



## Consumer Alert: Remote Patient Monitoring

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General is alerting the public about a fraud scheme involving monthly billing for remote patient monitoring.

This scam involves signing up Medicare enrollees for remote patient monitoring (RPM). Legitimate RPM involves using medical devices such as scales, glucose monitors, blood pressure cuffs, cardiac rhythm devices, and other equipment to remotely monitor for anomalies in patients with chronic medical conditions. This new treatment is beneficial for those whose condition might deteriorate quickly, where monitoring can reduce complications, hospitalizations, or death.

Unscrupulous companies are signing up Medicare enrollees for this service, regardless of medical necessity. Scammers have several ways to make contact. It may involve phone solicitations (“cold calling”), internet ads (“click bait”), or television advertising. These contacts may originate from a Durable Medical Equipment Company (DME) or pharmacy. Equipment may or may not be sent or is equipment that is not FDA approved. Billing then occurs for set-up, patient teaching, and monthly monitoring of data. Most often, the monthly monitoring never happens, but the enrollee is billed monthly anyway.

### Protect Yourself

- If you receive a call from someone offering you a free brace that will be billed to Medicare, hang up immediately.
- Review the Explanation of Benefits notices for any services not ordered.
- If unordered medical equipment is delivered, don't accept it unless your personal health care provider ordered it. Refuse delivery or return it to the sender. Keep a record of the sender's name and the date you returned the items. Report it to the HHS-OIG Hotline at 1-800-447-8477.
- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment and then requests your Medicare number. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.

### CONSUMER ALERT

### Remote Patient Monitoring

This **FRAUD SCHEME** involves unsolicited contact to set up monthly billing for remote patient monitoring regardless of medical necessity.



Scammers target Medicare enrollees through calls, texts, and Internet ads.



Scammers steal Medicare numbers and other personal information.



Scammers then bill Medicare for services that are unnecessary or never provided.

**REPORT FRAUD: TIPS.HHS.GOV | 1-800-447-8477**  
OIG.HHS.GOV

- A trusted health care provider you know should approve any requests for equipment to address your medical needs.
- Medicare enrollees should be cautious of unsolicited requests for Medicare numbers. If anyone other than your provider's office requests Medicare information, do not provide it.

If you suspect Medicare fraud, contact the [HHS-OIG Hotline](https://www.hhs.gov/oig).

*SOURCE:* [Consumer Alert: Remote Patient Monitoring | Office of Inspector General | Government Oversight | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov/oig)

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# INSIDE MEDICARE —

## What You Pay in Original Medicare in 2024: Part A

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Hospital Inpatient Stay</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1,632 deductible for each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 1–60: \$0 coinsurance for each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 61–90: \$408 coinsurance per day of each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 91 and beyond: \$816 coinsurance per each “lifetime reserve day” after day 90 for each benefit period (up to 60 days over your lifetime).</li> <li>▪ Beyond lifetime reserve days: all costs.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> You pay for private-duty nursing, a television, or a phone in your room. You pay for a private room unless it’s medically necessary.</p>   |
| <b>Mental Health Inpatient Stay</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1,632 deductible for each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 1–60: \$0 coinsurance per day of each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 61–90: \$408 coinsurance per day of each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 91 and beyond: \$816 coinsurance per each “lifetime reserve day” after day 90 for each benefit period (up to 60 days over your lifetime).</li> <li>▪ Beyond lifetime reserve days: all costs.</li> <li>▪ 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for mental health services you get from doctors and other providers while you’re a hospital inpatient.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> There’s no limit to the number of benefit periods you can have when you get mental health care in a general hospital. If you’re getting services at a psychiatric hospital, remember that Part A only pays for up to 190 days of inpatient psychiatric care during your lifetime.</p> |

