



Preventing Medicare Fraud

## ND SMP Scam of the Month – April 2026

### Fake Push Notifications: What Medicare Beneficiaries Should Know

**What Is a Push Notification?** A push notification is a short message that pops up on your phone, tablet, or computer screen. Many trusted organizations use them to send helpful updates.

#### Examples of Normal Push Notifications

- News apps send alerts about breaking news.
- Social media apps like Facebook or Instagram notify you about messages.
- Stores may tell you when an item ships or when there is a sale.
- Banks use them to confirm a payment or to send a code to make sure it's really you.

#### How Scammers Use Fake Notifications

- Scammers send **fake alerts** that look like they come from a trusted group.
- They may pretend to be from your bank or government programs like Medicare, Social Security Administration, or the Internal Revenue Service.
- The message often tries to scare you so you will act quickly.

#### Examples of Scam Messages

- "Your account is not secure. Click here to fix it."
- "We saw unusual activity. Verify your identity now."
- If you click the link, it may take you to a fake website.

#### Warning Signs of a Fake Notification

- You receive an unexpected alert you were not expecting.
  - The message uses urgent words like **Urgent, Action required, Warning**.
- The message says "Dear User" instead of your name.
- The message has misspellings or odd wording; the link may not match the company's website.
- You get a sign-in approval message for a login you did not try.

#### How to Protect Yourself

- Only allow notifications from apps and websites you trust.
- Think before you click on links.
- Use strong passwords and turn on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) when available.

#### What To Do If You Get a Fake Notification

- Do not click the link.
- Dismiss or delete the notification and block the sender if possible.
- Run a security scan on your device.

**Remember:** Stay alert. Stay informed. Taking a moment to check a message can help keep your personal information safe. Report suspected Medicare fraud to ND SMP at 1-833-818-0029 and non-Medicare fraud to the ND Attorney General's Office at 800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: ScamBusters. (n.d.). *Fake push notifications: Don't take the bait!* Scambusters. <https://scambusters.org/fake-push-notifications.html>

**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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