

THE SENTINEL

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

AoA Update

National Conference, VRPM, Media Campaign Coming Up

National media materials are being finalized and will debut at a March webinar. An SMP testifies before Congress, while others take part in regional fraud summits. The SMP program receives a major award. National conference planning, the SMP evaluation and VRPM project make progress.

VRPM: An SMP Point of View

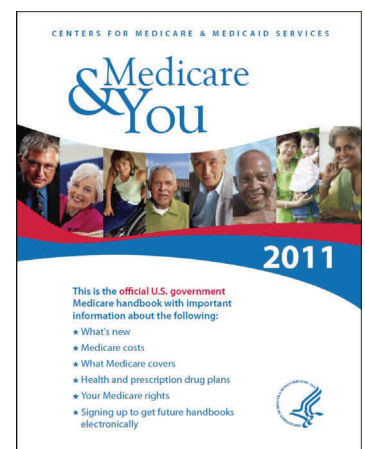
SMPs Darrell Elliott of Kansas and Erin Weir of Illinois tackle some key questions on the Volunteer Risk and Program Management (VRPM) project. Both serve on the steering committee that advises on the project's development.

Survey: Most SMPs Rely on Partners to Engage Volunteers

In a January 14 survey, 65 percent of responding SMPs said they work with five or more partners. Nearly half said that 25 or more of their volunteers serve under partners. More than 60 percent of those who use written partner agreements said that the document does not adequately address some VRPM issues.

'Medicare & You' Handbook Highlights SMP Role

This year's edition features the SMP toll-free number and website. It also gives greater emphasis to the role SMPs play in detecting, preventing and reporting fraud. It contains new information about government anti-fraud efforts in identity theft, how Medicare protects you, durable medical equipment, reporting suspected Medicaid fraud and how to qualify for a reward for reporting Medicare fraud.



[Affinity Fraud: How to Protect Yourself](#)

“Affinity group fraud” is perpetrated by a con artist who claims to be a member of the same ethnic, religious, career or community-based group. Here are steps to protect yourself and avoid scams.

[Washington Report: Health Care Reform](#)

While anti-fraud elements in the Affordable Care Act are unlikely to be eliminated, the Senate is expected to continue to explore the effectiveness of dollars spent on anti-fraud activities. Several House committees will focus on fraud investigations. What else is expected this year? Health care providers and suppliers will be under pressure to appear “squeaky clean,” advanced technological anti-fraud tools will be expanded, qui tam cases will increase, new Medicaid fraud-fighting contractors will take action and accountable care organizations will coordinate care.

[Meet the Newest Center Staff Member](#)

Program Specialist Sara Engelken helps with resource development for the VRPM project. Other duties include helping with SMART FACTS technical support and updating the *SMART FACTS Operations Manual*.

SMP BEST PRACTICES

[Veterans, Make Sure You Understand Your Benefits](#)

A presenter at a retirement community discusses a “secret recipe” to make residents eligible for more than \$2,000 per month in addition to their regular pensions. Similar presentations hit southeast Nebraska.

[GeorgiaCares SMP Media Campaign Diversifies Outlets](#)

Georgia group picks a theme and keeps messaging consistent across media. They choose locations for billboards to maximize reach for the targeted audience.

[Community Connections Can Drive Media Bargains](#)

The Louisiana SMP communications team seizes an opportunity to snag billboard space at almost one-third the regular price through a charity auction.



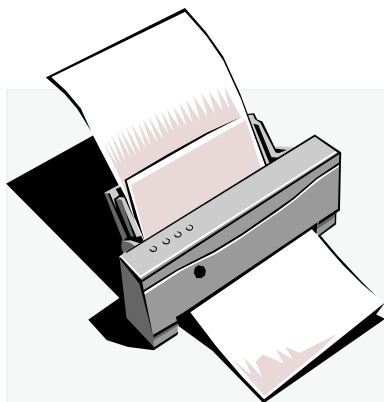
WEB RESOURCES

[AoA on Facebook](#)

The AoA's Facebook page allows users to interact with the AoA with wall postings. Other features include videos, e-cards and widgets.

[Who's Calling? Recognize and Report Phone Fraud](#)

This FTC website includes articles on a dozen phone scams. It also includes a downloadable video to include in presentations and on websites. It teaches consumers to recognize telemarketing scams, report phone fraud and register on the Do Not Call registry.



Printer Friendly

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