

# Don't Be Scammed

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

**T**oday's technology revolution has vastly improved our capacity to perform functions only dreamed about a few decades ago. This includes everything from online shopping to online banking. Unfortunately, it has turned traditional crimes such as robbery into high tech cybercrimes. Two of the classes of victims often cited are the elderly (because of their lack of technical knowledge) and doctors (because of their perceived wealth).

*PM News* has published several letters from podiatrists who were the intended victims of telephone or Internet scams. With the advent of AI, scammers are now able to duplicate voices, change the name and telephone number which appear on your caller ID or email inbox, and obtain data about you and your patients.

This increased threat level requires enhanced security by you and your staff. It requires constant vigilance and education as these scams are always evolving as their methods become publicized. Periodic changing of complicated passwords and the use of two-factor authentication are examples of basic steps you and your staff can take to protect valuable information from getting into the wrong hands.

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to stay constantly vigilant about every call you take or email you receive. Be suspicious of any attempt to obtain information from you or any offer that appears to be too good to be true. When a person you don't know offers to buy you a free meal, they are more likely trying to "eat your lunch." Don't be scammed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dedicated to Practice Growth  
and Prosperity Since 1982

Volume 45, Number 1

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