

# California Senior Medicare Patrol

## Medicare Fraud Alert

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### Beware of Lead Generating Businesses ~ Protect Your Identity

Have you received any postcards asking for your name and date of birth with the promise of sending you “information about available benefits” or government programs? If so, beware.

Lead generating businesses often send out misleading mailings, easily mistaken to be from a government entity, that claim to have Medicare changes information on benefits or programs you may qualify for, such as Medicare Savings Programs or Medicare Part D Extra Help. They give just enough info to catch your attention and create a sense of urgency in order to prompt you to send back the card.

These businesses, however, are not affiliated with any government agency. They collect your personal information and sell it to other companies marketing all kinds of products and senior services.

If you receive such a postcard asking for your information, take a closer look. Do you see any small print disclosing the name of a company? If so, look them up on the [Better Business Bureau](#) or [Federal Trade Commission website](#) to see how they rate, what they do and if there are complaints. And, when in doubt, throw it out.

Remember that Social Security, Medicare and other government agencies will not ask you to send them your personal information. They already have it. If you have questions about your health care insurance options, rather than filling out a card, we encourage you to contact your local Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) in California (1-800-434-0222). HICAP provides free, unbiased Medicare counseling.

**And, report any questionable Medicare related mailings to our California Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-855-613-7080.**

Visit: [www.cahealthadvocates.org](http://www.cahealthadvocates.org)  
Thank you!

