



August 2018 Fraud Prevention Fact

Through Fraud Facts, the Missouri SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) tries to keep you informed monthly of the latest scams that the bad guys have conceived most recently. The emphasis generally is on Medicare fraud.

This month, we want to address the basics of the SMP mission. The SMP exists to empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse. We accomplish our mission through outreach, counseling, and education.

We empower people to prevent Medicare fraud, errors and abuse by educating people insured through Medicare. We also work one-on-one with beneficiaries.

We engage volunteers who can show seniors how to protect their health, finances, and medical identity and to detect fraud, errors and abuse. At the same time, the Medicare saves precious dollars.

When Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, and family members find problems, we encourage them to report these to the SMP. Then the SMP looks at whether fraud, errors, or abuse is suspected. When fraud or abuse is suspected, the SMP makes referrals to the appropriate state and federal agencies for further investigation.

In a complicated system, we are trying to provide you with the resources and knowledge you need to protect your Medicare benefits, detect errors, abuse and fraud, and then report them to the right people. If you suspect Medicare fraud, errors or abuse, call the hotline at 1-888-515-6565. If you want to become a volunteer team member, give us a call at the same number.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0040, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.