

## Scammers find 88-year-old Memphis woman's medical history

Kate Bieri, FOX13 Memphis Jan 3, 2025



MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Ruth Ferguson's phone has not stopped ringing for days on end.

"It's creepy," she admitted.

It all started about a month ago for the 88-year-old East Memphis woman. Her doctor told her she needed a medical device to alleviate her leg pain. Ferguson then got an unexpected call from a woman who she later realized was impersonating CVS Pharmacy.

"She wanted to sell me a leg brace," she recalled. "How did she know I needed a leg brace?"

Then, Ferguson received another unexpected call from a man claiming to represent Medicare. He told the cancer survivor that he could provide her with a cancer-detecting device.

"I hung up and I thought, 'This is not legit,'" she told FOX13.

Ferguson called Medicare herself and spoke to an actual representative.

"She said, 'It's a fraud. Medicare does not call,'" Ferguson said. "I said, 'I know that, but it sounded so legit.' She said, 'they usually do.'"

Then, the East Memphis woman noticed she had another missed call. This time, the caller ID belonged to her Memphis doctor's office. She called the office directly, but staffers told Ferguson there was no record a call had been made.

"It's pretty scary," she said.

When FOX13 was interviewing Ferguson, her doctor's office appeared to call again. Once more, the call was not legitimate.

"I wasn't surprised," said Daniel Irwin, a spokesman for the Better Business Bureau of the Mid-South. "But then again, this is a whole new level, right?"

Irwin recommended that everyone closely follow notices of data breaches. According to the [Identity Theft Resource Center](#), more than 353 million people were victims of data breaches last year.

"Not only do the people that did the data breach have your information," Irwin warned. "They take that and they sell that to criminals all over the dark web."

Ferguson doesn't know where her health information was leaked.

However, 100 million people were impacted in a cyberattack against Change Healthcare last year. As [FOX13 reported](#), Change Healthcare is one of the largest payment processing companies in the U.S. healthcare system.

"The more you think about it, more alarms come up," Ferguson said. "I mean, what else do they know?"

*If you have been involved in a data breach, freeze your credit to prevent identity theft. It's free and could prevent a stranger from opening up loans or filing taxes in your name.*

**[Click here](#)** for instructions from Fox13 on how to freeze your credit.