## What You Pay in Original Medicare in 2024: Part A (continued)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Stay</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Days 1–20: \$0 for each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 21–100: \$204 coinsurance per day for each benefit period.</li> <li>▪ Days 101 and beyond: all costs.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Home Health Care</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$0 for home health care services.</li> <li>▪ 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for durable medical equipment (DME).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Hospice Care</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$0 for hospice care.</li> <li>▪ You may need to pay a copayment of no more than \$5 for each drug and other similar products for pain relief and symptom control while you’re at home. In the rare case your drug isn’t covered by the hospice benefit, your hospice provider should contact your Medicare drug plan to see if it’s covered under Medicare drug coverage (Part D).</li> <li>▪ You may need to pay 5% of the Medicare-approved amount for inpatient respite care.</li> <li>▪ Medicare won’t pay room and board for your care in a facility, unless the hospice medical team decides you need short-term inpatient care to manage pain and other symptoms. This care must be in a Medicare-approved facility, like a hospice facility, hospital, or skilled nursing facility that contracts with the hospice.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Blood</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If hospital gets it from a blood bank at no charge, you have no charge.</li> <li>▪ If the hospital has to buy blood for you, you must either pay the hospital costs for the first 3 units of blood you get in a calendar year or have the blood donated by you or someone else.</li> </ul>  |

## What You Pay in Original Medicare 2024: Part B

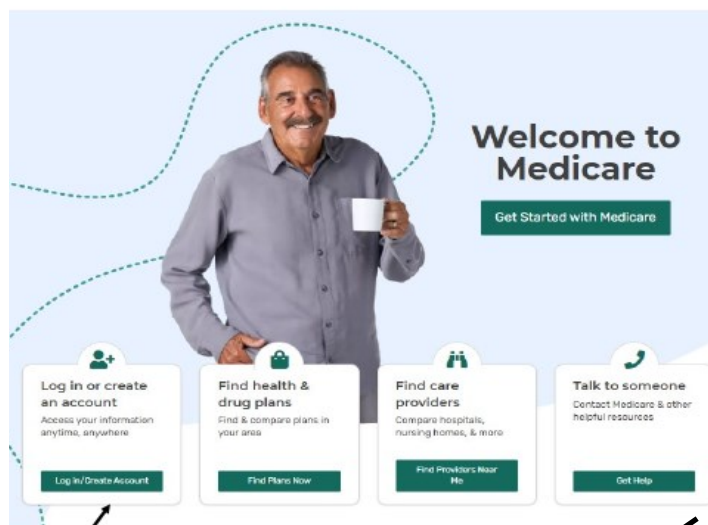
|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Yearly Deductible</b>               | \$240 in 2024  |
| <b>Coinsurance for Part B Services</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20% for most covered services, like doctor’s services and some preventive services, if provider accepts assignment</li> <li>▪ \$0 for most preventive services</li> <li>▪ 20% for outpatient mental health services, and copayments for hospital outpatient services</li> </ul> |

# INSIDE MEDICARE (Continued)—

## HAVE YOU CREATED YOUR MEDICARE ACCOUNT?

Did you know you can access your Medicare claims online within 24 hours of a claim being filed by your provider? You do not have to wait three months for your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) to arrive in the mail! This is a great way to review claims early and look for errors or suspected fraud on your Medicare number. You can also add your medications and names of providers and view preventive services Medicare approves. This is an excellent way to take charge of your healthcare and manage and review your services received. You can print your Medicare card or you can request a replacement card. ***It is easy!***

Simply go to [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) and click on **CREATE AN ACCOUNT**. You need to have your Medicare card handy. Fill in your Medicare number and the coverage start date month and year. Then click “next.” See screenshots below:



**Log in**

USERNAME

Save my username for next time  
Don't check if you're using a public device.  
[What's this?](#)

PASSWORD

Show

**Log in**

[Forgot username or password?](#)  
[Forgot username and password](#)  
[Find my account](#)

**Create an account**

Your secure Medicare account lets you access your information anytime.

