

# SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 23 | NOV 2021 |



## Happy Autumn!

Even though it has been wet and cold, the fall colors are beautiful!

At our next SMP Volunteer meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we will continue our discussion about the Annual Open Enrollment Period. This discussion will be led by Outreach Counselor, Gene. He will inform you on how our staff can assist you on how to make the best health care plan decisions for your health care needs. This will be a team discussion, so bring your concerns to the meeting! We will also discuss:

- Current scams to be on the lookout for
- The GetSetUp program where (3) of our NYS SMP volunteers are featured speakers during the Annual Open Enrollment.
- Hawaii bound anyone? Let's talk about setting up a meeting with the Hawaii SMP volunteers, they want to hear from us!

As always, THANK YOU for all you do to spread the word about Medicare Fraud!

## REMINDERS



Join us for the  
**SMP Volunteer Meeting**  
on Nov 19, 11:00 AM.  
**StateWide Outreach**  
**Counselors will join us to**  
**answer your questions.**

- To join by computer  
Click [HERE](#).
- To join by phone dial

## SAVE THE DATES

SMP volunteers Alan Bey,  
Ken Luft and Elizabeth  
Campbell are featured  
presenters. Please join us!

**Medicare 101:** 11/1, 11/3,  
11/15, 11/29 [REGISTER](#)

**Help Prevent Healthcare**  
**Fraud and Abuse**  
11/10 [REGISTER](#)

**Protecting Your Healthcare**  
**Identity - Exploring the**  
**Latest**  
**Scams:** 11/17 [REGISTER](#)



# Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

## Choosing a Part D Drug Plan



Ask yourself the following questions before choosing a Part D drug plan:

1. Does the plan cover all the medications I take?
2. How much will I pay for monthly premiums and the annual deductible?
3. How much will I pay at the pharmacy (copay/coinsurance) for each drug I take?
4. Is my pharmacy in the plans' preferred network?
5. Can I fill my prescriptions by mail order?
6. What is the plan's star rating?
7. If I have retiree coverage, will the Medicare drug plan work with this coverage?

### Does the plan have restrictions on my drugs?



- ❖ **Prior authorization** means that you must get approval from your Part D plan before the plan will pay for the drug.
- ❖ **Step therapy** means that your plan requires you to try a cheaper version of your drug before it will cover the more expensive one.
- ❖ **Quantity limits** restrict how much of a drug you can get per prescription fill.



### Meet StateWide Outreach Counselor Leslie Sierra

Leslie joined the Staff of StateWide in April 2012. She comes with over 20 years experience

working with the senior population and is a certified HIICAP counselor. She started the Brooklyn Caregivers Program while a Sr. Case Manager for The Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly and was responsible for one of the first support groups for caregivers in Brooklyn.

Leslie was the first of many to recognize and honor caregivers for the unpaid work they do in the borough of Brooklyn. As a Crime Prevention Specialist, Leslie trained over 500 seniors and staff on crime prevention, elder abuse, and financial abuse for the Ft. Greene Senior Citizens Council. Leslie is also President of the Board of Directors for a 325 unit Co-op in Brooklyn and an ardent wedding and event planner.

**StateWide's certified counselors provide FREE personalized, confidential, unbiased information about Medicare options including prescription drug plans.**

**Call 1-800-333-4374 for more information.**

Source: [smpresource.org](http://smpresource.org)

**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)