

Fast Facts: Senior Medicare Patrol

The SMP is a national initiative focused on curbing Medicare fraud through outreach, education, and advocacy.

The program is funded out of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living and utilizes a coalition of statewide volunteers to conduct activities.

Why it Matters

Medicare loses nearly \$100 billion annually to fraud, taking money out of taxpayer pockets and compromising beneficiary health. Each dollar lost to fraud results in higher costs for beneficiaries and fewer resources for health care coverage. Worse yet, fraud causes an emotional burden on beneficiaries who have been victimized.

Outreach

Our team conducts outreach via TV and radio programming, phone calls, digital messaging, social media, partnerships, and word of mouth to reach communities across Pennsylvania. The primary goals of our outreach are to secure speaking engagements, reach rural and diverse communities, and provide fraud prevention messaging. Program activities in this regard reach over 20,000 people annually.

Education

The SMP provides Medicare fraud prevention presentations to groups of beneficiaries, professionals, and caregivers. Our team also attends exhibitor events. We educate audiences about protecting themselves from fraud, detecting potential problems on statements, and reporting suspected fraud. These volunteer engagements reach over 4,000 people annually.

Advocacy

The SMP advocates for beneficiaries who have been targeted by unscrupulous persons. Our Advocate provides individual support to beneficiaries to help them safeguard their information, communicate with providers and government agencies, and to build casework for law enforcement investigation. Referrals can be made by contacting the SMP Program Director or Advocate via an online reporting form or CARIE's toll-free phone number.

Protect, Detect, Report

Protect yourself by not sharing your Medicare number or personal information with strangers. Ignore offers for "free" services and instead speak with your doctor. Detect errors or fraud by keeping records of your appointments and comparing them to your healthcare billing statements. Report potential fraud by calling your doctor, Medicare, or the SMP.

1-800-356-3606
www.carie.org

