



Fake "AI Health Scanner" Apps and Miracle-Cure Pitches

Why that app promising to diagnose you — and the AI 'miracle cure' — are scams.

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1623 · SAFETY** —————

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

If an app or website offers to diagnose a disease by scanning your face, your voice, or a list of symptoms — especially if it found you through an ad and wants your money or your card — treat it as a scam. The same goes for any 'miracle cure,' 'breakthrough the doctors are hiding,' or celebrity-endorsed supplement sold through online videos. No honest health tool arrives this way. For anything about your actual health, your own doctor is the real answer, and in an emergency you call 911.

- 1 An app or video promises to diagnose, cure, or dramatically improve your health.
- 2 It found you through an ad, a video, or an unsolicited message.
- 3 It wants your money, your card, or your personal health details.
- 4 Do not pay or share anything — assume it is a scam.
- 5 Bring any real health worry to your own doctor, and call 911 in an emergency.

WATCH OUT

This guide is general information, not medical advice, and never a substitute for your doctor. Its job is only to help you tell a health scam from real care — not to diagnose or treat anything.

1. Why I Wrote This One

Because scammers have learned to wear a white coat.

In more than thirty years of helping folks here in Portage County with their devices, I have seen scammers chase whatever people care about most. Lately that is health, and the newest tools make the con frighteningly convincing. An app offers to scan your face and tell you your 'biological age' or spot disease. A polished video features someone in a white coat, or a familiar celebrity, promising a breakthrough cure the medical establishment is supposedly hiding. It all looks modern and scientific.

It is, sadly, a scam dressed in a lab coat. I am not writing this to frighten you about technology — there are genuine, wonderful medical advances, and real tools your doctor may use. I am writing it so you can tell the honest from the predatory, because health scams do a special kind of harm. They can cost money, yes, but they can also pull someone away from real treatment, waste precious time, and feed false hope or false fear. That is why they deserve a calm, careful look.

Before we go further, one important thing. I am a technology helper, not a doctor, and nothing in this guide is medical advice. I cannot and will not tell you anything about your own health. What I can do is help you recognize when a 'health' app or product is really a scam, so you can keep your money and bring your real questions to the people qualified to answer them — your own doctor, and in an emergency, 911.

TIP

Share this with anyone in the family living with a worrying diagnosis or chronic condition. Those are exactly the moments when a false 'cure' is most tempting, and most dangerous.

2. What These Scams Look Like

The modern costumes of a very old con.

Health scams are ancient — the 'miracle tonic' is older than any of us. What is new is the technology that makes them convincing. Today they wear a few common costumes, and knowing them helps you spot the pattern no matter how scientific it sounds. The thread running through all of them is a promise that is too good, delivered by someone who found you rather than someone you sought out.

- 'AI health scanner' apps that claim to diagnose disease from a photo of your face, your eye, a skin spot, or your voice.
- 'Symptom checker' sites that lead to a scary 'result' and then a paid 'treatment plan' or supplement.
- Miracle cures for serious conditions — cancer, diabetes, memory loss, arthritis — sold online with dramatic claims.
- Celebrity or 'doctor' videos (often deepfakes) endorsing a supplement or device that 'doctors don't want you to know about.'

• 'Free trials' for health products that quietly enroll you in expensive monthly charges. Notice what these share. Each offers a shortcut — an instant diagnosis, a cure the experts supposedly suppress, a dramatic result — and each wants either your money or your personal information in return. Real medicine rarely works in shortcuts, and real medical tools do not advertise cures to strangers in their feeds. When you see the shortcut-plus-payment shape, your guard should go up, however modern the packaging looks.

GOOD TO KNOW

The deepfake 'doctor' or celebrity in these videos almost never agreed to appear. Their faces and voices are stolen, the same way they are in investment scams, to borrow trust they never gave.

3. The 'AI Can Diagnose You' Claim

Why an app that found you can't be trusted with this.

