



## LET'S TALK FRAUD

Read the latest Senior Medicare Patrol Headlines

## VOLUNTEERS

Making a difference in our communities.

Hear from SMP Volunteer Darlene White

## TEST YOUR MEDICARE KNOWLEDGE

Which part of Medicare is run by private insurance companies and only covers prescription drugs?

Which two parts of Medicare together are known as "Original Medicare"?

True or False?  
Medicare Supplement Insurance, commonly known as "Medigap," is not a part of Medicare and is offered by private insurance companies.

What are the dates for 2020 Open Enrollment?

Happy August!

I hope everyone has been able to get out (social distance and masks) to enjoy some of this great weather!

It really amazes me how many agencies are involved in making sure that everyone knows the facts about scams. The list is extensive and I am thankful these agencies are there to make sure consumers know fact from fiction.

One agency that makes sense of these rules and gets the word out about what is happening with Medicare, is the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). They make sure all rules & regulations are sent out to all parties so that we can do our job as Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) volunteers.

With COVID-19, many Medicare rules have been "relaxed" leaving the door open for scammers to take advantage of the situation. To help educate us about the current regulations, we invited Thomas Bane, Local Engagement & Administration and SMP Liaison from CMS to be our guest speaker at this month's Volunteer ZOOM meeting. (Friday, Aug. 28, 11 AM)

Thank you for all you do! I know that we are doing the best we can to make sure consumers know the facts and help them to not be a victim of a scam!

Always -

Beth Nelson, Director NYS SMP

## An article about contact tracing was just released from the SMP web site.

Below is a brief excerpt, you can view the entire article [HERE](#).

Fraudsters follow the news. If you're contacted about possible exposure to the coronavirus, make sure it's legit. Scammers are masquerading as contact tracers, and it's smart to verify calls or texts before giving out any information.

### A legitimate tracer may ask:

- For your name and address.
- For your date of birth — counter with your age, rather than giving out that key piece of identity data.
- For your whereabouts on certain dates, errands you ran, stores or businesses you visited, etc.
- Questions about your health & whether you've experienced any symptoms.

### But a legitimate contact tracer will not:

- Ask for your Medicare, Medicaid or insurance policy number.
- Inquire about your immigration status.
- Ask for your Social Security number.
- Ask for a financial account number or request payment.
- Tell you who among your contacts has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Threaten you.
- Ask you to fill out an online application to be a contact tracer, too.

Source: SMP Website, News

## Meet SMP Volunteer Darlene White



I retired in 2010, from handling workers' compensation for over 32 years for St. Lawrence County and in 2012, I joined StateWide.

As Chair of our Chapter Membership Committee, meetings were set up with our County Senior Clubs to do presentations spreading our big secret—NY StateWide Senior Action Council! We invited Maria Alvarez, Executive Director of StateWide to our committee meeting to discuss our progress and for guidance. It was at this time Maria told us about the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol program and encouraged us to register for training. Judy Aldrich, a committee member, and I attended training in January. Thank-you Maria!

"The experience of being an SMP volunteer has been very rewarding. I have learned so much and I enjoy being able to put this learned information to use by sharing it with seniors and their caregivers."

I love to help people of all ages with the knowledge I've gained through the SMP training. I know I've brought smiles to faces even if it is something simple such as helping them understand how to read their MSNs or EOBs. I've met many new people and contacts and have even been able to get reacquainted with some classmates.

-Darlene White, SMP Volunteer since Jan. 2020

**STATE**  **WIDE**

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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.