

California Senior Medicare Patrol

Medicare Fraud Alert

September/October 2013

Protect Yourself from Obamacare Scams this Fall

The roll out of the new health care program known as "Obamacare" begins in October, with enrollment from October 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014. This enrollment period is not to be confused with Medicare's fall Open Enrollment which is October 15 – December 7, 2013. The beginning of any new federal program is an opportunity for confusion and for con artists to prey on consumers. Below are a few important tips to avoid scams for people with Medicare.

Tips for people with Medicare

- **If you have Medicare, you do not need to purchase any coverage through our state's insurance marketplace, called Covered California.** Your Medicare benefits satisfy the requirement to have health care coverage; you do not need to do anything. (It is actually illegal for someone who knows you have Medicare, to sell you a plan through Covered California.)
- **You do not need a new Medicare card, Social Security card, or any other new identity card.**
- **You do not need to verify any of your current information.**
- **No one from the government will contact you by phone or in person about the new health benefits.**
- **Beware of bogus emails, phony website links, phone calls, and people who come to the door asking for your personal information who say it's because of the new law.**

When in doubt call the [Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program \(HICAP\)](#) at 1-800-434-0222, or the [Senior Medicare Patrol](#) at 1-855-613-7080.

Visit: cahealthadvocates.org.

