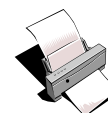


THE SENTINEL

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



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ACL UPDATE

[Planning Includes Program Data, Conference](#)

ACL appreciates SMP efforts to ensure OIG Report data is accurate and complete and is happy to answer questions. The 2017 SMP/SHIP conference will be held July 10-13 at the Hilton Austin in Austin, Texas.

NEWSROOM

[Back Brace Marketing Complaints Raise Questions about Law and Regulations](#)

Following a presentation and lively discussion at the January mentor calls, several SMPs raised concerns about deceptive marketing for Medicare-covered back braces. What should SMPs and beneficiaries know about Medicare coverage for back braces and the marketing tactics that some DME suppliers are using to sell them? What can federal authorities do to stop the deceptive newspaper ads, postcards, and unwanted phone calls? This comprehensive article explores the key issues and offers action steps.

[Will New MOONs Shed Light on Midnight Madness?](#)

Although hospital classification of a patient as an inpatient or under observation has significant impacts on a patient both financially and in post-hospital care, many patients are not aware of their status. The Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON), which goes into effect March 8, gives hospital outpatients in observation status information about coverage and costs. This article also covers the Two-Midnight Rule and the NOTICE Act.

[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 all members of the Resource Center.

continued

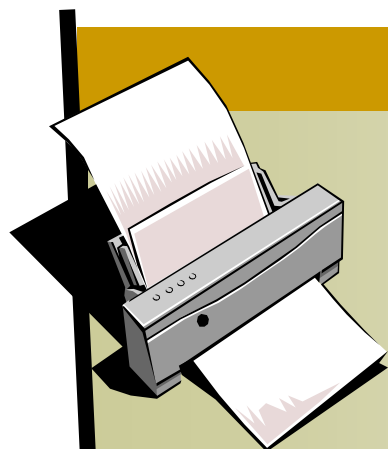
SMP BEST PRACTICES

The Not-so-good Good Samaritans

Genetic testing is a Medicare-covered service in a limited number of cases. The New Jersey SMP heard from beneficiaries statewide about genetic testing in senior residences. The SMP referred cases to the OIG and CMS, and arrests have been made.

Persistence Pays Off for Media Partnership

After a year of reaching out, the Louisiana SMP found the right person at a cable provider and formed a partnership to develop videos. It was so successful that the videos now are in Spanish, in three other states, and on social media.



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