

## RISK ALERT

September 23 2021

## Warning about Telephone Fraud Targeting Providers

The Division of Consumer Affairs (Division) is warning all licensed professionals about individuals impersonating New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) investigators, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents, DEA investigators, New Jersey Drug Control Unit investigators, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigators, and other law enforcement personnel, as part of an extortion scheme.

The impersonators are contacting providers by telephone or letter, stating that they are the subject of an investigation. The callers are demanding money to clear up the matter or threatening to revoke the individual's license. Please be advised that the Division of Consumer Affairs will <u>never</u> contact licensees by telephone to discuss investigations or demand money. Callers may also have your medical license number and/or your National Provider Identifier (NPI). These data are publicly available and should not influence providers to believe that the caller is genuine in any way.

Anyone receiving a telephone call from a person purporting to be any of the abovementioned individuals seeking money, should refuse the demand and terminate the call immediately. We encourage you to report the call to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <a href="mailto:ReportFraud.ftc.gov">ReportFraud.ftc.gov</a>. You may also report the call to the Division at <a href="mailto:AskConsumerAffairs@lps.state.nj.us">AskConsumerAffairs@lps.state.nj.us</a>.

In addition, Conventus recommends that you inform your staff that this scam exists and advise them to discontinue any conversation with callers immediately.

If you have any questions regarding this scam or other issues that may impact your practice, call our Practice Resource Department at (877)444-0484 ext.7466 to speak with a member of our team.

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