

New York State SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 1 | JANUARY 2020 |



LATEST SMP NEWS

Current Issues in
Healthcare Fraud

See back

VOLUNTEERING

The SMP program offers volunteers an opportunity to make an important difference in their communities. Hear from Volunteer Bonnie Bortz.

See back

PHOTO (above left)

SMP volunteers, L to R:
Jean Stone,
Barb McBurnie,
Elaine McKinney,
Evelyn McKinney

At the NY StateWide
Annual Convention

Welcome to our first issue of the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Monthly. This newsletter is prepared by NY StateWide Senior Action Council, your local SMP. We would like to **THANK YOU** for joining our team! Without you, we could not spread the word to prevent, detect and report health care fraud. Our goal is to keep you informed on the latest scams, so that you can assist and empower your community to take action against fraud.

If you know someone who might also want to be a SMP volunteer, please have them call us to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Beth Nelson, *Director*
NYS Senior Medicare Patrol



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Texas Healthcare Execs Guilty in \$154M Hospice Scam

A federal jury found three individuals associated with dozens of hospice and home health companies guilty for their roles in a \$154 million health care fraud scheme. They were the owner, CEO, and medical director of a large health care company that:

- enrolled patients with long-term, incurable diseases into hospice care after falsely telling them that they had less than six months to live.
- sent chaplains to lie to the patients and discuss last rites and preparation for their imminent death.

In actuality, the patients were not terminally ill and were walking, driving, working and even coaching athletic sporting events.

After a three week trial, the jury found the three individuals guilty of multiple



counts of healthcare fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and

obstruction of justice. To read more about this case, visit the SMP page(s) on our NY StateWide website:

www.nysenior.org

Source: justice.gov
The U.S. Dept of Justice

What do SMP Volunteers Do?



Becoming a SMP volunteer was quite the experience. The training was informative & taught practical information like how to read a Medicare Summary Notice. It was also interesting yet upsetting to learn that hospice is part of Medicare fraud. I am hoping the training I took will help the population I work with, which are mostly seniors. Giving them knowledge is the power to help stop Medicare fraud.

-Bonnie Bortz, SMP Volunteer, Buffalo

★ About our NYS SMP AWESOME VOLUNTEERS! ★

From June 1st—Nov 30, 2019...

The **NYS SMP volunteers** and StateWide staff logged in over **6,000** hours providing outreach and education to over **33,000** beneficiaries.

We have **35+** active volunteers and serve over **50 counties**.



SMP Reminder

As of January 1, 2020, Medicare cards with Social Security numbers are no longer accepted.

STATE WIDE

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