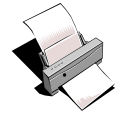


THE SENTINEL

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



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NEWSROOM

[Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment Payments Face Scrutiny](#)

With federal lawsuits alleging that MA plans are obtaining inflated risk adjustment payments, a caregiver asked an SMP about the legitimacy of in-home health assessments. This article details the issues involved and gives guidance to SMPs on how to respond to beneficiaries.

[Consumer Bureau Offers Resources to Beneficiaries](#)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau helps beneficiaries understand questions and avoid fraud. It can help them get responses from companies. It offers an array of educational materials and resources that can be useful to SMPs.

[Scenes from the Conference](#)

Here are some visual highlights from the 2017 SMP/SHIP National Conference.

[SMP Resource Center Picks Favorites](#)

With all the resources on www.smpresource.org to choose, which stand out to Center staff? Here are some highlights from the SMP Resource Center.

SMP BEST PRACTICES

[Understanding Your Medicare Benefits Can Help You Identify Fraud, Abuse, and Inappropriate Sales Practices](#)

Scammers rely on lack of victim knowledge for scams to work. This article, written for beneficiaries, gives them information about scams and how to avoid them. It is written by the Colorado SMP but can be adapted in outreach materials nationwide.

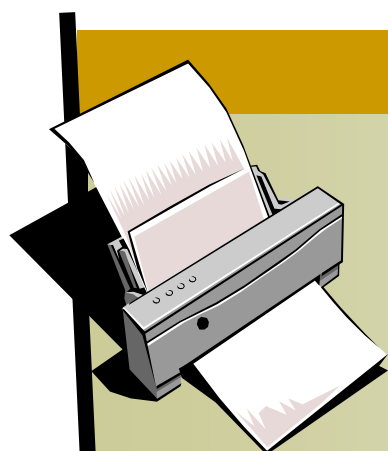
continued

You Can't Even Trust a Phone Number

Following a May mentor call discussion, the Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois SMPs write about consumers calling phone numbers that they thought were legitimate but instead getting a potential scammer. All three states have had complaints. The story includes tips to share with consumers and partners.

The SMP Imposter Scam

When the Kentucky SMP called a client to follow up, she learned that the spouse was en route to the post office to mail personal information to her. The problem: She had never asked for it. But a scammer had.



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