The most modern-sounding version promises that artificial intelligence can diagnose you from a quick scan — your face, a photo of a mole, your eyes, even the sound of your voice. It feels plausible, because you have heard, correctly, that AI is being studied for medical uses. Here is the key distinction: there is a world of difference between tools being carefully tested and used by doctors, and an app that found you through an ad and asks for your card to reveal your 'results.'

Legitimate medical technology goes through rigorous testing and official review before it is used on patients, and even then a qualified professional interprets it in the context of your whole health. It is not sold directly to worried strangers as an instant answer. An app that promises to diagnose a serious disease from a selfie, with no doctor involved and a payment screen at the end, is not that kind of tool. It is a scam borrowing the language of real science to seem credible.

The harm is double. First, you may pay for a worthless 'diagnosis.' Second, and worse, you may be told you have something frightening (to sell you a 'treatment') or be falsely reassured that you are fine (so you skip real care). Either false result can do real damage. For anything that genuinely concerns you about your body, the honest answer is not an app from an ad — it is an appointment with your own doctor, who can actually examine and help you.

WATCH OUT

An app diagnosing serious disease from a photo, with no real doctor involved and a payment at the end, is a scam. A worrying 'result' designed to sell you something is not a reason to panic — it is a reason to delete the app and call your doctor.

4. The 'Miracle Cure' Pitch

The breakthrough the doctors are supposedly hiding.

The cure version is even older and, dressed in new technology, newly convincing. A slick video or article promises a breakthrough for a serious or stubborn condition — a supplement that melts away memory loss, a device that reverses diabetes, a tonic that beats cancer, a trick that 'doctors hate.' The pitch often claims the medical establishment is hiding it to protect its profits, which conveniently explains why your real doctor has never mentioned it.

That 'they're hiding it' angle is itself the tell. Real treatments for serious diseases are not secret; they are published, studied, and shared, because the whole point of medicine is to spread what works. The idea of a suppressed miracle cure is a story designed to make you distrust the very people who can actually help you, so you will trust the seller instead. When a pitch tries to turn you against your own doctors, that is a reason to walk away, not to lean in.

The federal government's consumer-protection agency has warned for years about exactly these health frauds, especially those aimed at serious illness and at older adults, because false cures can be deadly as well as expensive. They cost money, and far worse, they can lure someone away from treatment that actually works, during the time when real treatment matters most. That is why I treat the miracle-cure pitch not as a harmless gamble but as one of the more dangerous scams there is.

WATCH OUT

'A cure the doctors don't want you to know about' is a scam line, every time. Real cures are shared, not hidden. Any pitch that tells you to distrust your doctor is working against you.

5. The One Rule for Health Online

Where real health answers actually come from.

Here is the whole defense, and it is simple and steady: you do not make health decisions, pay for health 'diagnoses,' or buy cures based on anything that found you through an app, a video, or an ad. Real answers about your health come from your own doctor and the care team you have chosen, not from a stranger's feed. If a health product or app came to you uninvited and wants money or your card, the answer is no.

This works because it does not ask you to judge the science, which is hard and which these scams are built to confuse. It simply ties your health decisions to a trustworthy source — the professionals who know you and are accountable to you — and cuts out the strangers entirely. You can be curious about a new tool or treatment; just bring that curiosity to your doctor, who can tell you whether it is real and right for you, rather than to a payment screen.

If you ever read or see something about your health that worries or excites you, that is a wonderful question for your next appointment, or a call to your doctor's office. 'I saw this online — is it real, and is it for me?' is exactly the kind of thing they want you to ask. A real opportunity in medicine will still be there after that conversation. A scam cannot survive it, because your doctor will tell you the truth the seller was hiding.

TIP

Keep a little notepad for 'things I saw online to ask my doctor about.' It turns a tempting pitch into a safe question, and keeps your money in your pocket until a professional weighs in.

6. Your Health Information Is the Prize

Sometimes they're after your data, not your dollars.

