

SMP MONTHLY

ISSUE NO. 29 | MAY 2022 |



REMINDERS



Join us for the
SMP Volunteer
Meeting on May 20, 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,

May is a busy month, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of **Older Americans Month (OAM)**. This year the theme is **Age My Way**, an opportunity for us to explore the many ways older adults can remain in and be involved with their communities.



May is also **Mental Health Awareness Month** and we would like to focus our

attention on **Outpatient Mental Health Fraud**. In this issue we will review:

- Which type of mental health services does Medicare cover?
- Where can Medicare-covered mental health care services be provided?
- What are some Outpatient Mental Health Fraud examples?
- How can we protect ourselves and our loved ones against Outpatient Mental Health Fraud?

We will be discussing this topic further in our next SMP meeting on Friday, May 20th at 11. Thank you for the good work that you are doing in your community!

Upcoming Events:

MAY 31, 10 AM: Patient Advocates Teach in – Open Notes Implementation in NY & How It Can Empower Older Patients ([REGISTER](#))

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

Mental Health Awareness Month Resources:

[SAMHSA.org](https://www.samhsa.org)
[Mental Health America nami.org](https://www.nami.org)
[mentalhealth.org](https://www.mentalhealth.org)
[NIMH » Home \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nih.gov)



Medicare Fraud Helpline 800-333-4374

Outpatient Mental Health Fraud

What Does Medicare Cover?

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) helps pay for outpatient mental health services, including:

- **One depression screening per year.** The screening must be done in a primary care clinic or doctor's office that can provide follow-up treatment and referrals.
- **Individual and group psychotherapy** with a doctor or other licensed mental health professional (such as psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, nurse practitioner, or clinical social worker) allowed by the state where services are being received.
- **Family counseling** if the main purpose is to help with your treatment.
- **Psychiatric evaluation, medication management, and diagnostic tests.**
- **Treatment of opioid use disorder, inappropriate alcohol and drug use.**

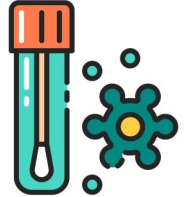
Fraud Examples:

Adult daycare services are billed as individual or group psychotherapy. Examples include:

- Beneficiaries are picked up by a bus or van. Medicare does not cover transportation to and from mental health services.
- Beneficiaries are taken out to eat or for a recreational outing with no other services received.
- Beneficiaries are allowed to watch TV or play games all day.

Fraud Examples: (cont.):

- Call-in refills for mental health prescriptions are billed as psychiatric evaluations and/or complex office visits.
- Unrelated services (such as genetic tests and back braces) you don't need are billed in conjunction with your mental health treatment.
- Mental health services provided by a medical assistant, massage therapist, or other unqualified individual are billed as though you were seen by a licensed mental health professional.



How to Protect Yourself from this type of Fraud?

Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) & report the following concerns:



- Services listed do not match what you actually received.
- Medicare was billed for individual treatment when group services were received.
- Diagnostic tests, medical equipment, or prescriptions you didn't receive were added on to your statement.
- Medicare was billed for in-person visits or expensive facility care when only telehealth services were provided.
- Medicare was billed for more hours of mental health services than what you received.

The NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud issues. Please call the NYS SMP at 800-333-4374.

STATE WIDE

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