- ✓ Get a summary of your current coverage
- ✓ Add your drugs & pharmacies
- ✓ Use your saved drugs & pharmacies to compare plan costs

**Create Account**

## Create an account

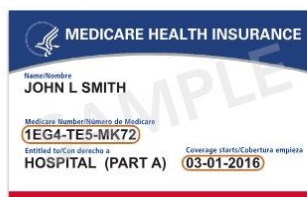
Step 1 of 3

### Enter your Medicare information

To get started, you'll need your red, white, and blue Medicare card.

[I don't have a Medicare card](#)

### Enter your Medicare Number and coverage start date



MEDICARE NUMBER

PART A COVERAGE START DATE

Use the format MM/YYYY

MONTH / YEAR

 / 

Don't have Part A?

[Get other options](#)

By giving us your personal information, you understand and agree with the Medicare.gov [Privacy Act Statement](#).

## INCARCERATION and MEDICARE (SEP):

Effective January 1, 2023, **formerly incarcerated** individuals qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP), which allows released individuals to enroll in Medicare Part B and **will not be** assessed a late enrollment penalty.

The **SEP** has a duration of 12 months starting the day of release and ending the last day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month post-release.

Individuals may choose between the following coverage effective dates:

- Retroactive coverage back to their release date (not to exceed 6 months—must pay the premiums for the retroactive covered time period; or

→ Coverage beginning the month after the month of enrollment.

If an individual is enrolled in Part B and becomes incarcerated, in order to maintain Part B (outpatient) coverage while incarcerated, consumers will have to pay the monthly Part B premium. If they do not pay the monthly premium, they will be unenrolled and lose Part B coverage.

Consumers who did not maintain coverage while incarcerated may face a coverage gap and/or a late enrollment penalty if they are released and do not sign up during the **SEP**.

Application For Medicare Part A and Part B Special Enrollment Period (Exceptional Circumstances):  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/cms-forms/cms-forms/cms-forms-list/cms10797>

# Identity Theft Resources



Victims of identity theft experience a wide variety of incidents such as the misuse of existing credit card, bank, or other accounts; the creation of new accounts; and the misuse of personal information. Victims may face seemingly insurmountable hurdles as they work to address the crimes they are currently experiencing and prevent their future victimization.

## The following resources provide information on identity theft.

Approximately 9 percent of persons in the United States age 16 or older—23.9 million people—reported being victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months, according to [2021 Bureau of Justice Statistics data](#).

Discover sample resources to help you raise awareness on the Federal Trade Commission's [2024 Identity Theft Awareness Week](#) page.

OVC offers a free, self-paced online training to help service providers more effectively serve victims of identity theft and assist with their financial and emotional recovery.

Learn more and register for the [Identity Theft Victim Assistance Online Training: Supporting Victims' Financial and Emotional Recovery](#).

OVC grantee, the [Identity Theft Resource Center](#), offers identity recovery assistance. Victims of identity theft can contact the Center toll free at 888-400-5530 or through [live chat](#) Monday–Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time. Their free [ID Theft Help App](#) provides resources for identity theft victims and offers educational tools on how to protect against identity theft.

In FY 2022, OVC also [awarded \\$2 Million](#) to the Identity Theft Resource Center to enhance and expand its national hotline operations, which will allow the Center to respond to new threats and challenges for victims of identity theft and cybercrime.

The Identity Theft Resource Center also publishes information to help service providers and others understand trends in identity theft. Their [2023 Consumer Impact Report](#) describes the emotional and practical effects on the day-to-day lives of identity theft victims.

Visit the OVC [Identity Theft](#) topic page for additional information on serving victims of this crime.

**THE AR SMP** educates Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, as well as their families and caregivers, to identify and report deceptive health care practices, such as double-billing, overcharging, and providing unnecessary or inappropriate services. We also inform and alert them of the scams targeting seniors! It is important to know about scams in order to recognize and avoid becoming a victim!

We serve the entire state of Arkansas, and we would welcome the opportunity to come to you and present our message of fraud and scam detection and reporting.

