



# Protect Against Tax Refund Fraud

## Important Information for the 2013 Tax Season

**A Tax Refund Fraud Scheme impacting Medicare beneficiaries in Central Florida is believed to be shifting nationwide.**

- Unknown parties are engaging in a scheme to commit tax fraud using stolen identities of Medicare beneficiaries.
- According to information received from Medicare Advantage Organizations and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the schemers are obtaining the identities of beneficiaries through employers, schools, hospitals, and prisons.
- The information stolen is the beneficiary's name, Social Security Number, address, and date of birth.
- The schemers use the beneficiary's information to electronically file a fraudulent tax claim.
- The schemers request that the tax refund be loaded onto a prepaid MasterCard or Visa debit card.
- The true taxpayer is not aware of the scam until they are rejected when they attempt to file their taxes.
- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Secret Service, FBI, and Postal Inspection Service are involved in the investigation of these reported cases.

**Turn over for  
more information**



## **Protect yourself from this tax fraud scheme and all forms of identity theft:**

- Never give out your Social Security, Medicare, or banking information to someone you don't know.
- Protect your personal and financial information such as your Medicare and Social Security numbers carefully.
- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you 'free' medical equipment or services and then requests personal and/or financial information.

## **If you have been a victim of tax fraud, here are some steps you should take:**

- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit, toll-free at 1-800-908-4490, so they can take steps to further secure your account.
- File a report with the police and get a copy of it for your records.
- Document the actions you take to inform authorities. Keep track of dates and names.

## **If you are a beneficiary whose identity has been compromised, you should:**

- Contact your bank and credit card companies so action can be taken to secure your accounts.
- Call your health plan (Medicare Advantage plan) at  
or Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227).
- Contact the National Benefit Integrity (NBI) MEDIC at 1-877-7SAFERX.

