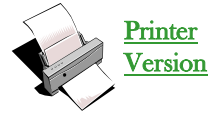


# THE SENTINEL

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



## AOA UPDATE

### It's Almost Conference Time

Organized crime and health care fraud, OIG investigations, Volunteer Risk and Program Management (VRPM) policies and tools for recruiting Hispanic volunteers are on the agenda for this year's national conference. The theme is "SMP 2011: Leading the Grassroots Fight Against Fraud."

## NEWSROOM

### SMPs 'Getting Credit' for Reporting Potential Fraud

This article responds to a frequently asked question from SMPs about how to get better credit for their efforts to combat fraud. "Getting Credit" may be in media coverage or in the Office of the Inspector General's annual published report, which is reviewed widely, including by Congress. This article also describes new national-level efforts to enhance the tracking of SMPs' impact on fraud.

### Washington Report: Quarterly Anti-Fraud Data

CMS and the OIG will provide regular anti-fraud updates to Congress. Included in the report will be cases initiated or referred as a result of information provided by SMPs.

### Merner: VRPM Program Great Model for Others

Shirley Merner, who has been with the cutting-edge SMP program from its first days onward, sees the Volunteer Risk and Program Management project as a model for others to follow.

### Survey: SMPs Gaining Expertise but Continue to Seek More Information

SMPs responding last spring to the annual SMP "needs assessment" survey revealed growing confidence and expertise with SMART FACTS and other components of their jobs. They also provided specific feedback about what new or continued types of technical assistance and products are desired.

## **SMP SUCCESS STORIES**

### [SMP and OIG: Working Together to Fight Medicare Fraud](#)

The Louisiana SMP and OIG have teamed up to increase the likelihood that the Stop Health Care Fraud PSAs will air. They also meet regularly to discuss fraud trends.

### [E-mail Blast Spurs Action on Health Care Fraud Campaign](#)

California's simple, engaging e-mail blast about the Stop Health Care Fraud media campaign quickly secured commitments from press and partners.

### [Working with the Media: Reporter, SMP Talk Tips](#)

An article that ran in a major newspaper introduced readers to victims of fraud, described common scams and told people how to prevent them. Hear from the SMP named and the reporter who named her on what went right – and how you can generate reporter interest in your story ideas.

### [Second Medicare Fraud Forum Brings Crowd](#)

Ohio's Medicare Fraud Forum expanded its success from last year with a much larger audience and active audience participation. Panelists were the cream of the crop.

## **WEB RESOURCES**

### [New Scam: Tax-related ID Theft](#)

An unexpected message from the Internal Revenue Service could be a sign that a person's Social Security number is being misused, says the Federal Trade Commission.

### [Avoiding Fraud](#)

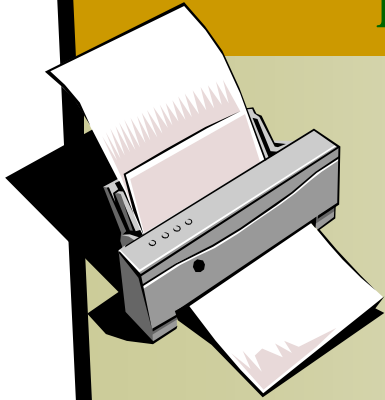
From [www.investor.gov](http://www.investor.gov) (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) come tips to avoid being scammed, red flags for fraud and common persuasion tactics.

### [Grandparent Scam Video](#)

The Consumer Federation of America presents a comical case of a grandparent being scammed, along with some serious tips on how to protect yourself.

*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)