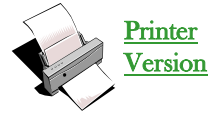


# THE SENTINEL

A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER OF SERVICE AND INFORMATION FOR  
SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP) PROJECTS



## AOA UPDATE

### [New AoA Staff Members Join SMP Team](#)

Conference presentations give more visibility to the SMP program. Rebecca Kinney and Josh Hodges have joined the AoA SMP team. Their work includes program management, volunteer initiatives, program evaluation and contracts.

## NEWSROOM

### [Senior Medicare Patrol has Presence at Anti-fraud Conference](#)

SMP partnered with CMS for presentations at the National Healthcare Anti-fraud Association conference. Other sessions included such topics as the cost of fraud, CMS national fraud prevention, Part D schemes, end-of-life care, data security and health care overutilization.

### [Getting Started: Working with Volunteer Host Organizations to Implement Risk and Volunteer Management Policies](#)

Consultants Linda Graff and Steve McCurley explain how SMPs can ensure that the new VRPM policies, set to begin taking effect in January, are implemented equally well among their volunteer host organizations.

### [Research: For Mortality Benefits, Motives Matter](#)

New research shows that those who volunteer to help others receive the greatest benefits, living longer than those who volunteer for other reasons.

### [Elder Financial Abuse Estimated at \\$2.9 Billion a Year](#)

Mickey Rooney and Brooke Astor are some of the 20 percent of older Americans who have been victimized by financial abuse. Losses — both personal and financial — are far-reaching. But there are distinct warning signs and many resources are available to help.

*continued*

## Unwanted Treatment at the End of Life

Unwanted treatment undermines patient autonomy and causes needless pain and suffering. It is not reimbursable by Medicare and Medicaid as it is not “medically necessary,” a required condition of both programs.

## Budget Endgame Unknown, but Anti-fraud Funding Expected to Survive

Both Congressional appropriations bills are expected to include the amount of discretionary funding requested by the president for the HCFAC program. Highlights include an expansion of Strike Force cities to target Medicare fraud in high-risk areas and funds to help achieve the president’s goal of cutting the Medicare fee-for-service error rate in half by 2012.

## **SMP SUCCESS STORIES**

### SMP at FBI Citizens’ Academy

At an 8-week course, the Texas SMP learned about counterintelligence, terrorists, cyber crimes, human trafficking, child prostitution and financial crimes. She even took a spin on the shooting range.

### Sixth Fraud Summit Highlights New Approaches

At Philadelphia’s Health Care Fraud Prevention Summit, CMS and law enforcement discussed new ways to fight fraud. The Pennsylvania SMP, including a long-time volunteer, also presented.

### Partnerships, Praise at HHS Roundtable

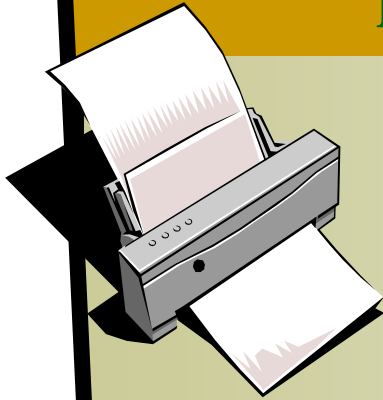
HHS Secretary Sebelius joined the Ohio SMP and others in June to focus attention on new preventative health benefits in the Affordable Care Act.

### Fraud Summit Brings Together State, National Programs

More than 125 attendees gathered in Glenville, NY, to hear from SMP, CMS, OIG and others about how to identify and reduce crime.

*continued*

## Printer Friendly



Want to print out all the articles in this edition  
of *The Sentinel* at once?

[Click here](#) for a  
printer-friendly version.

### Editor

Maureen Patterson

Phone: 319.351.9753

E-mail: [mpatterson@smpresource.org](mailto:mpatterson@smpresource.org)