" scam, please contact the Illinois Attorney General's Senior Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-243-5377 or 1-800-964-3013 (TTY) to file a consumer fraud complaint.

We also encourage you to check your credit report regularly. You are entitled to free annual reports from each of the three major credit agencies. To check your credit report, call 1-877-322-8228 or 1-877-730-4104 (TTY) or visit www.annualcreditreport.com.

Help us spread the word! Education is the best prevention.