Not every health scam wants your money directly. Some are after your personal and health information, which is valuable and can be sold or used against you. A 'free health scan,' a 'Medicare benefits check,' or a 'qualify for a free medical device' offer may exist mainly to collect your name, date of birth, Medicare or insurance number, and health details. Once gathered, that information fuels further scams and fraudulent billing in your name.

Be especially protective of your Medicare number and your Social Security number. Legitimate health care does not come from unsolicited calls, texts, or ads offering free scans, braces, test kits, or equipment in exchange for your Medicare number. Those offers are a well-known fraud, and handing over the number can lead to false charges billed to Medicare in your name, which causes real headaches to untangle, even when the money was never yours.

So treat your health identifiers like the valuables they are. Give your Medicare, insurance, and Social Security numbers only to your actual doctor's office, your real insurer, or a

provider you contacted yourself — never to someone who reached out to you with an offer. If an app or caller wants these details before giving you a 'result' or a 'free' item, that request is the scam showing its hand.

WATCH OUT

Unsolicited offers of free medical equipment, test kits, or 'benefit reviews' that ask for your Medicare number are a classic fraud. Real benefits never require handing your number to a stranger who called or messaged you.

7. The Deepfake Doctor

When the trusted face on screen isn't real.

Many of these pitches now feature a convincing authority figure — a doctor in a white coat, a famous television physician, or a beloved celebrity — personally endorsing the product. With today's technology, that figure is frequently a deepfake: a computer-made video putting words into the mouth of a real person who never said them, or a wholly invented 'doctor' who does not exist. The face and voice look real, which is exactly why the pitch feels trustworthy.

This matters because seeing a doctor or a trusted celebrity recommend something used to be reassuring, and it no longer can be, at least not in a feed or an ad. Real medical experts do not sell miracle cures to strangers through social-media videos, and when they discover their image has been stolen for a scam, they are usually horrified and fighting to get it taken down. So let a famous or authoritative face in a health ad make you more suspicious, not less.

The defense needs no special eye for spotting fakes. Because you are not making health decisions from videos and ads in the first place, it does not matter whether the doctor on screen is real, stolen, or invented. You simply set the video aside and take any genuine interest to your own doctor. The deepfake can be flawless and it changes nothing, because it was never going to be the thing that decided your care.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you want to know whether a public health figure really recommends something, look on their own official channels or reputable news — never take a feed ad as their word. Their face there is often stolen.

8. The 'Free Trial' Trap

How a free sample becomes a monthly charge.

A gentler-looking version is the 'free trial.' You see an ad for a health supplement, a brain-boosting pill, or a joint cream, and you only pay a small shipping fee to try it. It feels low-risk. The catch is buried in the fine print: by accepting the 'free' sample and entering your card, you have enrolled in a subscription that bills you a substantial amount every month, often for products that keep arriving whether you want them or not.

Cancelling can be made deliberately difficult — hard-to-find phone numbers, long holds, refusals, and more charges while you try. The business is counting on the hassle to keep billing you. By the time many people notice the recurring charge on their statement, several months have gone by. This is why a 'free' health product that asks for your card is rarely free, and why the small shipping fee is the hook, not the cost.

The protection is simple caution with your card. Be very wary of entering card details for a 'free' health product, and read what you are actually agreeing to before you do. Watch your statements for recurring charges you did not intend, and dispute them with your card company if they appear. Better yet, bring any supplement that genuinely interests you to your doctor first — they can tell you whether it is worth anything, usually for free, and without signing you up for anything.

WATCH OUT

A 'free trial' that needs your card is usually a subscription in disguise. Read the fine print, watch your statements, and dispute surprise recurring charges promptly with your card company.

9. Why Hope and Fear Are the Levers

Understanding the pull removes the shame.

Health scams are powerful because they pull on two of our strongest feelings: hope and fear. Someone living with a hard diagnosis, chronic pain, or the slow worries of aging has every reason to hope for relief, and every reason to fear what is coming. Scammers know this intimately and aim straight for it, offering either a frightening 'result' that must be treated now or a hopeful 'cure' that promises what medicine has not. Neither is an accident; both are engineered.

