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Rockland County TRIAD Program

Reducing Crimes Against Seniors
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SENIOR ALERT



WARNING!!! MEDICARE PART –D- DRUG PLAN SCAM

Seniors enrolling in the Medicare Part D prescription drug plan are warned not to give out their Social Security, bank account or Medicare numbers over the phone or via email. Medicare officials warn of a new phone and email scam called the “\$299 Ring”, which is the typical amount of money Medicare beneficiaries are talked into withdrawing from their checking accounts to pay for a nonexistent prescription drug plan. The bogus callers will tell the senior victim that they can cover them with a drug plan at a modest cost. The victim is then requested to provide their bank account number, so money can be withdrawn from their account to pay for the plan. The first contact from these con operators may come to you either by telephone or email. This scam is currently being investigated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a division of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. CMS advises that legitimate Medicare drug plans are not permitted to ask for bank account or other personal information over the telephone. In addition, legitimate plans will not ask for payment over the phone or the Internet. They must bill the beneficiary for the monthly premium. If you’ve been contacted, we suggest you call 1-800-MEDICARE and report the incident to their fraud unit.