



SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud

'Care Share

Stay Safe with QR Codes-Pam Roatch

A QR (or "Quick Response") code is a "design" (see MT SMP's Facebook link on next page) your smart phone "reads" so it can display the website of a business/organization/group, etc. found within the QR code. Think of it as an electronic fingerprint. It's unique to the owner of that QR code. While you can't see the URL (or web address) contained within the QR code, your phone can, and whether it's for a legitimate business, organization, or group, etc. or a scammer, your phone will display and/or download whatever the QR code tells it to do.

The code on the next page will take you to the new Montana SMP Facebook Page where you can join and stay one step ahead of crooks. When you come across a QR code like this, it should be clear what the code is for. Does it take you to the manufacturer of a food item (code found on the back of a food package)? Is it for a special holiday event (from a flyer received in the mail)? Or commonly, on a menu at your favorite restaurant?

QR codes are an easy and convenient way to get information, but it's important to be aware when using them. No matter where you find these QR codes or what they're for, the majority are legitimate. But, if you find

one in a text or email, pretending to be from a delivery company for example, or from a flyer that's short on information and found in a public location, it may contain malware (malicious software) and/or viruses (designed to steal your personal information) that are then downloaded onto your phone. Also, if you're ever asked to share or confirm your personal information, it's likely you've been directed to a fake website by a scammer.

Be aware of codes from unknown sources. Social Security Administration and Medicare will never send a QR code by text or email asking you to confirm your information. And be aware of urgent requests using QR codes. Fraudsters often pretend to be government officials and use fake QR codes to defraud people. For example, may claim there is a problem with your account.

As always, please guard your personal information and, as this article suggests, you can always contact the business/organization/ group, etc. to verify that the QR code is legitimate (or not). Contact MT SMP if you receive texts or emails you'd like to check, and use the QR code on the next page to stay up to date on Medicare fraud and common scams tactics.



PREVENT DETECT REPORT

MEDICARE FRAUD,
ERRORS, AND ABUSE



Montana Senior Medicare Patrol - SMP

12 likes • 73 followers



Montana SMP is excited to announce it has its very own Facebook page. It is dedicated to spreading messages about fraud prevention and keeping the people of Montana informed about how to stay ahead of scammers and how to report fraud.



Can you please follow the **Montana Senior Medicare Patrol - SMP** Facebook page and stay two steps ahead of Medicare fraud? SMP also shares general tips on all scams and related content.



The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is ready to provide you with the information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns. SMPs help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud. Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations. To reach Montana Senior Medicare Patrol, call 1-800-551-3191 or visit www.smpresource.org.