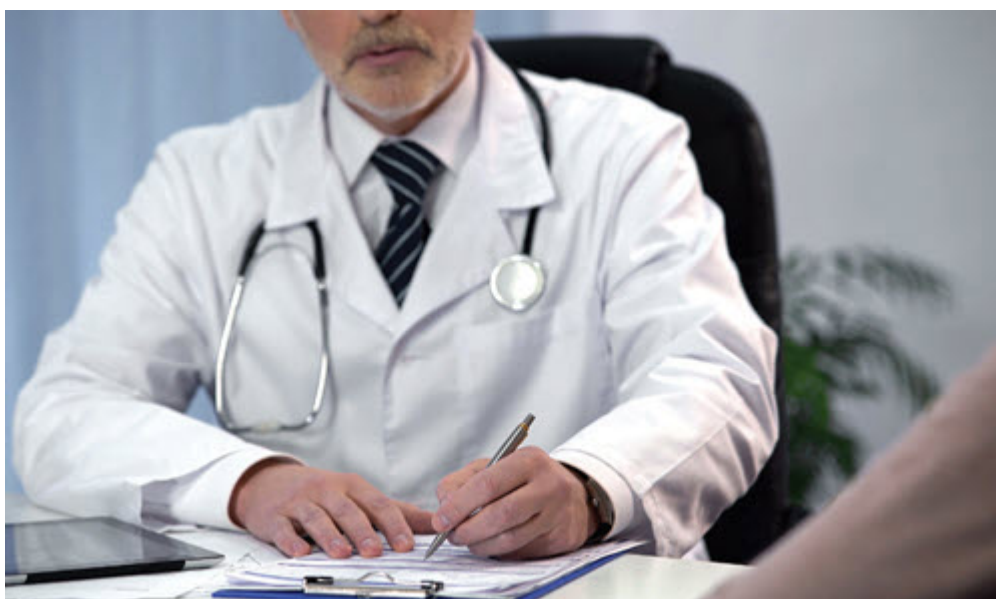


Health Information Compliance Alert

Enforcement News: Be Aware of Healthcare-Related Spoofing Schemes

If you or your patients get a call that shows up on caller ID as the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG), make sure that it's actually a representative from the watchdog agency before offering any information.

Context: The agency recently issued a warning that scammers have been masquerading as HHS-OIG to illicit individuals' protected data, an OIG fraud alert says.



"These scammers represent themselves as HHS-OIG employees and can alter the appearance of the caller ID to make it seem as if the call is coming from HHS-OIG phone numbers found on its public website. The perpetrator may use various tactics to obtain or verify the victim's personal information, which can then be used to steal money from an individual's bank account or for other fraudulent activity," the agency update notes.

OIG encourages individuals to safeguard personal information and to report any unusual activity either via phone at the HHS-OIG Hotline, 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477), or online at <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/>.