



**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc**

# WNY Chapter Meeting

Date : Tue March 10, 2026  
Time : 5 PM

**via ZOOM** - Call in or Join via Zoom

**If you didn't get an email with the minutes and Zoom Link info to join the February Chapter Meeting via Zoom please call Tiffany 518-603-6424**

[Chapter Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 889 5184 9475 Passcode: 403844

To call in: +1 646-931-3860

## **New Meeting Day - Tuesday**

- **Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY of each month @ 10am & Quarterly evening meeting**
- 2026 Chapter Meeting Agenda - (See enclosed) rotation between Zoom & Community In-Person Meetings

## **SMP Updates**

- Current Fraud Trends
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## **Location Suggestions**

- Please share any location suggestions to hold the Chapter meeting near you

Notes :

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## Previous Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday February 10th, 2026 10:00 am

Meeting began, 5 members present

Tiffany welcomed everyone, reviewed 2026 Chapter Meeting changes including day of the week and quarterly evening meeting.

- Established agenda for meeting, introducing Maria Alvarez and Charlie Battaglia
- Announced upcoming Teach-In: Patients Rights and Observation Status

Reminder that March meeting will be an evening remote meeting, with in-person meetings to resume in April

- Outlined that in-person meetings will take place at community sites in the Buffalo area
- Discussed setting up a Statewide Chapter table at community sites on meeting days to discuss Chapter activities and drive recruitment.
- Importance of Action Alert items

Grassroots Day May 11<sup>th</sup>- Older adults in WNY interested in riding a bus to speak to their elected officials in Albany. Please call the Statewide Helpline or reach out to Aaron or Tiffany to register. **\*\*You do not need to be a Statewide member to attend, but you must register\*\***. Flyer enclosed. There will be transportation from Buffalo via bus for those that need it. You can also self-register at the link [here](#).

### **Presentation from Maria Alvarez, Executive Director**

- Presented a breakdown of the Proposed NYS 2026 Executive Budget
  - Impact on Master Plan for Aging
  - Impact on Senior Services
- **Call to Action:** Restore funding to Patients Rights Helpline
  - State Assemblypersons: 518-455-4100
  - State Senators: 518-455-2800
  - Script: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in the district. Please stop the cut to NY Statewide Senior Action Council's Patient Rights Helpline by restoring \$200,000 to the budget and adding an additional \$50,000 to address inflationary costs and unmet need."
- Slides Attached.

# SCAM ALERT: CATHETER KIT BILLING FRAUD



## How this Scam Works

Medicare beneficiaries across the country are discovering charges for urinary catheter kits they did not need, did not request, and never received.

- Scammers use unsolicited calls, emails, or online ads to collect Medicare numbers.
- Medicare is billed for catheter kits that were never requested or ordered and claims may appear legitimate because a familiar provider's name is listed.
- The beneficiary is unaware until reviewing their Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB).

## Protect Yourself

Since many people affected by this scam never receive any catheters at all, reviewing your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) is the only way to know your Medicare identity has been misused.

- Don't assume a charge is legitimate just because a familiar doctor's name appears.
- Report charges to the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol for items you didn't receive or need.
- Never share your Medicare number with unsolicited callers or advertisers.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Scammers often bill Medicare for 200+ catheter kits at a time, resulting in suspicious claims ranging from \$1,200-\$2,400 or more on Medicare statements.



## Call our Helpline at 1-800-333-4374

If you see charges for catheter kits on your Medicare statements that were never received or were not ordered by your doctor, contact the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol (NYS SMP) for help.

Our SMP counselors can:

- Help you understand your MSN or EOB.
- Determine whether the charges may be fraud or an error.



This project was supported by grant number 90MPPG01701, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living

**Medicare, Patients' Rights and Medicare Fraud Helpline - 800-333-4374**

FEB 24 WEBINAR

## PATIENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM TEACH IN

Partial Relief from Observation  
Status Woes Is Available to Some  
Medicare Beneficiaries Under a Waiver

LIVE  
WEBINAR

## FEBRUARY TEACH IN

**Date:** February 24, 2026

**Time:** 10 AM

**Speaker:** Marcus Harazin, Coordinator, Patient Advocate Program, StateWide

Call 800-333-4374 to register or link below  
[REGISTER](#)

