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When AND THE turns DANGEROUS

Scam artists know we're all looking for ways to pinch pennies. With an estimated \$80 billion lost to health insurance fraud each year, it's important you're careful when making health care decisions.

Whether you have employer-sponsored health insurance, coverage through a government-sponsored program or purchase your own insurance policy, protect yourself. Be wary of offers that guarantee coverage, propose to waive your co-pay, or that try to sell you insurance through emails, pop-up ads, over the phone or by posting flyers.

For all insurance coverage, follow these common sense rules:

• Protect your health insurance card as you would a credit card.

• Read your policy and Explanation of Benefits statements – make sure you were at the doctor on the dates listed and that you received the treatments listed.

• Beware of "free" offers that are often fraudulent schemes to bill you and your insurance for treatments you didn't receive.

• Be careful when providing your Social Security number, Credit Card numbers or other personal information.

• Most importantly, report any suspicious activity to your insurance company and always ask questions and get answers.

Health insurance fraud costs everyone. For more information please visit: www.nhcaa.org/NYPublicAwareness

This message brought to you l

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