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CLIENT ALERT

HOT OFF THE PRESS

NEW MEDICARE CARDS BEING ISSUED

On April 1, 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began issuing new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier cards (MBI) to be used for Medicare benefits and claims. They plan to complete the issuance of the MBI cards by April 1, 2019. Medicare recipients living in New Jersey will be issued new cards after June 2018. The new MBI card is to be used instead of the current Medicare card which utilizes your social security number. This will help prevent medical identity theft. The MBI card will contain eleven purely randomly selected numbers and upper-case letters.

CMS advises that there will be a transition period ending December 31, 2019, where both the new MBI card and the old card can be used. Starting Jan 1, 2020, only the new MBI card will be accepted.

CMS has issued a FRAUD ALERT that scammers are already at work preying on seniors. Calls are being made alleging that they are representatives of the Social Security Administration and/or CMS. They attempt to get personal information, bank information, etc., alleging information is needed to assure no loss of benefits or social security payments. **REMEMBER** - neither Social Security Administration nor CMS make unsolicited phone calls.

If you are a senior, please be aware of this program and do not fall prey to the scammers. If you are not a senior – please alert seniors that you know about this new program and inform them of possible calling scams. ***A recent survey indicates that over 75% of all seniors are not aware of the program.***

A lot more information about the program can be obtained by going to the website www.cms.gov and follow the links for the New Medicare Card.

Also, you may follow this link to a YouTube video with helpful information <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DusRmgzQnLY>

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Disclaimer: *This e-mail represents a general overview of tax developments and should not be relied upon without an independent, professional analysis of how any of these provisions may apply to a specific situation.*

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