

New York State SMP MONTHLY

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Greetings and Happy Summer to all,

Summer is here, and events in the community are opening! Remember to wear your facemask and socially distance while in large gatherings. Currently, there are seven variants of COVID-19, and scammers are selling fake vaccination cards online, for those people who do not want to be vaccinated but want to go to events that require proof of the vaccine.

The largest COVID 2021 takedown was announced by the Department of Justice in May 2021! This takedown resulted in over \$143 million dollars in false billing to Medicare. For more information, see the back page of the newsletter.

As we continue our training on Medicare Fraud, the meeting on June 18th will cover the topic of Medical Identity Theft and its consequences. Medical Identity theft can lead to serious consequences, so be prepared to discuss this topic. If you are in need of the flyer, please let us know so we can email one to you!

If you know of any events in your neighborhood where you can table at or have groups that you can meet with, please let us know so we can get you flyers and many promotional items for your use.

- Beth Nelson, Director NYS SMP

REMINDERS



Join us for the
SMP Volunteer Meeting
on June 18, 11:00 AM

- To join by computer
Click [HERE](#).
- To join by phone dial
646-558-8656, Meeting
ID: 533 682 251

UPCOMING TEACH IN:

June 22, 10 AM:

Learn About Important
Patient Rights and
Protections from the
Federal Office for Civil
Rights.

- **View** [FLYER](#)
- **Register for the
ZOOM Webinar
event virtually, [HERE](#)**
- **Call in: 646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 853 2919
8784#**



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

COVID 2021 TAKEDOWN—the largest coordinated law enforcement action to combat health care fraud related to COVID-19

Scammers offer Medicare beneficiaries COVID-19 tests and use their Medicare information to bill for additional, unrelated tests that are medically unnecessary and more expensive.

- 1** Marketers offer COVID-19 tests at senior living facilities, medical offices & other locations.
- 2** Fraudulent labs pay marketers for beneficiaries' samples and Medicare information.
- 3** Telemedicine providers are paid by marketers/labs to authorize referrals for unnecessary tests.
- 4** Labs submit claims to Medicare and receive reimbursement for COVID-19 and additional unrelated tests.

To learn more about the 2021 Takedown: [View VIDEO](#); [Review the DOJ Press Release](#)

This scheme is current as of May 2021; Source: [OIG.HHS.GOV/2021TAKEDOWN](https://www.hhs.gov/2021TAKEDOWN)

COVID 2021 TAKEDOWN

- 14 Defendants charged
- 7 Federal districts
- 50+ Medical providers received adverse administrative actions for involvement in the schemes
- \$143 Million in false billings



Meet SMP Volunteer Kitty Vetter

- Retired Staff Nurse
- County Legislator
- Member of the NY State Nurses Association and the American Nurses Assoc.

Since retiring as a Staff Nurse, I have been active in SLAC (Sullivan Legislature Action Committee) and NY StateWide Senior Action Council.

I found the meshing of my professional self and working towards healthy outcomes rewarding. Joining the Senior Medicare Patrol is important since many seniors are not aware of Medicare Fraud issues. Preventing fraud starts with learning, then sharing with your community. I firmly believe that being proactive is important.

Get Connected

StateWide, the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol is your source of information about Medicare Fraud.



- **E-MAIL US:** info@nysenior.org
- **GIVE US A CALL:** 800-333-4374
- **BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE:** nysenior.org
- **FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:** @NY_StateWide
- **FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/NYStateWide
- **BECOME A MEMBER**

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

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