This is why falling for a health scam, or nearly doing so, is never a sign of foolishness. It is a sign of being human, and often of being in pain or afraid. The people most vulnerable are frequently those facing the hardest health battles, which makes these scams especially cruel. If this has touched you or someone you love, set the shame aside completely — the fault lies entirely with the predators who target suffering.

Recognizing the emotional lever also helps you resist it in the moment. When a health pitch makes you feel a surge of hope or a spike of fear and then asks for money or your card right now, that very feeling is the tool being used on you. Naming it — 'this is designed to make me feel this way' — gives you a beat to step back, breathe, and bring the question to someone who can answer it honestly.

GOOD TO KNOW

The surge of hope or fear a health pitch produces is part of the scam's design. Feeling it does not mean the product is real — it means the sales trick is working. Pause, and bring it to your doctor.

10. There Are Real, Good Tools Too

Don't let scams scare you off genuine help.

I do not want this guide to leave you distrusting all health technology, because there is a great deal of genuine good out there, and you deserve its benefits. Pharmacies, hospitals, and your own doctor use real, well-tested tools every day. There are legitimate apps that help you track blood pressure, manage medications, or stay in touch with your care team, and real telehealth that lets you see an actual provider by video. The difference is always in where the tool comes from and who stands behind it.

The reliable path to a good health tool is through your own care providers and institutions you already trust. If your doctor's office recommends an app or a monitor, if your pharmacy offers a service, if your insurer or Medicare points you to a program through official channels, those are worlds apart from an app you met in an ad. The same technology can be a blessing or a trap depending entirely on whether a trustworthy, accountable source is behind it.

So stay open to real help while staying closed to strangers. When you are curious whether some new tool or app is worthwhile, ask your doctor or pharmacist, or ask a trusted family member to help you check whether it comes from a legitimate source. Genuine health technology welcomes that scrutiny. Only the scams need you to decide quickly, alone, and on their say-so.

TIP

A good question for your doctor or pharmacist: 'Is there a legitimate app or tool that could help me with this?' Let the real experts point you to the real tools.

11. Apps That Scan Your Face or Skin

A closer look at the 'point your camera' pitch.

One flavor deserves a closer look because it feels so futuristic and harmless: the app that asks you to point your camera at your face, your eye, a mole, or your tongue, and promises to read your health from the image. The act feels small and the result instant, which lowers your guard. But two serious problems hide inside that simple gesture, and both are worth understanding before you ever grant a camera such a job.

First, the diagnosis itself is unreliable at best and invented at worst. Judging a serious condition from a casual photo, with no medical examination, no history, and no professional behind it, is not how real diagnosis works. A worrying 'finding' may be manufactured to sell you a treatment, and a cheerful 'all clear' may lull you into skipping a real concern. Either way, the camera trick produces a 'result' built to move you toward a payment, not toward health.

Second, you have handed over images of your face or body, plus whatever permissions the app demanded, to a stranger of unknown intent. Those images and the data around them can be stored, sold, or misused. A real skin concern deserves a real look from your

doctor or a dermatologist, who can examine it properly and, if needed, test it. A photo app from an ad is no substitute, and the convenience is not worth the risk to either your health or your privacy.

WATCH OUT

If a mole, spot, or symptom worries you enough to photograph it for an app, it worries you enough to show your doctor. Let a real professional look — that is what the camera trick is counting on you not to do.

12. Supplements and Brain-Boosters

The pills pitched hardest to older adults.

A huge share of these pitches sell supplements — pills, powders, and drops promising to sharpen memory, melt fat, ease joints, restore energy, or guard against serious disease. They are advertised relentlessly to older adults, often with the same deepfake doctors and celebrities, and they lean on words like 'natural,' 'clinically proven,' and 'breakthrough.' The marketing is far more powerful than any effect the product itself is likely to have.

The honest picture is that supplements are not held to the same strict standards as medicines, so a bottle can make bold-sounding claims without strong proof behind them. Some supplements have genuine, modest uses that your doctor might recommend, but those are a world apart from a 'memory miracle' sold through a video that tells you the medical world is hiding it. And some supplements can actually interact with medications you take, which is its own reason to involve your doctor.

