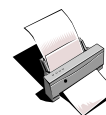


THE SENTINEL

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



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AOA UPDATE

[Thank You for the Important Work You Do](#)

We hope you gained knowledge at the national training meeting that will help you enhance your program efforts. Once again the meetings renewed our commitment to and enthusiasm for the SMP program. As the VRPM implementation time frame draws near, reach out to ACL or The Center with any questions.

NEWSROOM

[Will We Finally Eliminate the SSN as the Medicare Number?](#)

Identity theft ranks at the top of the FTC's list of complaints, with the number of individuals impacted rising. When an SSN is involved in a data breach, a person is five times more likely to become a victim of fraud. New estimates from CMS have more than halved the cost to remove SSNs from Medicare numbers. Congress is taking up the issue for the third time.

[Integrative Nerve Block \(INB\) and Local Coverage Determinations \(LCD\): Carriers Respond to New, Untested Procedures](#)

Responding to an SMP mentor call discussion about coverage of nerve blocks, Mike Klug writes about integrative nerve block therapy, Local Coverage Determinations by carriers, and what this means for Medicare coverage of chiropractic services.

[SMPs, the FTC, and Telephone Solicitation of Beneficiaries](#)

Many SMPs reported both Medical Alert and Medicare card scams in SMART FACTS as macro-level complex issues recently. Because of this, The Center was able to respond to an FTC request for more information on telephone scams targeted to Medicare beneficiaries that had been reported to the SMPs.

[Washington Update: Bipartisan PRIME Act Would Expand SMP Role](#)

Proposed PRIME Act legislation, if passed, would expand SMP education to cover an also-expanded incentive rewards program.

continued

Superhero Scam Gram Retires (Mostly) from SMP

Known as the “Scam Gram” volunteer in the 2006 SMP PSAs, June Richardson took her first job outside the home at age 75. Now 88, she has scaled down her SMP work, but the mark she has left upon the national visibility of the SMP program remains.

OIG and CMS Grapple with Rising Prescription Drug Fraud

OIG deputy directors testify to Congress about Medicare prescription drug fraud and abuse schemes and enforcement challenges. CMS also testifies about its work with plan sponsors.

SMP SUCCESS STORIES

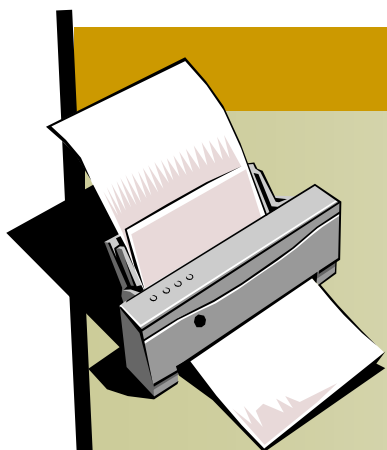
The Telephone is NOT Your Friend!

This article from Texas traces the changing nature of the telephone for beneficiaries who can remember the days of having no telephone to having only party lines. The article includes tips for beneficiaries to protect themselves from scam calls and could be an attention-getting reprint in your state.

Beneficiaries Avoid Growing Medical Alert System Scam

The California SMP issued a fraud alert after receiving multiple complaints of a Medical Alert System scam and translated it into five languages. Many beneficiaries called to report they avoided the scam as a result of the SMP’s education. The outreach grew into statewide collaboration on multiple fronts.

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