

THE SENTINEL

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



AOA UPDATE

[New Administration Formed, Presenters Needed for Conferences](#)

The Administration for Community Living brings together three organizations. Regional conference planners need SMP involvement like never before.

NEWSROOM

[National Hispanic SMP Ramps Up Efforts to Combat Medicare Fraud](#)

Many older Hispanic adults are led to participate in Medicare fraud without realizing it. To succeed in reaching them, building relationships is paramount. A one-size-fits-all approach won't work. The NHSMP is set to ramp up its technical assistance work by increasing outreach to state SMPs.

[Medicare/Medicaid Improper Payments Exceed \\$64 Billion a Year](#)

In this article, the term "improper payments" is defined and estimates are provided. The article also addresses loss due to fraud – in Medicare, Medicaid, and the U.S. health care system as a whole – with a variety of estimates from multiple sources.

[2011 SMP Needs Assessment Results](#)

This article summarizes the results of the 2011 SMP needs assessment, conducted by HBABCs for the SMP Resource Center, which included an SMP self-report of levels of knowledge in various areas.

[How are We doing? SMPs Evaluate Center](#)

SMPs rated The Center on effectiveness, quality, and contributions to SMP knowledge and skills. A closer look shows a detailed breakdown of SMP evaluations of Center products and services.

continued

SMP SUCCESS STORIES

[Iditarod champ raises awareness of how to “Sniff out Medicare Fraud”](#)

When the Alaska SMP helped Iditarod winner Dean Osmar with Medicare and other questions, he was so grateful for the assistance that he offered to help get the Medicare message out. They cooked up the idea of putting Medicare contact information on dog jackets that dogs could wear at the ceremonial start of the Iditarod March 3.

[Rhode Island SMP Reaches the Halls of Congress](#)

Last fall, Rhode Island SMP kicked off a media and public relations campaign to increase awareness of SMP and to recruit new volunteers. Not only did the campaign attract the attention of volunteers, it also attracted the attention of a senator, who listened to the testimony of SMP successes at a hearing.

WEBSITE

[Louisiana SMP PSA](#)

The SMP paid the local cable company \$5,000 for two 5-minute PSAs. This is one of them. They are running the PSAs 60 times a month at no charge, providing grant match.

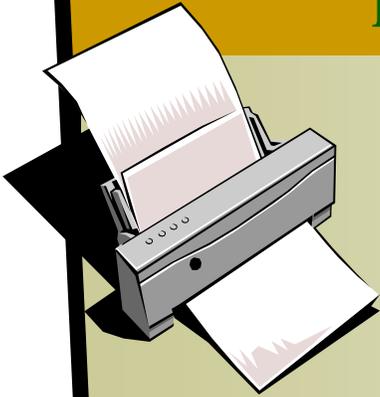
ARTICLE

[FairPoint Warns of Sophisticated Phone Scam Targeting Maine's Elderly](#)

This campaign represents the first time a collaboration between the Maine SMP and the attorney general's office has generated a press release.

continued

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Editor

Maureen Patterson

Phone: 319.351.9753

E-mail: mpatterson@smpresource.org

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