

It is true that new cards will be sent out from April 2018 to April 2019. Medicare has also warned about scams. Medicare does not charge for cards or want your personal information over the phone.

I have just gotten word about the newest Medicare scam. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself, family and friends. *Cecelia Motzko, Alaska Flight Services Information Area Group*

Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number.

Scammers are opportunistic:

First of all, the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up. For more information go to the website: <https://www.medicare.gov>.

WHAT'S THE SCAM?

Somebody from "MEDICARE " will call to tell you you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between \$5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to.

Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THIS ONE?

First of all, spread the word. Feel free to share these notes.

Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize.

If it has already happened to you or to your friends or loved ones and personal info has been given out (happens considerably more often than you think) immediately take action to protect yourself against identity theft.