



## LET'S TALK FRAUD

Read the latest Senior Medicare Patrol Headlines:  
*Coronavirus test kits and illegal kickbacks*

## VOLUNTEERS

Making a difference in our communities.  
*Hear from SMP Volunteer Judith Aldrich*

## TEST YOUR SMP KNOWLEDGE:

Since its inception in \_\_\_\_\_, the SMP program has evolved from 12 regional demonstration projects to a nationwide program.

Medicare Part \_\_\_\_\_ covers COVID-19 tests when ordered by your doctor or health care provider on or after February 4, 2020

True or False? There is no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time.

Hello!

By now we all know that there is no cure for COVID-19 and that there are fake testing kits out there for purchase!

Claims such as Vitamin C infusions and Colloidal Silver as cures, are just not true, yet fraudsters take advantage of fear, loneliness and confusion about the coronavirus. And there will be more fake cures, bogus supplies and testing kits with new twists coming down the pike.

**That's why what you do as SMP volunteers is so important!**

Staying in touch with your communities to help alleviate fear and loneliness, and letting people know the truth about issues relating to Medicare Fraud.

Thank you for all that you do! It is appreciated more than you know!

Always –

Beth Nelson, Director

NYS Senior Medicare Patrol

## Let's Talk Fraud

### Recent articles of interest:



Posts circulating on social media claim that scammers are calling people, posing as Medicare, offering coronavirus test kits, and asking for personal information. These calls are

fraudulent. **In fact, fraudsters are placing an estimated 1 million calls a day about the coronavirus to Americans' smartphones.**



As the COVID-19 crisis began to escalate, people have been willing to pay **illegal kickbacks** in exchange for completed COVID-19 and Respiratory

Pathogen Panel (RPP) tests, which reimburse at a much higher rate than the COVID-19 tests.

While the Medicare reimbursement for coronavirus tests is about \$100, some labs and marketers have sought to boost the amount they can reap by bundling it with respiratory pathogen panels (RPP), which test for non-COVID-19 respiratory illnesses and pay out around \$500.

According to data from the Health and Human Services Inspector General, RPP claims submitted to Medicare from January 1, 2020 through April 30 **increased by 41%** compared with the same time period last year and led to \$28 million so far in processed payments.

Source: SMP Website, News

### Answers to Quiz:

1. 1997
2. Part B
3. True

## Meet SMP Volunteer Judith Aldrich



I recently took the course to become an SMP volunteer, with my friend Darlene White, to help promote our Chapter of the North Country. It seems like every day, as Seniors, someone does not get the services that

are available because they don't understand what Medicare covers.

Together or separately, being SMP volunteers has allowed us to speak with groups, share knowledge and teach Seniors how to read their EOBs, keep track of their medical appointments and the outcome of their doctor visits. We can highlight different facets of their coverage and help beneficiaries spot fraud and understand their rights by law.

While we meet with many Senior Clubs, we also have the opportunity to share the training we received with many other people in everyday conversations. Whether we are having lunch out, attending church, or speaking with neighbors, the SMP training helps us better serve others. No one could have predicted that the training could open new ways to enhance our lives especially right now with the COVID pandemic when people are isolated or afraid for their own health and safety.

Knowledge truly is power! Knowledge shared is a great gift to share with our friends or perfect strangers. Being trained allows each of us to make life a little less stressful around the complex issue of health care and decision making.

-Judith Aldrich, SMP Volunteer since Jan. 2020

**STATE  WIDE**

**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.**  
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax (518) 436-7642  
[www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)