

Curriculum for Support Group Leaders

The PA-SMP at CARIE has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association, Delaware Valley Chapter to teach caregivers how to watch for and report potential Medicare Fraud.

What is CARIE and the PA-SMP?

- Center for Advocacy for the Rights & Interests of the Elderly
- Non-profit agency dedicated to improving the well-being and rights of older people
- CARIELINE – Telephone consultation and advocacy **1-800-356-3606**
- Free, confidential and live person answers the phone—no buttons to push

PA-SMP

- Senior Medicare beneficiaries educate their peers on how to recognize health care fraud, how to protect themselves, and how to report it
- CARIE began the PA-SMP project in 1997, and is one of 52 projects around the country. The program is administered by the US Administration on Aging.
- The PA-SMP serves all of PA and has volunteers in 22 counties

Who pays for Medicare fraud and abuse? You pay! In 2006, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimated fraud at approximately \$11 billion. Costs to Medicare are used to figure the annual deductible and the amount of monthly premiums. Fraud causes these amounts to be higher than they need to be, so beneficiaries pay more out-of-pocket expenses. Fraud also decreases the quality of care beneficiaries receive.

Some Examples of How to Spot Medicare Fraud:

- Billing for services or supplies you never received.
- Billing twice for the same doctor's visit or supply.
- Billing for one hour of service when only 15 or 30 minutes of service were provided.

Make Sure Fraud Doesn't Happen to You:

- Keep a calendar of all doctor visits, services and tests. Compare these records to the Medicare Summary Notice ("this is not a bill" statement) that comes every 3 months. Call Medicare if there is a question about a bill.
- Never give a Medicare or Medicaid number to anyone for a "free" service.
- Never give *any* personal information (Medicare number, bank account number or social security number) to callers or people who show up at your door.

For more information or if you have questions about any aspect of Medicare fraud, call the SMP Program in your state:

- In Pennsylvania: The PA-SMP at CARIE: 1-800-356-3606
- In Delaware: DSMP: 1-800-223-9074
- In New Jersey: SMP of New Jersey: 732-777-1940 x120 or National Government Services: toll free 1-877-678-4697

For Spanish in NJ: The NJ SMP at DH/Perfil Latino TV, Inc. 856-825-0654