We want to protect you and your loved one from falling victim.

**Call to schedule a  
free presentation  
or for more information  
about the  
AR Senior Medicare Patrol  
call  
866-726-2916**

## SSA Updates:

### Mobile Check-in Express Using QR Code—



For Mobile Check-in Express to work, you must be at the local SS office and have location services on. Mobile Check-in Express allows individuals to check in and get their ticket number by scanning the QR code when you are inside the SSA office. This will alert you when they are ready to help you.

For more information from SSA's blog:  
[Save Your Place in Line with Mobile Check-in Express](#)

## ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING



*Helping the aging population of Arkansas lead better, more independent lives.*

CONNECTING FAMILIES WITH ELDER CARE

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) provide information and resources to older people who are looking for the services they need. There is an AAA in your county!

For an Agency near you, contact the Arkansas Association of AAAs at 866-245-5498 or visit <https://agingarkansas.org/>

# Inflation Reduction Act

President Biden's prescription drug law, the Inflation Reduction Act, was signed into law on August 16, 2022. This law provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by expanding benefits, lowering drug costs, and strengthening Medicare for the future.

## What's New—

### Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help) Program Expansion

Additional savings are available to those eligible for Medicare's Extra Help program. Starting January 2024, the Extra Help program's full benefit is available to all eligible Medicare recipients.

In 2024, everyone who qualifies for Extra Help will pay:

- \$0 for Medicare drug plan premium
- \$0 for plan deductible
- A reduced amount for both generic and brand-name drugs

More information on the Extra Help program is available at [Medicare.gov/ExtraHelp](https://www.Medicare.gov/ExtraHelp). To enroll in the Extra Help program, visit SSA online at [ssa.gov/extrahelp](https://www.ssa.gov/extrahelp).

### Medicare Part D Out-of-Pocket Costs

As of January 1, 2024, some beneficiaries' out-of-pocket prescription drug costs will be capped at about \$3,500 per year. Additional savings arrive in 2025 when yearly Part D out-of-pocket costs will be capped at \$2,000.



USE YOUR QR CODE APP OR YOUR CELL PHONE CAMERA TO SCAN/CLICK ON THE QR CODE TO THE LEFT. THIS WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE AR SMP WEBSITE WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS ALL OUR PROGRAM INFORMATION, MATERIALS, SCAM ALERTS, NEWSLETTERS, FACEBOOK PAGE, AND CONTACT INFORMATION.



Looking for a speaker for your group or organization?

Call your AR SMP to schedule a **FREE** program on Medicare fraud prevention and scam awareness  
**866-726-2916**



Preventing Medicare Fraud


It's free!

