

# Stop Prescription Drug Scams:

## *Protect Your Personal Information & Report Complaints*

**Con artists and fake companies are taking advantage of the Medicare prescription drug benefit to steal your information and money.....**

### How Do They Do It?

- Call and offer to sign you up for a **\$389 prescription drug plan** (or similar amount).
- Offer to help you find free or low-cost prescription drug programs for a fee – often asking for \$5-10 per medication or a fee of \$100 or more.
- Pretend they are from Medicare, Social Security, the American Medical Association or some other governmental or healthcare organization.
- Offer to sell your prescription drugs or ask to use your Medicare benefit to buy another person's drugs.
- Offer bribes to pharmacies, doctors or other health care professionals to change your prescription or to prescribe drugs you don't need.
- Prescription shorting – the pharmacy gives you fewer pills than prescribed, but charges you for the full amount.

### How Can You Avoid These Scams?

- Hang up the phone immediately or ask for the caller's name and number and say you'll call back, if you're interested. **Sometimes it's shrewd to be rude.**
- Sign up for the Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)
- Count your pills when you receive them at the pharmacy or in the mail.
- Information on free and low-cost prescription drug programs is available at no charge. Ask your pharmacist or physician for information or check out websites like [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org) (1-889-477-2669), [www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org) or [www.needymeds.com](http://www.needymeds.com)
- No one can come into your home uninvited. **Just say, "No."**
- Call the police, if you feel threatened or in danger.
- For questions regarding Medicare, contact the Nebraska Senior Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) at 1-800-234-7119 or Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- If something doesn't feel or smell right, don't buy it. **Trust your instincts.**

**To Report or Discuss Possible Medicare Fraud Scams, Contact:**



1-800-942-7830

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