



# The **\$299** MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SCAM

Named for the amount of money stolen from seniors, the disabled, and immigrants by high-pressure scammers peddling fake prescription drug plans, the “**\$299 Scam**” is the latest scheme to take advantage of the confusion surrounding the Medicare Part D drug benefit that took effect January 1.

## How Does the Scam Work?

- Scammers representing themselves as government or insurance company representatives try to talk Medicare beneficiaries into revealing their Medicare number and other sensitive information.
- In addition to Medicare numbers, scammers often attempt to obtain Medicaid, private insurance, and Social Security numbers, as well as bank account numbers.
- Once they obtain this information, scammers charge Medicare beneficiaries a “one-time fee” of \$299 to maintain the phony coverage.

## REMEMBER

Legitimate Medicare drug plans will NOT:

- Ask for payment over the telephone or Internet.
- Ask for bank account or other personal information over the telephone or Internet.
- Offer “free” physical exams or try to sell you medical appliances or equipment.

The \$299 Medicare Prescription Drug Scam targets Medicare beneficiaries via phone and in person at parking lots, bus stops, and senior centers. The Office of the Attorney General reminds seniors to call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE if they are unsure whether a drug plan offer is legitimate.

### Consumer Fraud Hotlines

#### CHICAGO

1-800-386-5438  
1-800-964-3013 (TTY)

#### SPRINGFIELD

1-800-243-0618  
1-877-844-5461 (TTY)

#### CARBONDALE

1-800-243-0607  
1-877-675-9339 (TTY)

[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)

