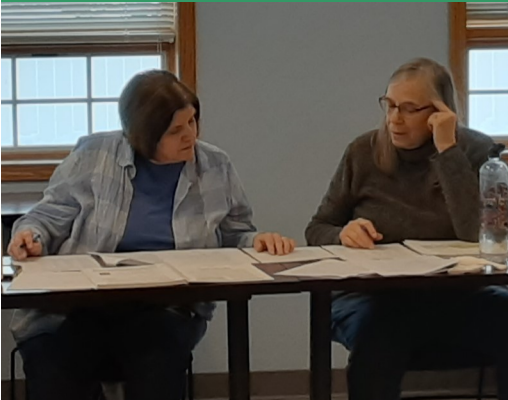


New York State SMP MONTHLY

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SMP NEWS

Drug Diversion Fraud/
Pharmacy Fraud. *See back*

VOLUNTEERS

Making a difference in
our communities. Hear
from Volunteer Wei Xu.
See back



PHOTOS

Clockwise:

- SMP Foundations
Training in St. Lawrence
County;
- B. Pyne Bertsche, NYC;
- Ulster County Chapter
Tabling at the Annual
Convention;
- NY StateWide Board
President Mario Henry
and Lani Sanjek, Public
Policy Committee

Greetings!

At NY StateWide Senior Action Council we are lucky to have so many volunteers in different capacities. We all are working hard everyday with training, tabling and presenting at events because that's what it takes to educate! Our goal is to keep YOU informed on the latest scams, so you can help your community take action against fraud. This month we will discuss Drug Diversion Fraud and why it is so important not to share your medications with others, and to properly dispose of unused medications.

Once again, **THANK YOU** for all you do and for joining our TEAM!

Beth Nelson, Director

NYS Senior Medicare Patrol

ABOUT OUR NYS SMP

We have **45** active
volunteers & staff that
serve over **50** counties.



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374



Drug Diversion Fraud

is when your prescribed controlled substance is taken by you or someone else for reasons other than prescribed.

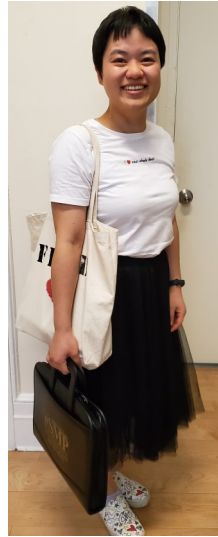
How the scam works:

- **Prescription Shorting** - A fraudulent pharmacy dispenses prescriptions a few pills short. -or- fills a partial month's drug supply and asks the beneficiary to come back for the rest. The pharmacist then bills Medicaid twice in 1 month for the full amount.
- **A new tactic** - Beneficiary gets a prescription from his physician for a narcotic. It is then filled and billed to Medicaid. The beneficiary is then paid cash for the script and the drugs are cycled back through the pharmacy or sold on the street.

How to fight back:

- Count your pills when you first get the prescription filled to make sure you were not shorted on the amount.
- Watch out for pharmacies that fill prescriptions for less than the number of days or the number of pills than is listed on the doctor's prescription. You should always receive the number of pills your doctor prescribes for you.
- In nursing homes, make sure that you receive your medication, especially pain medication, in the amount and strength you believe is proper.
- Safeguard your home with proper use, proper storage, and proper disposal.

Meet SMP Volunteer Wei Xu



The experience of being a SMP volunteer has been very enjoyable. First, I learned about Medicare fraud through the Foundations training program, which enriched my knowledge and prepared me for being part of the Senior Medicare Patrol.

Second, I used my language strengths to help the NYS SMP reach the Chinese community. I translated the

English flyers and posters in to Mandarin. I also gave a presentation on Medicare fraud to the elderly at the Grand Street Settlement Community Center to help them understand these important issues and learn how to protect themselves from Medicare fraud.

I am glad that my efforts can promote the connection between SMP and the Chinese community. I am proud to be a SMP volunteer and hope that I can help more people stop Medicare fraud.

-Wei Xu, SMP volunteer since April, 2019



If you know someone who:

- 1) Believes there is an error on their Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) -or-
- 2) May have given out their Medicare # by mistake.

Please have them call **800-333-4374** and speak to one of our counselors.

Source: SMP Library
Online: smpresource.org

STATE WIDE

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