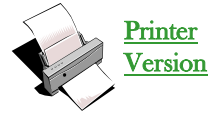


THE SENTINEL

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



AOA UPDATE

[We Embark on a Busy Year for SMP](#)

The year begins with a reluctant good-bye and sincere thank-you to Barbara Dieker. It includes reviewing SMP program evaluation results and OIG report data (input deadline is Feb. 28). With two of three rounds of VRPM implementation complete, SMPs should pay close attention to which policies are required and which aren't. There will be an annual SMP training meeting this year, so stay tuned for more details..

NEWSROOM

[How Much Does Medicare Lose Due to Fraud and Improper Payments Each Year?](#)

The most frequently cited statistic about the loss to Medicare due to fraud is \$60 billion and sometimes higher. Is that still accurate? Maybe. Improper payments are measureable; however, both the public and private health insurance sectors still agree that the loss due to fraud is impossible to measure. Fraud estimates range from 3 to 10 percent of health care expenditures.

[National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association: Fighting Health Care Fraud](#)

The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (NHCAA) is a national membership organization focused exclusively on health care fraud. NHCAA educates on health care fraud through its website, daily e-newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, and through an annual conference. Members are from both the public and private sector. In 2010, they awarded SMP the Excellence in Public Awareness award.

[Integration Grant Update: Outreach to Indian Elders](#)

A survey to SMP staff from the International Association for Indigenous Aging showed SMP experiences, knowledge, and needs regarding outreach to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The knowledge gap for Tribal elders and leaders regarding Medicare programs and services is significant. Yet, there are great stories of successful SMP activities. IAIA is discussing ways to engage SMPs.

[CMS Changes Homebound Definition](#)

CMS's new homebound policy moves familiar language from the old policy into two criteria that must be met for a patient to be considered homebound. Explanations of the homebound requirement in some older CMS beneficiary education materials may not be entirely consistent with the recent policy change.

Resource Library Corner: Staff Need Accounts to View Resources

With hundreds of entries from SMPs, ACL, and all Center documents, all SMP staff need access to the Resource Library. SMP project directors can also invite subcontractors doing SMP work, SMP volunteers, and SMP partners doing SMP work. The Center recommends that directors give staff who do SMP work at least coordinator-level access.

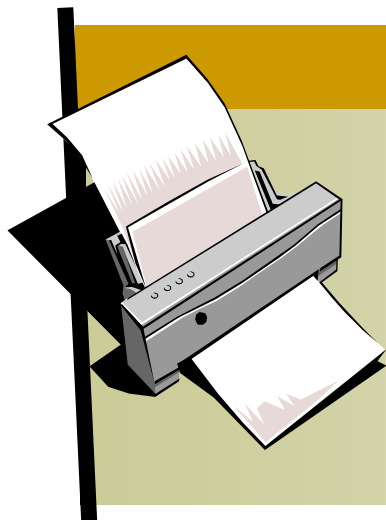
How Are We Doing? SMPs Evaluate Center

Each year, SMPs evaluate the SMP Resource Center based on whether or not SMPs are using Center services, finding them effective, and incorporating information provided by The Center into SMP practices at the state and local levels. In 2013, 89 SMP representatives responded. Read a summary of those results.

SMP SUCCESS STORIES

SMP of New Jersey and Our Foray into Social Media

Using Facebook statistics, the SMP determined that the majority of its followers were caregivers. It tailored a three-week campaign of 12 practical tips that it repeated later and used elsewhere as well. A volunteer with expertise in marketing guided a strategic marketing plan.



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

This newsletter was made possible by grant number 90NP0001 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Administration on Aging (AoA), Department of Health and Human Services. Grantees undertaking technical resource centers under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA), Administration for Community Living (ACL) policy.