So treat any supplement pitched through an ad, a video, or a 'free trial' as a sales job until a professional says otherwise. If a product genuinely interests you, carry the bottle or the name to your doctor or pharmacist and ask two plain questions: is there any real evidence this helps, and is it safe with my other medicines? That quick check, usually free, protects both your money and your health far better than any online claim.

WATCH OUT

'Natural' and 'clinically proven' on a supplement ad mean very little on their own. Some supplements can interact with your prescriptions, so always check with your doctor or pharmacist first.

13. What Your Doctor Wishes You'd Ask

Turning a scary pitch into a safe question.

Doctors and pharmacists genuinely want you to bring them the things you see online. They would far rather spend two minutes telling you a product is worthless than treat you later for harm it caused, or for a real problem you delayed while chasing a fake cure. Far from bothering them, these questions are exactly what they are there for, and asking them is a sign of a careful, engaged patient, not a nuisance.

A few simple questions turn almost any health pitch into a safe conversation. You might ask: is there any real evidence this works for someone like me? Is it safe alongside my current medications and conditions? Is this a legitimate product or a known scam? And is there a real, proven option that would help me with the same concern? Those four questions put the decision back where it belongs, with someone qualified and accountable to you.

It also helps to keep a running note between visits. When a tempting health ad or app crosses your path, jot down the name and the claim rather than acting on it, and bring the list to your next appointment or call it into the office. This small habit does two things at once: it keeps your money safe in the moment, and it makes sure your real questions actually get answered by the right person.

WATCH OUT

Four questions defuse almost any health pitch: Is there real evidence? Is it safe with my medicines? Is it a known scam? And is there a proven option instead?

14. The Red Flags, Gathered

The warning signs, in one place.

You do not need to be a scientist to spot a health scam. A handful of warning signs give nearly all of them away, and any single one of these is reason enough to stop, keep your money and your information, and bring the matter to your doctor instead.

- It found you — through an ad, a video, an unsolicited call, text, or email — rather than coming from your own care team.
- It promises to diagnose, cure, or dramatically improve a serious condition, fast or guaranteed.

- It claims a 'breakthrough the doctors are hiding' or tells you to distrust your own physician.
- It wants your money, your card, or your Medicare, insurance, or Social Security number up front.
- It uses a celebrity or 'doctor' endorsement, especially in a video, to build trust.
- It pressures you to act now, with limited supply, a countdown, or a scary 'result.'

Hold these loosely and let any one of them stop you. Health is the one area where the cost of being fooled is not only money but time and well-being, so it is worth being especially firm here. When in doubt, the safest and healthiest move is always the same: keep your wallet closed, keep your information private, and bring the question to a professional who knows you.

WATCH OUT

For any true medical emergency — chest pain, trouble breathing, signs of a stroke, a bad fall — do not turn to an app or a website. Call 911. No scanner or online tool replaces emergency care.

15. Fake Online Pharmacies

The scam that targets the cost of real medicine.

With medicine prices a real worry, another scam preys on the search for cheaper prescriptions: the fake online pharmacy. These sites advertise familiar drugs at prices far below normal, often with no prescription required, and they look professional enough to seem trustworthy. The danger is layered. You may pay and receive nothing, or you may receive pills that are counterfeit, wrongly dosed, contaminated, or not the medicine at all, which can be genuinely dangerous to take.

On top of that, these sites harvest your payment and personal details, and sometimes your health information, for further fraud. An offer to sell prescription medicine with no prescription is a bright red flag, because legitimate pharmacies are required to follow real rules. A price that seems too good to be true, for medicine especially, usually is, and the savings are not worth the risk to your health or your wallet.

If prescription costs are squeezing you — and they squeeze many people — the safe path is through real channels: talk to your doctor or pharmacist about lower-cost options and generics, ask about legitimate assistance programs, and use only pharmacies you can

verify are licensed. Your pharmacist is a terrific, often underused resource here, and can frequently find honest savings without sending you to a risky website you found through an ad or a search result.

