ensure you protect your medicare card number

since medicare announced it was sending cards to all its recipients, scammers have been trying to find ways to steal the numbers, the FTC reports.

how does this scam work?
new cards will be sent to all medicare recipients and will be used in place of social security numbers. Scammers have been taking advantage of this, according to reports to the Federal Trade Commission.
The scammers have mostly been contacting victims by phone, and a few tactics have been reported. Sometimes, the scammer claims to be a medicare representative and asks the victim to “verify” his or her social security or medicare card number, which is just a way to obtain the information.
Some have claimed there is a fee to activate or use the new card. There is not. Other scammers have claimed medicare cards have been compromised and the victim needs to move money to a “safer” account, which is a tactic for victims to move money into their pockets.
The FTC also has received reports of scammers offering medicare recipients plastic versions of the new cards for a fee, but the new cards are paper and there are no plastic versions.

how can I protect myself?

Don't give out personal information to get your new medicare card. If someone calls you asking for your social security number or other personal information,