**REQUEST A MY HEALTH CARE TRACKER**



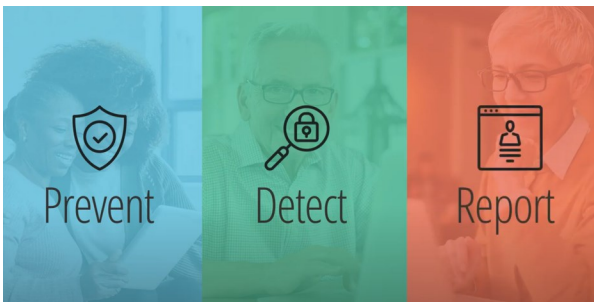
My Health Care Tracker

Protect yourself from fraud by tracking your health care



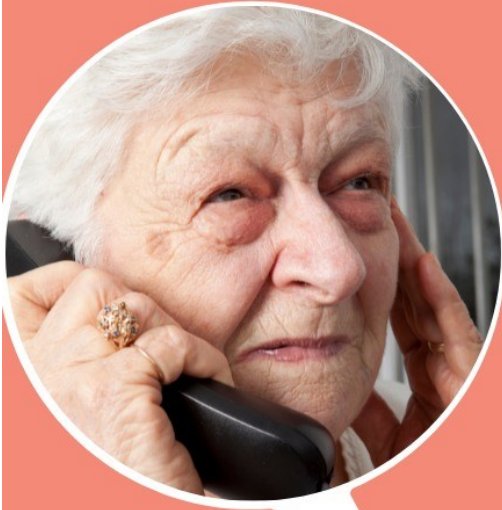
PROTECT DETECT REPORT

2024



Prevent Detect Report

The Medicare Beneficiary Survey conducted by NORC is a legitimate survey. You will be notified by Medicare in advance via letter to schedule the phone interview. This is optional! If you get a call and are not sure if it is legitimate, call NORC at 877-389-3429 to verify.



# Hello Medicare, is that really you?

Medicare will be conducting their Beneficiary Survey via phone due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are chosen for the survey, you will receive a letter to schedule a phone interview and alert you that NORC, a company working with Medicare, will be calling you.

Be aware that scammers often pretend to be from Medicare to steal your information. **Don't give your personal information over the phone unless you can verify the caller.**



Preventing Medicare Fraud  
**1.877.808.2468**

SUPPORTED BY GRANT # 90MPC0002 FROM ACL

If you get a call and aren't sure it is legitimate, contact the Medicare surveyors (NORC) at 1-877-389-3429 to make sure it was really them calling.

NORC at the University of Chicago is an objective, nonpartisan research organization that delivers insights and analysis decision makers trust. NORC has the subject matter expertise and outreach capacity to design and evaluate a variety of programs to track and mitigate infectious diseases.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has made manifest, there is a critical need among policymakers, the scientific community, and the public for clear, reliable data on infectious diseases.

NORC conducts a range of research, surveillance, and program evaluations meant to help monitor and reduce the spread of infectious diseases. In the early days of the pandemic, NORC quickly adapted their telephone interview capacities to conduct contract tracing in Delaware and Maryland and added COVID-specific supplements to the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey. They also conducted a host of other COVID-specific research. From 2005 through 2022, NORC administered the National Immunization Survey for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, providing essential information on immunization rates. Their research scientists also evaluate a range of interventions and strategies for HIV prevention and treatment for populations, including older adults, sexual and gender minority youth, and black men who have sex with men.

For more information: [Who We Are | NORC at the University of Chicago](#)

## TERMINOLOGY —

### SOGI :

The term **SOGI** is an acronym that stands for **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**.

The SMP programs will begin collecting SOGI information/data from beneficiaries as an important aspect of SMP programs to help us better assist with and navigate the health care issues facing the adult LGBTQ+ community.

Our federal partner (ACL) mandates that we ask these questions of ALL beneficiaries to create a safe and inclusive environment, which will lead to providing resources and interventions essential to better serving and meeting the unique needs and challenges facing LGBTQ+ older adults.

Responses are voluntary and not required, but the questions must be asked.

### MEDICARE STATEMENT RED FLAGS

Look through claims and watch for words like:

- ✗ Diabetic supplies
- ✗ Hospice
- ✗ Glucose monitors
- ✗ Urinary catheters
- ✗ Genetic tests

Report suspicious claims to the SMP.



[www.Facebook.com/Arkansas Senior Medicare Patrol](http://www.Facebook.com/Arkansas Senior Medicare Patrol)

# Be aware of **SCAM(S)**:

Report all scams to the Arkansas SMP — **866-726-2916**

## Urinary Catheter SCAM/FRAUD

The AR SMP has received several reports of urinary catheter kits showing up as claims on Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) and the beneficiary has never received them and their doctor did not order them; however, the providers are being paid.

## What You Should Know:

Medicare recipients are receiving MSN showing catheter charges from providers they do not know. These claims are being paid by Medicare.