WATCH OUT

'No prescription needed' and prices far below everyone else are the marks of a fake pharmacy. Counterfeit medicine can be dangerous — ask your real pharmacist about safe ways to save instead.

16. Fear Is Not a Diagnosis

A steadying word for anxious moments.

I want to offer a calming thought, because these scams work partly by stirring up dread. If a scan, a quiz, or an ad leaves you suddenly frightened that something is terribly wrong with you, remember that the fear it produced is not information about your body. It is a feeling the pitch was designed to create, often precisely so you will reach for your wallet while rattled. A manufactured scare and a real medical finding are two very different things.

The healthy response to a genuine worry about your health is not an online payment made in a moment of fear; it is a conversation with a professional who can actually examine you, knows your history, and is accountable for your care. That conversation might bring real reassurance, or it might catch something early — but either way it gives you the truth, which an app selling 'treatments' never can. Real care replaces fear with facts; a scam replaces facts with fear.

So when a health pitch spikes your anxiety, let that spike be your cue to slow down rather than speed up. Set the device aside, take a breath, and make the appointment or the call. Bringing your worry to a trusted doctor is both the safest and the kindest thing you can do for yourself, and it quietly strips these scams of the fear they run on. You deserve real answers, not engineered panic.

GOOD TO KNOW

A scary 'result' from an app is a sales tactic, not a diagnosis. Let it send you to your doctor for the truth — not to a payment screen for a 'cure.'

17. If You've Already Paid or Shared

Calm, practical steps to limit the harm.

If you have already paid for one of these, entered your card for a 'free trial,' or shared health or Medicare information, take a breath — there are clear steps to limit the damage, and acting promptly helps. There is no shame in being drawn in; these scams target people in pain and in hope, and they are run by professionals. What matters now is protecting your money, your information, and your actual care.

- 1 If you paid or entered your card, call your card company or bank, say it was a scam, and ask to stop or reverse charges and watch for recurring ones.
- 2 If you enrolled in a 'free trial,' tell the card company to block further charges from that merchant.
- 3 If you shared your Medicare number, report it — Medicare has a fraud line, and you can review statements for charges you did not receive.
- 4 If you shared other personal details, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov) for a recovery plan.
- 5 Most important: if a scam steered you away from real care, reconnect with your own doctor and get back on track.

GOOD TO KNOW

Review your Medicare Summary Notices and insurance statements for services or equipment you never received. Reporting those protects you and helps stop fraud billed in your name.

18. Helping a Loved One Who's Tempted

Compassion works better than argument.

If someone you love is drawn to a 'miracle cure' or a health app you believe is a scam, especially while facing a serious illness, approach with great gentleness. People reach for these out of real hope or fear, and attacking the product can feel like attacking that hope, pushing them to defend it harder. Scorn or 'I told you so' tends to close the door you most need to keep open.

Lead with care rather than correction. Acknowledge the hope or worry underneath: 'I know how much you want to feel better, and I want that too.' Then offer to look into it together, and to bring it to the doctor as a real question rather than a dismissal: 'Let's ask Dr. So-and-so whether this could help you — and whether it's safe with your other medicines.' That frames you as an ally in their health, not an obstacle to their hope.

Where you can, help with the practical protections quietly — watching for recurring charges, keeping Medicare numbers safe, and keeping the real care team in the loop. And keep the relationship warm above all. People step back from these far more readily when they feel supported rather than judged, and when the person pointing out the scam is clearly on their side and in their corner.

GOOD TO KNOW

Framing it as 'let's ask your doctor together' respects the person's hope while routing the decision to someone qualified. It is far more persuasive than telling them they are being foolish.

19. Questions People Ask Me

The ones that come up again and again.

But the app had great reviews and thousands of downloads — isn't that proof? No. Reviews and download counts are easily faked or bought, and AI now writes glowing fake reviews in bulk. Popularity in an app store is not the same as medical validity. Judge a health tool by whether your doctor or a trustworthy source stands behind it, not by its ratings.

