

SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP)

Protect Yourself
from the Latest
Scams



Alan Bey, NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)
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STATE  WIDE
New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.
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WHO WE ARE

- New York StateWide Senior Action Council is a grassroots membership organization made up of individual senior citizens and senior citizen clubs, and organizations from all parts of New York State.
- StateWide has a strong history providing outreach and education to senior citizens and their families since 1972.
- StateWide is governed and directed by seniors and advocates for seniors on a grassroots level.



OUR PROGRAMS

Patient's Rights Helpline

- Toll free number to assist hospitalized and institutionalized patients and their families with their rights.

MCCAP (Managed Care Counseling & Assistance Program)

- Inform, educate and assist seniors and their families in making the best and most informed decisions regarding their healthcare in NYS.



NYS SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP)

The SMP mission is...

- To empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers;
- To prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse;
- Through outreach, counseling, and education.



WHAT IS MEDICARE FRAUD?

Intentionally billing Medicare for services that were not received or billing for a service at a higher rate than is actually justified.



CONSEQUENCES OF MEDICARE FRAUD, ERROR & ABUSE?

**IDENTITY
THEFT**



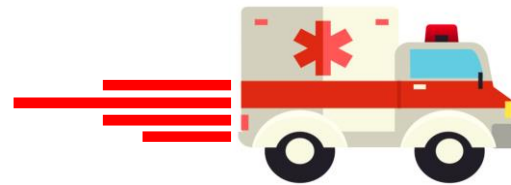
Health Impact

**Personal
Financial
Loss**



TYPES OF MEDICARE FRAUD

- Ambulance Fraud
- Community Mental Health Fraud
- Medical Identity Theft
- Medicare Card Scam
- Obamacare Scam
- Medicare "Changes" Scam
- Offers of Discount Plans and Cards
- Marketing Guidelines
- Equipment & Supplies Coverage Issues
- Durable Medical Equipment Fraud
- Wheelchair Scams



- Genetic Testing Fraud
- Home Health Care Fraud
- Pain Management Clinics
- Personal Care Services Fraud
- Hospice Fraud
- Marketing Guidelines for Parts C & D
- Medicare Advantage/Managed Care Fraud
- Skilled Nursing Facility Fraud
- Prescription Drug Fraud
- Drug Diversion Fraud

FRAUD SURROUNDING COVID-19



What Can
YOU Do
to **STOP**
COVID-19
Fraud?

CONTACT TRACING – 5 THINGS TO KNOW

A contact tracer from your state health department might call you if you've been exposed to COVID-19. Scammers are pretending to be tracers too. [Here are 5 things you should know to spot the scam.](#)

Real contact tracers won't ask you for money.

Contact tracing does not require your bank account or credit card number.

Do not click on a link in a text or email. You might download malware onto your device.

Your immigration status doesn't matter for contract tracing, so real tracers will not ask.

Contact tracers won't ask for your Social Security number.



TELEHEALTH & EXPOSURE TO FRAUD

Ways to Protect Yourself from Telehealth Fraud:

- Be sure to call **YOUR provider** to schedule your telehealth appointment.
- If you receive a phone call from someone offering you free testing, treatment or supplies, hang up, it is a scam!
- Guard your Medicare Card: Do not give out your Medicare number to anyone other than your doctor or health care provider.
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) and Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for improper billing & items that appear that you didn't order or receive.
- Write down all of your telehealth appointments in your Personal Healthcare Journal and compare to your MSN and/or EOB.

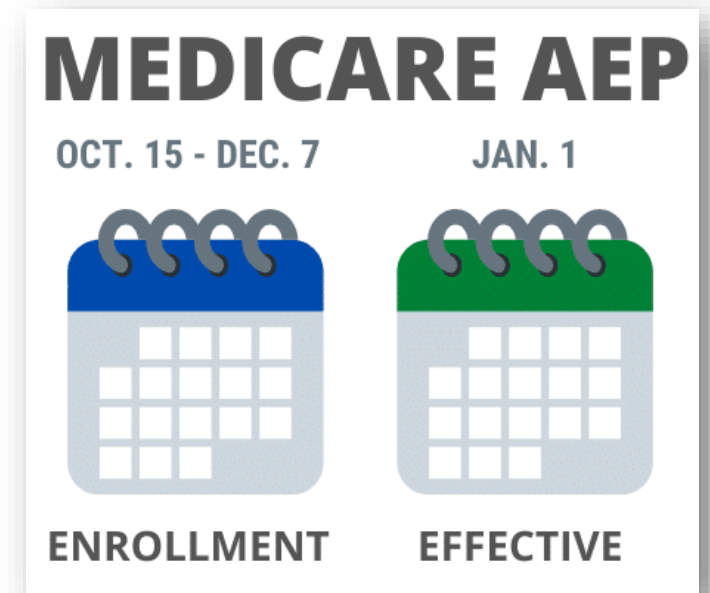


SCAMS DURING THE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

PERIOD

As you look for your best health coverage options, don't forget to keep an eye open for fraudsters! Open Enrollment can quickly become an "Open Season" for scammers. Watch out for people who:

- 1** Claim they work with Medicare, are an "official Medicare agent" or "represent Medicare". Medicare will never cold-call you.
- 2** Say you must have a Medicare prescription plan (also known as Part D). It is voluntary to join a Medicare prescription drug plan.
- 3** Ask for personal information, such as your Medicare number, Social Security number and/or bank information.
- 4** Threaten or pressure you to enroll in their plan. You will not lose your benefits and have the entire Open Enrollment Period to make a decision
- 5** Offer you gifts to enroll in their plan -- it's illegal.



LATEST NEWS

- Cards and other documents bearing the Department of Justice seal and claiming that individuals are exempt from face mask requirements are fraudulent.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is warning the public about potential schemes related to fraudulent and/or unapproved COVID-19 antibody tests with potentially false results.

Source: smpresource.org



WHAT DOES MEDICARE COVER IN RELATION TO COVID-19

- Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers COVID-19 tests when ordered by your doctor or health care provider on or after February 4, 2020.
- Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations, including extra days in the hospital for patients who had to stay longer under COVID-19 quarantine.
- There is no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time; however, if one becomes available, Medicare will cover it.
- Medicare also recently expanded coverage of telehealth services to enable beneficiaries to access a wider range of services from their providers without having to travel to a facility.
 - This includes access to doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers.
 - During this emergency, there are also more options for the ways your providers can talk with you under this provision.

Contact your State SMP: New York StateWide Senior Action Council

Visit us online: (www.nysenior.org)

For more information

Call Toll-free: (800-333-4374)

To report suspected fraud/abuse

For training, speakers, and/or materials

STATE  WIDE

New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
Improving The Lives of Senior Citizens & Families in NY State

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