



# Patient Advocates Program

## MAR 21 Webinar Teach-in



Connect to the Webinar using your telephone, computer, or tablet

### Personal Medical Debt in New York State and How to Prevent Aggressive Debt Collection Practices

**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023    **Time:** 10:00 AM—11:00 AM

**Speakers:** Carrie Tracy, JD; Senior Director, Health Initiatives, Community Service Society of New York

**To register for the ZOOM Webinar event virtually [click HERE](#)**  
(or visit [nysenior.org](http://nysenior.org))

**To connect via phone:** 646-558-8656, **Webinar ID:** 864 6533 4831#

#### Session Overview

Medical debt is one of the leading causes of personal bankruptcy in New York State and across the country. One in 20 New Yorkers will go into medical debt, yet the financial assistance programs designed to assist persons with high medical debt are under utilized. Hospitals in New York have begun aggressively pursuing debt collection and this has had a disproportionate impact on persons of color and low income families.

In this session you will learn about:

- The extent of medical debt in New York State and increasing efforts of hospitals to aggressively seek debt repayment.
- Problems with the hospital financial assistance programs.
- The impact on persons with low incomes and persons of color.
- Information about the new End Medical Debt in New York campaign.
- Current protections for consumers and proposals to prevent medical debt and how you or your organization can help support these efforts.

**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)

**Patients' Rights Helpline 800-333-4374**



**ALL TEACH-INS RUN  
FROM 10:00—11:00 AM.**

### Mark your calendar for upcoming Teach Ins

- April 25, 10-11 am
- **Emerging Dangers in Prescriptions Drugs (opioids & others)**
- **Speaker: John Eadie**, Public Health and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) Project Coordinator for the National Emerging Threats Initiative (and a former Executive Director of StateWide!!)
- If you missed an earlier Teach in, visit [Telephone Teach-Ins | StateWide \(nysenior.org\)](http://www.nysenior.org/Telephone-Teach-Ins) to view/listen to the recording.

## Instructions and Other Information

- Sessions are in webinar mode, all attendees video and audio will be off. Attendees will be able to type in their questions during the Q&A portion of the meeting.
- Materials from Teach Ins are posted on our website [www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)
- When on our website,
  1. On the navigation bar, click on **Our Helplines**
  2. In the drop down menu, click on **Patient's Rights Helpline**
  3. Under "**Information for Hospital Patients**", click on **Telephone Teach-in**. This will take you to additional information about past Teach ins, powerpoint presentations and other important notes.

# Call 800-333-4374 to reserve your spot!

### **NY STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL**

is a not-for-profit grassroots membership organization made up of individuals and organizations with an interest in improving the lives of senior citizens.

*Funding for our Patient Advocates Program is being provided through the generous support of the NYS Legislature and administered by the NYS Office for the Aging*

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Information is also available on the StateWide website at  
**www.nysenior.org**

**E-mail questions to:**  
[patientsrights@nysenior.org](mailto:patientsrights@nysenior.org)