The pitch cited a 'study' and used scientific words — doesn't that make it real? Scammers love the language of science, and a cited 'study' may be misrepresented, tiny, or invented outright. Impressive-sounding terms are part of the costume. If a claim matters to your health, let your doctor tell you whether the science is real and relevant to you.

Is it risky to just download a health app to look? Downloading an app can expose your information and lead to charges, so be cautious, especially with anything that asks for your card or personal health details to work. When in doubt, ask your doctor or a trusted family member before installing a health app you met through an ad.

Can AI ever help with my health at all? There is genuine, carefully-tested research into medical uses of AI, and your doctor may use real tools. The key is that legitimate tools reach you through your care team, not through ads promising to diagnose or cure you for a fee. Bring your curiosity to your doctor, who can separate the real from the fake.

20. A Five-Minute Family Health-Scam Rule

Set it once, together, calmly.

Because health scams strike hardest in moments of fear and hope, it helps to agree on a few simple lines ahead of time, as a family, when everyone is calm. A rule set in advance is far easier to hold when a frightening 'result' or a hopeful 'cure' appears. Here is a short one you can adopt together in a few minutes.

- 1 No one pays for a health 'diagnosis' or 'cure' that found us through an ad, a video, or a message.
- 2 We never give our Medicare, insurance, or Social Security number to anyone who contacted us with an offer.
- 3 Anything about our health that we see online becomes a question for our own doctor, not a purchase.
- 4 We read the fine print before entering a card for any 'free' health product.
- 5 For a real emergency, we call 911 — never an app or a website.

WATCH OUT

Keep your doctor's office number and the Medicare fraud contact somewhere handy. Having the real sources close by makes it easier to choose them over a scam in a worried moment.

21. Reporting It — and Why It Helps

A few minutes that protect the next person.

Reporting a scam can feel pointless once the money is gone, but it genuinely matters. Reports help investigators link cases together, give platforms and phone carriers the evidence to shut fakes down, and warn others before they are caught. You do not need to have lost money to report — flagging an attempt is valuable too. It takes only a few minutes, and it turns a bad experience into something that helps your neighbors.

- Report to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov), the national clearinghouse for scams. You can also call 1-877-382-4357.
- Report online or financial crime to the FBI at ic3.gov, their internet-crime complaint center — especially for larger losses or cryptocurrency.
- Contact the Ohio Attorney General's consumer protection team at 800-282-0515 or through ohioattorneygeneral.gov.
- If your identity may be exposed, visit IdentityTheft.gov for a step-by-step recovery plan.

- Report spam texts by forwarding them to 7726 (SPAM), and use the 'report' button inside apps and email.

I wrote a separate, step-by-step guide on reporting to the FTC, the FBI, and the Ohio Attorney General, with exactly what to write down and what to expect afterward. If the reporting steps feel like a lot, that is a perfect thing to call me about. I am glad to sit with you and help you file, so that your report actually reaches the people who can use it.

GOOD TO KNOW

You will usually not hear back from a report, and that is normal. Your report still joins a bigger picture that helps investigators and warns others, even when nothing lands in your own inbox.

22. When to Just Call Me

A calm second opinion costs you nothing.

If something about a health app, scan, or 'miracle' cure you've seen advertised has you second-guessing yourself, or you just want a steady second opinion before you do anything, please call me. There is never a charge to ask a scam question, and never any judgment. I would far rather spend a few minutes on the phone talking it through with you than hear later that something cost you money or worry. That is genuinely what I am here for, and it is some of the most satisfying work I do.

If you would like a hand in person, I come to homes all across Portage County. I can help you check something safely, tighten up your accounts and passwords after a close call, set your devices and routine so these scams have a harder time reaching you, and walk your whole family through a simple plan. We go at your pace, with no pressure and no rushing, and you come away feeling steadier.

