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## News Flash

**To:** Sharp Health Plan Providers  
**Attn:** Providers and Provider Office Staff  
**From:** Sharp Health Plan  
**Date:** August 8, 2019  
**Subject:** Fake DEA Agents Extortion Scam

Attention Provider Partners and Office Staff:

Sharp Health Plan has been notified of a fake DEA agent extortion scam and wants to make sure our provider partners and their staff are aware of it. The Medical Board of California (Board) has learned that scam artists posing as U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents, or Board staff, are calling California physicians as part of an extortion scheme.

The scammers identify themselves as DEA agents or Board staff calling about ongoing investigations regarding their license issued by the Board. The scammers tell victims their license may be suspended for illegal drug trafficking and become unable to practice. The scammers may provide an "Agreement for the Bond and Protocols" stating that licensees are not to share or disclose the investigation to any third party, and agree to a bond fee payment of \$25,000. The scammers' phone number may show up as the Board's toll-free number: 1-800-633-2322.

**No DEA agent or Board staff will ever contact you by phone to demand money or any other form of payment. If you receive a call by a "DEA agent" demanding payment, refuse the demand for payment and do the following:**

- If the caller states they are from the DEA, immediately report the threat using the DEA's Extortion Scam Online Reporting form at <https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/esor/>.
- If the caller states they are a Board employee, please contact the Medical Board of California at 1-800-633-2322 or send an email to [webmaster@mbc.ca.gov](mailto:webmaster@mbc.ca.gov).
- If the caller's phone number appears to be the Board's toll-free number, please file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at [consumercomplaints.fcc.gov](http://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov) or contact the Board so it can provide this information to the FCC.

Thank you,

Mary S. Betlejewski  
Manager, Network Development & Performance

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