

STOP PRESCRIPTION DRUG SCAMS

Protect Your Personal Information and Report Complaints

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

How do they do it?

- Call and offer to sign you up for a \$299 prescription drug plan (or similar amount).
- Use emails and the internet to offer to help you find free or low-cost prescription drug programs for a fee – often asking \$195 or as little as \$5 for each prescription.
- Pretend they are from Medicare, Social Security or the American Medical Association.
- Ask you to sell your prescription drugs or use your Medicare benefit to buy someone else's drugs.
- Offer bribes to pharmacies, doctors or other health care people to get them to change your prescription or prescribe drugs you don't need.
- Prescription "shorting" – the pharmacy gives you 1 or 2 fewer pills.

Know the facts:

- The Social Security Administration and Medicare do not call or visit.
- No one can come into your home uninvited.
- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans are not allowed to ask for your bank account, Medicare number, credit card or other personal information over the phone.
- Information on free and low-cost prescription drug programs is available at no charge. Ask your pharmacist or physician for information or check out web sites like www.pparx.org or www.benefitscheckup.org.

To avoid these scams, take the following steps:

- Hang up the phone immediately. It's shrewd to be rude!
- Call 911 if you feel threatened.
- Never give any personal information, such as Medicare, Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers to anyone who calls on the phone or comes to the door.
- Sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov.
- Count your pills before you leave the pharmacy or when you receive them in the mail.
- Call the Virgin Islands SMP Program at Legal Services of the Virgin Islands at 1-877-784-0228 to report or discuss possible fraud or scams.
- Call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) with Medicare questions or concerns.

Report ANYONE attempting to steal your money or personal information or selling fake prescription plans.

Contact:

- Your local police department
- 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379) OR 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)
- Virgin Islands SMP Program at Legal Services of the Virgin Islands
1-877-784-0228 or www.lsvilaw.org