GOOD TO KNOW

The best time to call is before you act — before you click, pay, or share anything. A quick 'does this seem right to you, Bill?' is one of my favorite kinds of call to get.

23. Contact Card & a Warm Close

Keep this page where you can find it again.

Bill's Home Tech — your local tech, Bill Davis, owner and only tech. Phone or text: (330) 200-8042. Email: bill@billshometech.com. Web: billshometech.com. Service area: Atwater, Ravenna, Kent, Streetsboro, Aurora, Rootstown, Mantua, Garrettsville, Windham, Edinburg, Suffield — all of Portage County, Ohio.

- Free phone call: any scam question or close call, always free, with no judgment and no rushing.
- In-home scam-check visit: \$99 flat for the first visit, with a 30-day follow-up included.
- Remote help by screen-share, for when you would rather not wait for a visit.

Your health is too important to trust to an app that found you through an ad. Talk to your own doctor, lean on people who care about you, and reach out whenever something doesn't feel right. If you ever want a hand sorting the real tools from the scams, I am only a phone call away, and always glad to help a neighbor.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

The one rule

Real health answers come from your own doctor — never from an app, video, or ad that found you. For emergencies, call 911.

Signs it's a health scam

- Promises to diagnose or cure, fast or guaranteed.
- Found you through an ad, video, or message.
- 'A cure the doctors are hiding.'
- Wants your card or your Medicare number.
- A celebrity or 'doctor' endorsement in a video.
- A 'free trial' that needs your card.

Do this instead

- 1 Keep your money and your Medicare number.
- 2 Write it down as a question for your doctor.
- 3 Check your statements for surprise charges.
- 4 Protect your health info like a valuable.

5 Unsure if an app is legit? Ask your doctor or Bill.

WATCH OUT

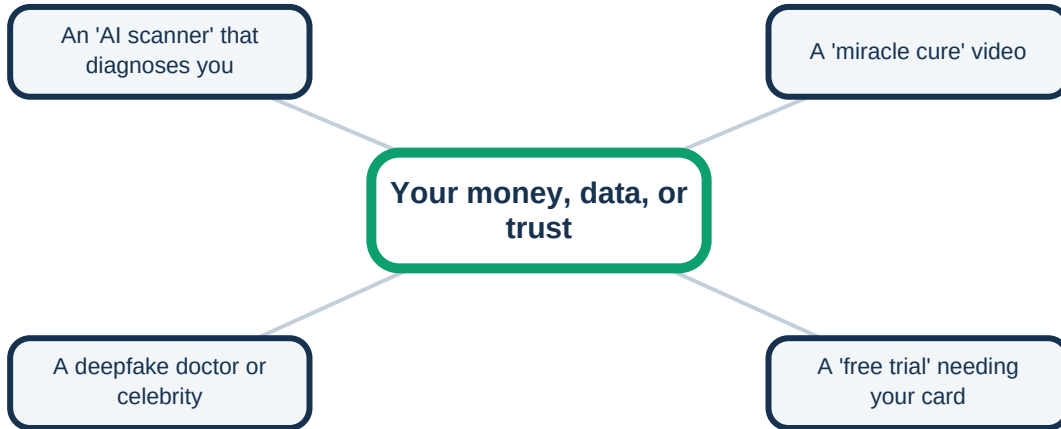
This is general information, not medical advice. It helps you spot a scam — it never replaces your doctor, and never diagnoses or treats anything.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

How a Health Scam Reaches You

Modern costumes on a very old con.



Real health help never arrives through an ad promising a shortcut.

Illustration - a schematic; details vary by device and setup.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Where Real Answers Come From

Route every health question to someone qualified.

- 1 An app or video promises to diagnose or cure
- 2 Stop - don't pay or share your information
- 3 Assume it's a scam, however scientific it sounds
- 4 Write it down as a question for your doctor
- 5 Bring it to your own care team, not a payment screen
- 6 For an emergency, call 911 - never an app

Your doctor, not a feed, decides your care.

Illustration - a schematic; details vary by device and setup.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.