

THE SENTINEL

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



AOA UPDATE

[Slate of Projects on Tap for Year Ahead](#)

Coming soon is the *Policy Implementation Manual*, a product of the Volunteer Risk and Program Management project. A program-wide evaluation is taking shape. Agenda planning is under way for the 2012 SMP regional meetings, which will take place in August and September.

NEWSROOM

[CMS Revises Power Mobility Device Demonstration](#)

One of three planned demonstration projects to improve Medicare's ability to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse has been modified. It and another project start in June, while a third has already begun.

[Senior Medicare Patrol Funding Stays the Course for FY 2012](#)

While the SMP program has been funded at the same level in FY 2012 as FY 2011, it's slightly less than the amount the president requested.

SMP SUCCESS STORIES

[Georgia Maximizes Media Opportunities](#)

On Nov. 15, 2011, GeorgiaCares (Georgia's SMP and SHIP), in collaboration with Georgia Public Broadcasting, hosted a live, streaming webcast.

[Nebraska Leverages Web Streaming Technology to Provide Statewide Training](#)

More than 680 people in 15 satellite locations and on the Web participated in a one-day training. Technology made it possible to bring the training to the doorstep of people across the state.

continued

[RSVP Partnerships Expand Outreach](#)

Developing partnerships with organizations such as RSVP can reap huge benefits. But it's not easy. The Texas SMP shares work plans, brochures and other resources to increase the likelihood of success.

[SMP Volunteer Manager Participates in HHS Roundtable](#)

Priscilla Davis highlighted outreach efforts and successes of the Florida SMP at a State of Senior Health Roundtable in Orlando.

[Traveling MSN Makes the Rounds](#)

One Louisiana beneficiary's Medicare number has been sold or traded from one dishonest provider to another. A doctor was indicted, tried and convicted and is now in jail.

[Volunteer Managers Attend Two-day Training](#)

Florida's first-ever Volunteer Managers' Training included talks from OIG, ZPIC, MFCU, AARP and senatorial staff.

[Your Message on Free TV!](#)

A public access channel in Louisiana made public service announcements for the SMP. Here are tips for producing a good PSA.

WEBSITE

www.stopfraud.gov is a recently developed government website dedicated to preventing, detecting and reporting financial fraud. Developed by the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, which was convened by the Obama administration in 2009, this site provides a wealth of information from leading federal agencies. It provides a portal to respected information, government resources and referrals instructions for identity theft, telemarketing fraud, mail fraud, cyber crime, Social Security number misuse and other familiar types of financial fraud and scams SMPs see perpetrated against older adults.

continued

STATS

The Affordable Care Act

From [Medicare Beneficiary Savings and the Affordable Care Act](#):

The Affordable Care Act makes many changes to strengthen Medicare and provide stronger benefits to seniors, while slowing cost growth. As a result, average Medicare beneficiary savings in traditional Medicare will be approximately \$4,200 over the 2011 to 2021 period. Beneficiaries who have high prescription drug spending will save much more – close to \$16,000 over the same period. In comparison, Medicare beneficiaries with low drug costs will save about \$3,000 over this period.

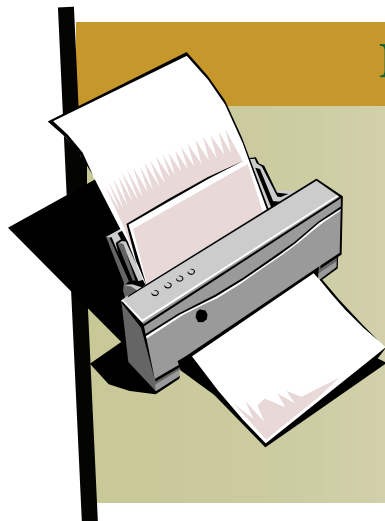
The average savings per traditional Medicare beneficiary are estimated to be \$90 in 2011, increasing to \$710 in 2021. For a beneficiary with spending in the donut hole, total estimated annual savings increase from \$631 in 2011 to \$2,386 in 2021.

Prescription Drug Abuse

About 170,000 beneficiaries (about 1.8 percent of beneficiaries receiving these 14 categories of drugs) acquired the same class of frequently abused drugs, primarily hydrocodone and oxycodone, from five or more medical practitioners during calendar year 2008 at a cost of about \$148 million (about 5 percent of the total cost for these drugs). Source: [Medicare Part D Instances of Questionable Access to Prescription Drugs](#).

Related article from *The New York Times*: [Report on Medicare Cites Prescription Drug Abuse](#)

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