

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Fraud Prevention Week

June 5th – 11th 2023



WHY IS THIS WEEK IMPORTANT?

Medicare loses an estimated \$60 billion each year due to fraud, errors and abuse, though that number is impossible to measure. Every day, issues related to these problems affect people across the country, often costing them time, money and well-being. When people steal from Medicare, it hurts us all and is big business for scammers, leaving less available funds for those needing Medicare services now as well as in the future.

HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE WEEK ... REMEMBER 3 STEPS!

- **PREVENT:** Learn how to read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB). You can call your local SMP to learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones.
- **DETECT:** When reviewing your MSN or EOB, look for services, products, or equipment you didn't receive, double charges, or items your Doctor or Provider did not order.
- **REPORT:** Call your local SMP if you believe that you or a family member has experienced health care fraud, an error (billing, for example) or abuse.
- **PARTNERS & PROFESSIONALS:** Celebrate Fraud Prevention Week by referring clients and consumers to SMP, sharing SMP information and inviting SMP to speak during shared events.
- **HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:** Educate and talk to patients about health care-related scams such as those related to Durable Medical Equipment (DME), genetic testing, and COVID-19 schemes.
- **COMMUNITY:** As a community, we all participate by looking out for our older neighbors and community members. If you hear someone talking about Medicare, offer some SMP information.

Call Senior Medicare Patrol at your local Connecticut Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-994-9422 to receive information needed to PROTECT you from Medicare fraud, errors, or abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, or abuse; and REPORT your concerns.

Paid for in part by grant number 90MPPG0044, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services and is administered by the CT Department of Aging and Disability Services. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official ACL policy.

<https://www.smpresource.org/Medicare-Fraud-Prevention-Week.aspx>