

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BE ON THE ALERT – OLD MEDICARE SCAM MAY BE BACK

Protect personal information

BOISE ID (July 16, 2012) – On Thursday, July 12, the Idaho Department of Insurance Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) office in Pocatello received a call from a Preston woman reporting a suspicious telephone call, allegedly from Medicare.

The woman, a senior citizen and Medicare beneficiary, was informed that a new Medicare card was being sent and that her bank account information must be verified. The caller then read the woman's bank account number and routing number to her.

Department Director Bill Deal says, "We encourage Idahoans to be vigilant in protecting personal information, including banking information." Personal information should never be shared with unsolicited callers. In this case, the banking information may have been obtained simply by taking mail from the victim's mailbox.

This may be an isolated incident; nevertheless, Medicare beneficiaries should be aware that Medicare is not sending out new cards, nor do they charge for replacement cards.

The Department's SHIBA office serves as an advocate for Medicare beneficiaries. Staff and counselors provide free and unbiased counseling and assistance regarding senior health insurance. Medicare beneficiaries with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact a SHIBA representative by calling 800-247-4422.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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