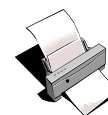


THE SENTINEL

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



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ACL UPDATE

[New Year Brings New Funding, Faces, OIG Reports, National Training, and Data System](#)

New funding combines both SMP funding streams. OIG reporting is winding down. The annual training meeting (for both SMP and SHIP) and the launch of a new SMP data system are coming up this year. ACL welcomes several new and newly full-time faces.

NEWSROOM

[Advance Beneficiary Notices: Protection or Problem?](#)

CMS generally holds providers liable for specific types of denied claims unless they have informed beneficiaries through a proper written notice that Medicare might not pay. This story, written in response to a listserv question, covers ABNs, limitations on liability, when ABNs are mandatory vs. voluntary, and when ABNs are valid vs. defective.

[Medicare Fraud Is 3 to 10 Percent of Expenditures](#)

While there is no reliable baseline estimate of the amount of health care fraud in the United States, the 3 to 10 percent range for Medicare fraud seems to be the best estimate available. The improper payment rate is 12.7 percent.

[Creating LGBT Inclusivity in your SMP Program](#)

SAGE has created fact sheets for SMPs to understand key facts about LGBT older adults and for use as handouts to LGBT audiences. It has done four webinars for SMPs; a handout and links to related resources are available. So are social media messages and pictures that SAGE developed.

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[Ginny Paulson Leaves SMP Resource Center](#)

Ginny Paulson has left the SMP Resource Center to head the SHIP National Technical Assistance Center. The Center staff's team approach hopes to make the transition as seamless as possible.

continued

Transition Yields a New Kind of Hello

It's not so much goodbye for Ginny Paulson as a new kind of hello. The former SMP Resource Center director is taking the helm of the SHIP TA Center. Her story provides a helpful SMP history lesson over the last seven years.

Online Assessments: A Tool for Volunteers

The SMP Resource Center debuted online assessments last fall as an optional way of administering assessments to volunteers. Here's how to take assessments and view results.

SMP BEST PRACTICES

Ohio Volunteer Presentation Leads to Recovery

After a presentation at a senior housing complex, a beneficiary told speaker/SMP volunteer Teb Baines about incorrect charges that had been showing up on his MSNs for years. The SMP dug into the issue and discovered a case of mistaken identity.

Patience and Perseverance Pay Off

For years, the Louisiana SMP heard about a mysterious home helper offering services at no cost to beneficiaries. She was later joined by a doctor offering to order services beneficiaries did not need. The SMP alerted the OIG and educated the public on these types of scammers. A group including the home helper, the doctor, and others has since been indicted, and Medicare paid more than \$50 million for their claims.

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Editor

Maureen Patterson

Phone: 319.351.9753

E-mail: mpatterson@smpresource.org

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