## How to Respond:

- Please review all claims on your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs). If you see something that seems wrong or you don't understand, contact the AR SMP.
- If you see charges for “intermittent urinary catheter” that you did not receive or your doctor did not order, call the AR SMP.
- If a scammer has tricked you into giving your Medicare number, report it to the AR SMP.
- Always read your MSNs to look for charges for things you did not receive, and that your doctor did not order.
- If you are suspicious of any calls you receive, before you respond, hang up and call the AR SMP.



## **SAMP LE MSN** showing charges for Intermittent urinary catheter:

THIS IS NOT A BILL | Page 3 of 4

### Your Claims for Part B (Medical Insurance)

Part B Medical Insurance helps pay for durable medical equipment and other health care services.

**Definitions of Columns**

**Item/Service Approved?:** This column tells you if Medicare covered the item or service.

**Amount Supplier Charged:** This is your supplier's fee for this item or service.

**Medicare-Approved Amount:** This is the amount a supplier can be paid for a Medicare item or service. It may be less than the actual amount the supplier charged. Your supplier has agreed to accept this amount as full payment for covered items or services. Medicare usually pays 80% of the Medicare-approved amount.

**Amount Medicare Paid:** This is the amount Medicare paid the supplier. This is usually 80% of the Medicare-approved amount.

**Maximum You May Be Billed:** This is the total amount the supplier is allowed to bill you and can include a deductible, coinsurance, and other charges not covered. If you have Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap policy) or other insurance, it may pay all or part of this amount.

April 17 - May 17, 2023

Ordered by [REDACTED]

| Quantity, Item/Service Provided & Billing Code  | Item/Service Approved? | Amount Supplier Charged | Medicare-Approved Amount | Amount Medicare Paid | Maximum You May Be Billed | Se<br>Ne<br>Be |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| April 17, 2023<br>200 Intermittent urinary catheter, with insertion supplies (A4353-KX) | Yes                    | \$1,940.00              | \$1,864.00               | \$1,461.38           | \$372.80                  |                |
| May 17, 2023<br>200 Intermittent urinary catheter, with insertion supplies (A4353-KX)   | Yes                    | 1,940.00                | 1,864.00                 | 1,461.38             | 372.80                    |                |
| <b>Total for Claim # [REDACTED]</b>   |                        | <b>\$3,880.00</b>       | <b>\$3,728.00</b>        | <b>\$2,922.76</b>    | <b>\$745.60</b>           |                |

**REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP — 866-726-2916**

# Elder LGBTQ Information

## Planning for Lifelong Care for Transgender and Non-binary People Webinar SAGE / Advocacy & Services for LGBT Elders / National Resource Center on LGBT Aging

Q&A Session after webinar November 2023 —

### Question:

What work has been done regarding services for solo seniors in our community... with no family of origin or close friends, may be low income and unstably housed, forced to return to the closet, dealing with rejection.

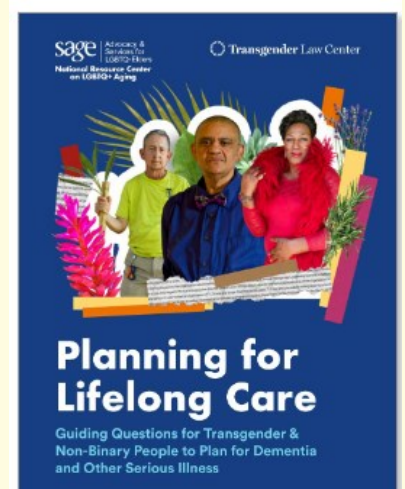
Unfortunately, some of our community are aging alone/in isolation. What resources are available for solo agers if they need legal or other support and don't have community available to step in?

