



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

ASK SHIP

YOUR MONTHLY MEDICARE Q&A

Q: I got a phone call from someone who said they were with Medicare. They said they would need my Medicare card number to get me scheduled for a COVID-19 vaccine. I felt like this might have been a scam, and I hung up. Did I do the right thing?

A: You did do the right thing!

Unfortunately, there are many scammers who are taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic. Con artists may try to get Medicare Numbers or personal information so they can steal identities and commit Medicare fraud. Medicare fraud results in higher health care costs and taxes for everyone.

Medicare does cover the COVID-19 vaccine, so there will be no cost to you.

You will need to share your Medicare card with your health care provider

or pharmacy when receiving your vaccine, even if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan. However, Medicare would never call you to ask you for your Medicare number.

A few things you should know:

- If someone tells you that you can pay to get early access to a vaccine, it is likely a scam.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

When it comes to your Medicare card, you should know:

- Medicare will never contact you for your Medicare number or other information unless you've arranged that with them in advance.

- Medicare will never call you to sell you anything.
- You may get calls from people promising things if you've given them your Medicare number. These are not legitimate deals.
- Medicare will never visit you at your home.
- Medicare can't enroll you over the phone unless you arranged this in advance with them.

Be sure to report anything suspicious to Medicare. If you suspect fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have questions about Medicare Part B or any other questions related to Medicare, call SHIP at 1-800-452-4800, 1-866-846-0139 TDD or online at www.medicare.in.gov. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.