



FEATURE ARTICLE FROM **Always Best Care**

Protecting Seniors from Scams

There are many wonderful things about getting older and retiring, but there are also some obstacles that seniors must learn to navigate. One of these obstacles is being the victim of scams. [Seniors are often targeted](#) because they are thought to have a lot of savings for retirement, were raised to be polite and trusting, may not have a strong understanding of technology, or may have [memory difficulties](#). These are all factors that can make them more susceptible.

Common Scams Targeting Seniors

Here are a few scams that seniors and their families should be alert for:

1. IRS Scams

Scammers may call seniors claiming to be the IRS and trying to collect on unpaid back taxes. They try to obtain personal information and may threaten arrest, lawsuits, or other consequences. The IRS will first correspond via postal mail and does not request payment information over the phone or threaten arrest for non-payment.

2. Phone Scams

Phone scams in general are common. Callers often request sensitive information such as Social Security numbers, bank account information, credit card numbers, account passwords, and more. Remind seniors to never share personal or financial information over the phone, even if it seems legitimate. Always double-check sources.

3. Prescription Drug Scams

It is not uncommon for seniors to take one or more [prescription drugs](#). Depending on their insurance coverage, they may go online looking for cheaper options. While some of these sources are legitimate, others are scams that provide counterfeit drugs or take payment without ever delivering the prescription. Make sure prescriptions are obtained through reputable sources.

4. Technology Scams

Seniors are newer to using technology than younger generations and do not always have a strong grasp on how it works. Scammers may call claiming to have found a virus on their computer or needing access to an account to make adjustments. They may also require high payments to complete these “fixes” and scam seniors out of a lot of money when nothing is wrong with their computer.

5. Grandparent Scams

Scammers are not above bringing family into the equation either. Seniors may receive calls claiming to be from a grandchild asking for money for rent, bail, tuition, or other needs. They often request that the money be wired. Seniors should check first with other family members to

ensure that the request is legitimate before sending any money. Scammers may use personal information they find on social media to make calls sound more genuine.

There are also a variety of other investment, email, charity, and funeral scams that can occur as well. It is important that seniors stay alert and educated about potential risks. Family members should also check in regularly with older adults to see if they have received suspicious phone calls or emails, and carefully monitor their bank account for suspicious or fraudulent activity.

Always Best Care provides companionship and home helper services that can keep your senior safer. Having someone there to answer the phone or door, or be there with your senior during certain times of the day can help them to make more sound decisions and reduce their risk of being victim to a scam. For more information about [Always Best Care](#) and how your senior can benefit from in-home care and senior services, call 1 (855) 470-CARE (2273).