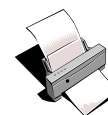


# THE SENTINEL

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



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## ACL UPDATE

### [OIG Report Reissued, SIRS Transitions](#)

After the initial OIG Report was released, many SMPs communicated irregularities. The OIG recently released a corrected report. SMART FACTS stops at the end of this month, making room for the new SIRS data reporting system.

## NEWSROOM

### [Medicare's Limited Coverage for Podiatry Services](#)

Medicare covers foot exams and treatment under “certain conditions.” What are those conditions and what sort of treatment will Medicare pay for? This article defines podiatry, explains the routine foot care exclusion, and details exceptions to the exclusion.

### [DOJ Finds Fraud in Boardrooms, CMS Extends Ambulance Moratoria](#)

The federal government is looking for health care fraud in new places. CMS extends moratoria on ambulance providers and suppliers as well as home health agencies. Ambulance fraud totals \$350 million a year. Takeaways teach what to look for in ambulance fraud.

## SMP BEST PRACTICES

### [Alaska's Long-distance Medicare Counselors](#)

The SMP program maximizes the important work of the SMP through a vast network of trained volunteer in-kind agency counselors and liaisons who go wherever needed. Volunteers even live off the grid. Distance technologies also help the SMP cover the state.

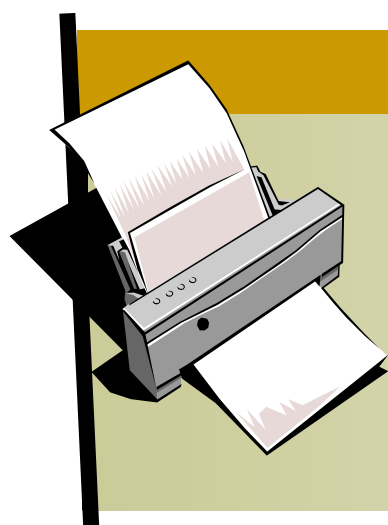
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### [Pill Mill Physician Pleads Guilty](#)

An indictment alleges that two Colorado physicians defrauded Medicaid, Medicare, and health plans by prescribing painkillers to patients outside the scope of professional practice and billing those services as extended office visits of 25 minutes or longer. The SMP provides supporting evidence.

### [Media Campaign Yields Interesting Results](#)

A postcard campaign more than doubles the number of simple inquiries, including 25 asking for information about volunteering.



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