



Managing the Medicaid program to provide the best healthcare value for South Carolinians.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Medicaid scam alert**

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** — The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has recently received multiple reports of residents getting unsolicited calls from individuals posing as Medicaid representatives or workers at medical offices. These callers have attempted to gain personal information, such as Social Security numbers, Medicaid identification numbers and bank account numbers.

Medicaid and Medicare scams are becoming more common throughout the country, and often prey upon elderly and disabled residents for the purposes of identity theft or to fraudulently purchase goods.

In order to safeguard private information, SCDHHS advises Medicaid beneficiaries of the following:

- Be sure to request identifying information from the caller (full name, phone number) before engaging in any conversation. If still in doubt, discontinue the call and contact your county office.
- **NEVER** give out personal financial information or Social Security numbers over the telephone.
- **NEVER** give out Medicaid information, such as member ID numbers, over the telephone unless you are personally familiar with the caseworker calling.
- Report suspicious calls to local authorities immediately and contact your local Medicaid eligibility office.

Anyone who suspects fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program is encouraged to call the Medicaid Fraud Hotline toll-free at (888) 364-3224.

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