



January 2014

'Care Share

Note from Montana SMP: READ YOUR STATEMENTS

Here's to a new year, one without fraud or abuse. Also, don't forget the mistakes. Without everyone looking at their medical bills and Medicare Summary Notices; fraud, waste and abuse will continue. I hope from the outreach we're providing each month, people are coming to realize they can make a difference.

The National Headline on this page does a really good job of showing how fraud is committed and I encourage you to read it. "Investigators say criminals wager that patients and their families will not be like Heap. They bank on the fact that their victims — Medicare beneficiaries — will be too old or too sick to review insurance forms summarizing the medications and services billed in their names. And they count on the tendency of busy family members to give such forms a cursory glance, if that". - See more at:

<http://westmorelandtimes.com/news/10797/01/02/03/caught-up-in-a-medicare-drug-fraud/#sthash.zKaxGzjG.dpuf>

Last year, dedicated SMP staff and volunteers reached an impressive **13,880** individuals through group presentations across the state, telling them why to read their notices and where to go if they have questions. Of those polled, 92% from 57% now understand how important it is to read the Medicare Summary Notice.

If you are willing to help SMP with providing presentations, we'll provide the training and materials if you supply the time. Please ask your local SMP as we are always looking for help.

And to diminish the confusion on what to do and where to go if you do suspect fraud regardless of the situation, please consider posting the back page as a reminder. Call SMP with questions you

have on healthcare bills, and always be mindful of the information you give out. The following is good information to keep in mind.

Tips to Help Keep Your Identity Safe

- Examine your wallet and ask yourself if you need to carry all the pieces of identification in it.
- When someone asks for your Social Security Number, ask why they need it.
- Use a password to protect your cell phone, if the phone has that capability.
- Encrypt your home wireless network.
- Avoid clicking on attachments or links contained in any unsolicited emails; don't respond to unsolicited emails.
- Do not use the same password for all your online accounts.
- Do not click on any pop-up on the internet.
- Limit the information you make available on social networking sites.
- Do not wire money as a rule.
- Obtain and check your credit report annually at:
www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228.

National Headlines

Click on the links for more information. These are great stories to share.

Caught up in a Medicare drug fraud Westmoreland County Times
pills-140186_640 At another time in her life, Denise Heap might have tossed aside the insurance forms listing the drugs prescribed to her mother.

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) helps to educate Medicare beneficiaries about ways to prevent, detect, and combat Medicare fraud. For more information about Medicare fraud, visit the Stop Medicare Fraud website at www.stopmedicarefraud.gov.

Be “Scam Smart”: Report, Detect, Protect

Adapted from Maine SMP flyer “Scam Smart”

Report Healthcare Scams

Medicare: 1-800-633-4273 / www.medicare.gov

**Montana Senior Medicare Patrol at your
local AAA: 1-800-551-3191**

Federal Trade Commission: 1-877- 382-4357 / www.ftc.gov

Report Money Transfer Scams

MoneyGram : 1-800-666-3947

Western Union: 1-800-448-1492

Green Dot: www.moneypack.com

Federal Trade Commission: 1-877-382-4357 / www.ftc.gov

Report Mail /Email / Online Scams

FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center: www.ic3.gov

OnGuardOnline: www.onguardonline.gov

U.S. Postal Inspector: 1-877-876-2455 /

www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Federal Trade Commission: 1-877-382-4357 / www.ftc.gov

Report/Detect Check Fraud Scams

Postal Money Order Verification System: 1-866-459-7822

Montana Attorney General: 1-800-481-6896 /

www.doj.mt.gov/consumer

National Consumers League Fraud Center: www.fakechecks.org

Report Fundraiser / Charitable Scams

Montana Attorney General’s Office: 1-800-481-6896 /

www.doj.mt.gov/consumer

Better Business Bureau: 1-509-455-4200 / www.spokane.bbb.org/

National Association of State Charities / www.nasconet.org

Protect Yourself Against Scams

Get Your Free Credit Report Annually: 1-877-322-8228 /

www.annualcreditreport.com

Sign-up on the “Do Not Call” List: 1-888-382-1222 /

www.donotcall.gov

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