



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – July 2024

Protect Yourself from QR Code Fraud



Quick Response codes, better known as QR codes, are scannable barcodes that will direct you to websites. QR codes can be very useful, but sometimes scammers use them to trick people into visiting fake websites or run harmful software that can steal their personal information. Some examples:

- Send QR codes by email or text message pretending to be from delivery companies.
- Request that you confirm your information due to suspicious activity using fake QR codes.
- Place harmful codes on social media advertisements.

Here are some tips to avoid related scams:

Verify the source: Before scanning a QR code, make sure it comes from a trusted and reliable source. Legitimate QR codes from SSA will always send you to a safe and secure webpage.

Inspect the code. Scammers may try to imitate a QR code. Study the QR code closely. Look for any signs of altering or misspellings. Avoid scanning a QR code if something looks suspicious.

Be aware of codes from unknown sources. Social Security Administration and Medicare will never send a QR code by text or email asking you to confirm your information.

Be aware of urgent requests using QR Codes: Fraudsters often pretend to be government officials and use fake QR codes to defraud people. For example, a scammer may pose as a Social Security employee claiming that there is a problem with your account.

Stay Informed: Stay up to date on the latest QR code fraud and scams. Follow trusted sources such as news outlets and official government websites for updates. QR codes are an easy and convenient way to get information, but it's important to be aware when using them.

Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Social Security Matters (22 Feb 24). *Fraud, Scams, Privacy & Identity*. Protecting yourself from QR code fraud.

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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