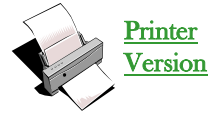


THE SENTINEL

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



ACL UPDATE

[Register for National Meeting, SSNs to be Removed from Cards, Grants Coming](#)

Details about the SMP National Training Meeting include dates, topics, and registration. New legislation requires Social Security numbers to be removed from Medicare cards. Grant announcements come the week of June 1.

NEWSROOM

[Balance Billing Protections Cover Most Duals](#)

What happens when a physician or other health care provider bills a low-income beneficiary for Medicare's deductibles and coinsurance charges? The answer depends largely on the distinctions CMS makes between the different types of dually eligible beneficiaries. This article defines the duals, explains the prohibition against balance billing for QMBs, addresses the need for provider awareness and education, and details the SMP role.

[HHS Budget Plan Says SMPs Play 'Critically Important Role'](#)

HHS praises SMP in its budget justification document and explains how ACL plans to address current data reporting limitations. The HCFAC report also addresses the difficulty of measuring SMP success but gives known SMP stats. This article also details Medicare improper payment rates.

[The Plug-and-Play Approach: Using Videos to Reach Hispanic Older Adults](#)

The most effective strategy to help Hispanic elders overcome barriers of culture, language, and health literacy is to leverage expert organizations and local leaders' on-the-ground experiences and personalized relationships within the community. Helpful resources include personalizable tools, including videos that can be played during presentations or in waiting rooms.

[Top 10 Great Training Resources You May Not Know About](#)

An article generated from interest by the SMP Volunteer Training Committee details great resources, including sample SMP presentations, counseling checklists, flow charts, indices, and answer location guides.

Medicare Minutes Target Beneficiaries Under Age 65

Medicare Minutes, offered to SMPs through the SMP Resource Library and SHIP TA Center, emphasize reaching individuals who have Medicare because of a disability. The program provides host organizations with materials and resources to deliver brief presentations on a different Medicare topic each month.

Resources in the Library: Updated or Outdated?

Director-level library users should periodically check their entries and delete those that are outdated. All users should check the accuracy of content before reusing it.

SMP BEST PRACTICES

Arkansas Volunteer Wins 'Outstanding' Award

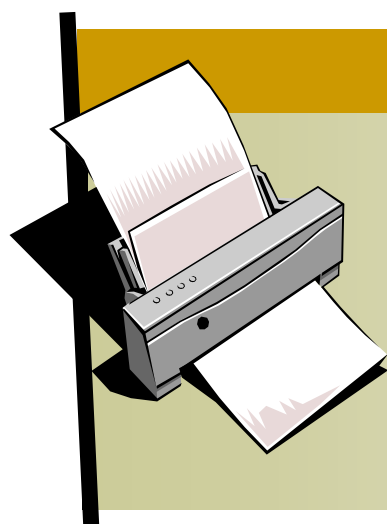
Mrs. Evelyn Canady established a retired Nurses' Group at her senior retirement housing facility. The group developed a plan of service and decided to volunteer for the Arkansas SMP. It will serve as a model program, and the Arkansas Gerontological Society gave Mrs. Canady the Outstanding Volunteer Group/Individual Award.

Beneficiary Reports Imposter

A quick-thinking Medicare beneficiary in rural Mahoning County, Ohio, who became suspicious of an insurance agent alerted authorities, resulting in an arrest warrant.

Spending Money to Combat Health Care Fraud is an Excellent Investment

This SMP newsletter article, customized by at least one state already, details stats for fraud and abuse investigations, recovery, and SMP.



Printer Friendly

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