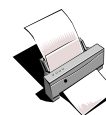


THE SENTINEL

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



[Printer
Version](#)

AOA UPDATE

[As Year Begins, Focus is on OIG Report, VRPM, Partnerships, Evaluation](#)

The OIG Report deadline is Feb. 28. The first two rounds of VRPM policies are due this year, but not all are required. There are many companion guides and other resources to help. Partnerships with OIG and CMS will grow this year, and the SMP evaluation is being developed.

NEWSROOM

[Is Your Volunteer Program Ready for June?](#)

The Coordinator of Volunteer Training Series is here to help. Running from now through July, this webinar series covers risk assessment, volunteer retention, information technology, volunteer roles, and volunteer recruitment.

[Medicare & Medicaid Coverage Rules Often Differ](#)

Medicaid coverage rules for certain services and benefits may be less restrictive than those for Medicare, so a questionable billing practice under Medicare may be legitimate under Medicaid. Two examples are in home health and transportation.

[CMS Fraud Prevention System Stopped Millions in Potentially Fraudulent Payments](#)

The new fraud prevention system for analyzing Medicare fee-for-service (Original Medicare) claims from CMS has produced a positive return on investment (ROI) of an estimated \$3 for every \$1 spent in its first year. The system uses predictive modeling technology and data analytics, similar to that used by credit card companies, to flag suspicious activity before a bill is paid.

[Why Are Older Adults Victims of Fraud?](#)

Research is beginning to reveal that certain changes in the aging process may make older adults prone to fraud. Especially in people with cognitive decline, there is a decline in the ability to learn from mistakes, opening the door to becoming repeat victims of fraud.

continued

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

According to the 2012 SMP evaluation of The Center, SMP ratings of the effectiveness of The Center's products and services in achieving SMP program objectives were dominated by responses of "Effective" or "Extremely Effective." The rating of the quality of The Center's responsiveness was overwhelmingly positive, with no negative ratings. In addition, SMPs rated Center products and services according to importance and whether or not they were used, illustrating those that most strongly support SMP work.

SMP SUCCESS STORIES

[Medicare Will Not Call or Visit? Well, Maybe.](#)

When two major Medicare Advantage (MA) plans called 2,000 beneficiaries to conduct wellness visits at home, the phones rang off the hook at the Iowa SMP. The MA plan contacts were legitimate. At the same time, however, scammers were also calling beneficiaries offering new Medicare cards, confusing things more.

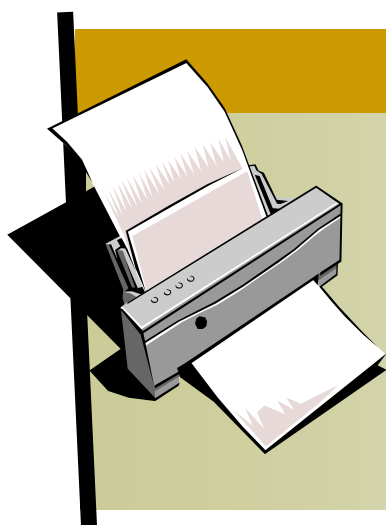
[Case Leads to Changes at Nursing Home](#)

After talking to several organizations, the husband of a deceased beneficiary contacted the agency that houses the Pennsylvania SMP. The SMP was asked to get involved when it seemed that there may have been fraud involved. The SMP took the issue to the U.S. Attorney's Office, and though no fraud was discovered, this action resulted in changes to a nursing home's operating procedures.

VIDEO LINK

[Arkansas Protect, Detect, and Report PSA](#)

Arkansas public service announcement features SMP in anti-fraud education.



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 90NP0001/03 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.