

# Spot a Scam Call Tip Sheet

**Has the caller asked for your Medicare or Social Security number? Have they offered to enroll you in a new plan or benefits? Red Flag!**

Medicare will not call and ask for your Medicare number or personal information unless you called them first. It is okay to immediately hang up once you start to feel uncomfortable.

**Does the caller already know personal information about you (address, date of birth, Medicare number)? Red Flag!**

It is very easy for scammers to find your personal information as a way to gain your trust. Just because a caller has information about you, doesn't mean they are legitimate.

**Is the caller offering a wonderful opportunity as long as you do something for them first? Red Flag!**

Scammers often find success in taking advantage of good peoples' desire to do something nice in return for a favor. This is a manipulative strategy that a Medicare employee would not use.

**Is the caller trying to sell a "limited time offer" that is either discounted or free? Red Flag!**

This is a tactic to put pressure on you to make a risky decision quickly. "Limited time offers" are not typical within Medicare.

**Is the caller trying to convince you by using facts or numbers to show that many other people have already taken advantage of this offer? Red Flag!**

This is another strategy used by scammers; People are more likely to agree to something if many other people are doing so as well. Many scammers use fake statistics in order to try and prove their offer is legitimate.

**Are you speaking with someone about a newspaper, magazine, or online advertisement, television commercial, or piece of mail? Red Flag!**

Be skeptical of advertisements. You can find a full list of the kinds of legitimate notifications and information that CMS may send out via mail on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

**Hang up the phone and call your local SMP**

**SMP: Phone (877) 603-6558**

[www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org)

