

# SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 25 | JAN 2022 |



## REMINDERS



Join us for the  
SMP Volunteer  
Meeting on Jan 21, 2022  
at 11:00 AM.

- To join by computer  
Click [HERE](#)
- To join by phone dial  
646-558-8656, Meeting  
ID: 533 682 2516

## New Year, New Opportunities!

In our next volunteer meeting, we want to hear from you.

Let's share ideas for improving our newsletter, future meeting topics, and how to best get the word out about healthcare fraud and the SMP mission. We also want to discuss:

- **The New SMP Consumer Alert - Hospice Fraud:** On the back page of this newsletter, there is an overview, articles and a video. Please take a look. We will review Hospice Fraud in more detail during our January meeting.
- **StateWide is celebrating its Golden Anniversary:** We have activities and celebrations planned throughout the year including the SW Legislative Action Team Meetings and the 50th Anniversary Celebration in September.



We've accomplished a lot in 2021, but there's plenty more to be excited about in 2022. Let's aim for success altogether as a team and help fight fraud in New York State.

- The NY StateWide Senior Action Council Staff

## STATEWIDE - UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

**JAN 18, 10 AM:** Patient Advocate Webinar Teach in: Hospitals are Putting Liens on Patients' Homes to Collect Debt: What Can Be Done to Protect Them?

[\(REGISTER\)](#) [\(FLYER\)](#)

**JAN 20, 3 PM:** StateWide's 50th Anniversary Legislative Action Team Meeting

[\(REGISTER\)](#) [\(FLYER\)](#)



**Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374**

## Hospice Fraud



Fraudsters are targeting assisted living facility & nursing home residents whose life expectancy exceeds six months and are using high-pressure and unsolicited marketing

tactics to get them to agree to hospice services.

### Dangers of hospice fraud include:

- Receiving inadequate or incomplete services from a hospice worker. This can include no skilled visits in the last week of life or providing less care on the weekends & disregarding a beneficiary's care plan.
- Embezzling, abusing, or neglecting beneficiaries or medication theft by a hospice worker.
- Enrolling in hospice without the knowledge or permission of the patient or family.
- Falsely certifying or failing to obtain physician certification on plans of care.
- Providing gifts or incentives to encourage beneficiaries to elect hospice even though they may not be terminally ill.
- Billing for a higher level of care than needed or provided or for services not received.

### Helpful Tips for Beneficiaries:

- Be sure **their doctor** has assessed their condition.
- Be sure **their doctor** has certified that they are **terminally ill** and expected to live six months or less if the disease runs its normal course.



- Never accept gifts in return for hospice services and be wary of “too-good-to-be-true” offers.
- Report quality-of-care complaints to the NYS SMP and the Beneficiary and Family Centered Care-Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO) ([qioprogram.org/file-complaint](http://qioprogram.org/file-complaint)).

NYS SMP Helpline: 800-333-4374

## ARTICLES & VIDEOS

### Hospice Fraud

**Novus Hospice Doctors Receive 23 Years for Healthcare Fraud** - A federal judge sentenced two physicians in the Novus Healthcare Services hospice fraud case to 23 years and prison and ordered them to pay more than \$44 million in restitution. A nurse who was also part of the \$40 million fraud case was sentenced to 33 months in federal prison. ([Full article HERE](#))

### The SMP Resource Center:

- [Video: 10 Examples of Hospice Fraud](#)
- [Fraud Prevention Checklist - Qualifying for Hospice Services](#)

## Remember to Start the New Year Off Right with the StateWide Pocket Calendar

If you would like calendars for your groups or upcoming meetings, call 800-333-4374.



**STATE WIDE**

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

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