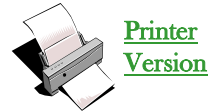


# THE SENTINEL

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



## ACL UPDATE

### [SIRS Updates Go Quarterly, Planning Under Way for Next Year](#)

SIRS feedback has been instrumental in fixing technical issues and suggesting potential enhancements. Quarterly updates will help customize the system to best meet SMP needs. Planning has begun on next year's SMP/SHIP National Training Meeting.

## NEWSROOM

### [Medicare Makes MSNs Available Electronically](#)

Since October 1, beneficiaries have been able to opt out of receiving quarterly paper MSNs instead choosing to receive monthly eMSNs. The new eMSNs contain more information than that offered in the claims section on MyMedicare.gov.

### [Video Teaches Seniors about Medicare Enrollment Fraud](#)

The CMS "Look Out for Enrollment Fraud" video educates Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plan enrollees, their families, and caretakers about common Medicare enrollment fraud schemes.

### [CMS Responds to Concerns about Medicare Hospice Payment System](#)

CMS is reforming the current hospice payment system because it created incentives for some providers to cherry-pick their patients. This article details hospice payment rates, skewed payment incentives, uneven quality of care, reforms in progress, and the SMP role. It also gives stats on Medicare's hospice benefit.

### [Keep an Eye on Ophthalmologists](#)

CMS agreed to increase monitoring of billing for ophthalmology services for two common eye conditions after an OIG study determined the extent to which these services are vulnerable to fraud, waste, and/or abuse. There are some egregious examples of fraud. SMPs should know where to look when monitoring ophthalmology billing.

### [SIRS Training Resources](#)

With the October rollout of the new SMP Information and Reporting System comes a variety of resources to help SMPs use SIRS during this transition period and beyond.

### [Lessons from Teendom: What Young Nerds Can Teach About Engaging Audiences](#)

A brilliantly produced conference for teens can teach all of us how to get people in the seats and keep them coming back for more.

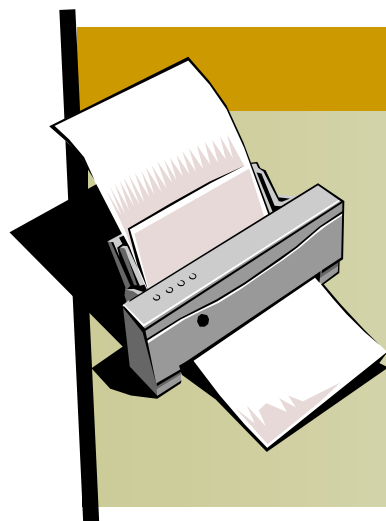
## **SMP BEST PRACTICES**

### [Testifying Before a Congressional Committee: Just Your Average Day in D.C.!](#)

An SMP who testified before a Senate committee gives tips and insights to those who may be called to testify in the future.

### [Medicare Fraud: We All Pay](#)

In this article, which can be easily adapted by other SMPs, the SMP explains steps that a Medicare beneficiary can take to help fight fraud, waste, and abuse and ensure that he or she does not fall victim to dishonest practices and scams.



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This newsletter was supported in part by a grant (No. 90NP0003) from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official ACL or DHHS policy.