

SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 27 | MAR 2022 |



REMINDERS



Join us for the
SMP Volunteer

Meeting on Mar 18, 2022
at 11:00 AM.

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

Hello!

Almost two years into the Covid-19 pandemic and an end might finally be in sight? According to Governor Hochul's recent press release, New York has:

- The highest rate of adults fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
- Experienced a 98 percent decline in COVID-19 cases since the Omicron peak.
- Been on a continuous downward trend in cases for 51 consecutive days.

In addition to those statistics, Governor Hochul just lifted the state mask mandate in schools starting today, March 2nd. While things may seem like they are getting back to normal, we'd like to remind everyone to stay protected with vaccines, boosters and treatments and take advantage of the free home test kits available at www.covidtests.gov.

This past November, the FDA approved two antiviral COVID pills. As new drugs are developed, we need to be on high alert for scammers using this opportunity to steal our personal information. The March newsletter and meeting, will focus on Pharmacy and Prescription Drug Fraud. Please join us!

- NY StateWide Senior Action Council Staff

DID YOU KNOW:

Our latest **Member Update Newsletter** is ready to view.

Click [HERE](#) to view the pdf.

Our next **Patient Advocate Teach in** is on March 22, 10 AM. Topic: Going to the Hospital for an Invasive Procedure. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Save the Date - September 12 - 14, 2022 for our 50th Anniversary Celebration in Saratoga Springs!



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Pharmacy and Prescription Drug Fraud



Pharmacy and prescription drug fraud is a consistent trend in Medicare. Due to the profitable nature of prescription drug diversion and pharmacy scams, criminals continue to exploit Medicare Part D. Although there are many types of prescription drug schemes, pharmacy fraud primarily occurs when Medicare is billed for a medication that was not received or a beneficiary is intentionally given a different prescription drug than was prescribed.

What Can You Do to Stop Pharmacy/Prescription Drug Fraud?

- Be sure your doctor has assessed your condition before prescribing you any medication.
- Do not give out your Medicare number or other personal information to unknown individuals requesting it for prescription drug services or to evaluate your prescription history at a health fair, senior center, or retail mall parking lot.



- Be suspicious of all unsolicited calls and offers for “free” or “discount” prescription drugs.
- Always review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB).

What to Look Out for on Your MSN or EOB

- Prescription drugs (including refills) that were never picked up, delivered, or even prescribed.
- Prescription drugs (occasionally controlled substances such as opioids) that were prescribed by a health care provider you have never seen.
- Amounts beyond the quantity you were prescribed.
- A different prescription drug (often a more expensive drug) than the one you were originally prescribed or a drug that is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



Helping Ukrainian Refugees

Before you donate, it's a good idea to do some

research. Your generosity also presents an opportunity for scammers to take advantage of the situation by posting links for fake charities online.

There are four good websites you can use to independently look into a charity or nonprofit group you are considering.

- [BBB Wise Giving Alliance](#)
- [Charity Navigator](#)
- [CharityWatch](#)
- [Candid](#) (formerly GuideStar)

Source: Consumer Reports

Source: smpresource.org

STATE WIDE

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