### Answer:

We recommend that people check to see if there is a SAGE partner organization where they live through [SAGECollab](#), as well as finding the local Area National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging – [www.lgbtagingcenter.org](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org) [Agency on Aging](#), who often have LGBTQ+ programming. Many local [LGBTQ+ centers](#) also have programming for older adults. SAGE also maintains a phone buddy program called [SAGEConnect](#) that matches volunteers with LGBTQ+ older people for regular phone check-ins. For legal services, we recommend checking for a nearby [LGBTQ+ community health center](#), who sometimes offer sliding-scale legal services through an arrangement called medical-legal partnership. [Some legal aid or legal services organizations](#) offer assistance with benefits and advance directives, some even tailored for LGBTQ+ legal issues. Another resource is the local [LGBTQ+ bar association](#) who may be able to help you locate the right lawyer for your legal issue. Finally, there may be an organization nearby like [The Care Plan](#) in Chicago that offers culturally-informed advance care planning services for LGBTQ+ people and people of color, including paid healthcare agents/

The SAGE National Resource Center is joined by the Transgender Law Center for the webinar Planning for Lifelong Care Webinar - Guiding Questions for Transgender & Non-binary People to Plan for Dementia and Other Serious Illnesses.

The webinar supports the tools and resources found in [this guide: Planning for Lifelong Care: Guiding Questions for Transgender & Non-Binary People to Plan for Dementia and Other Serious Illness](#)

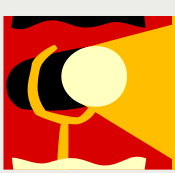


Facebook.com/ARSeniorMedicarePatrol



Preventing Medicare Fraud

866-726-2916



# SMP VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

## Really Special and Valuable People!

Jacksonville—November 30, 2023  
**JACKSONVILLE TOWERS / AR SMP FRAUD BINGO**



**WATSON CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
PINE BLUFF / November 28, 2023

Thank you Carroll Aston and Sharon Courson for the invitation! We enjoyed your group!



**GOOD TURNOUT!**



**WORLEY'S PLACE, Jacksonville**  
Future Builders' ACS RSVP LUNCH & LEARN  
OCTOBER 25, 2023  
LOUISE FORD, AR SMP VOLUNTEER





November 29, 2023

## **Attorney General Griffin Charges Dr. Brian Hyatt With Two Counts of Felony Medicaid Fraud**

SPRINGDALE—Dr. Brian Hyatt, psychiatrist, (Northwest Medical Center), and former Arkansas Medical Board Chairman was charged with two counts of Medicaid fraud for making fraudulent claims in excess of \$300,000 between January 1 and April 29, 2022. The Medicaid claims were for a level of care that patients were not receiving. Surveillance footage and additional investigations showed Hyatt spent less than 10 minutes with patients or never saw them at all, when the claims filed were for detailed examinations requiring highly complex medical decisions.

SOURCE: [Attorney General Griffin Charges Dr. Brian Hyatt with Two Counts of Felony Medicaid Fraud – Arkansas Attorney General \(arkansasag.gov\)](#)

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December 4, 2023

## **Med First Agrees to Pay \$1,450,000 to Resolve Health Care Fraud Allegations in South Carolina ClinicMed**

NORTH/SOUTH CAROLINA—First Immediate Care & Family Practice P.A. has agreed to pay the government \$1.45 million to resolve False Claims Act allegations that its clinic in Dillon, South Carolina, had been operating as a pill mill and falsely filing claims to Medicare and Medicaid for medically unnecessary urine drug testing (UDT) as well as lengthy and complex office visits that were not performed. This investigation was initiated when a whistleblower filed a lawsuit under the False Claims Act resulting in a payment of \$261,000 as his share of the government's recovery.

SOURCE: [Middle District of North Carolina | Med First Agrees to Pay \\$1,450,000 to Resolve Health Care Fraud Allegations in South Carolina Clinic | United States Department of Justice](#)

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January 30, 2024

## **Serial Health Care Fraudster Sentenced for \$234M Medicare Fraud Scheme**

CALIFORNIA—A California man was sentenced to 10 years in prison for conspiring to conceal his involvement in operating a laboratory and billing Medicare approximately \$234 million for various lab tests, including COVID-19 and respiratory pathogen panel tests, despite his decades-long exclusion from the Medicare program.

He had been convicted in separate 1990 and 2001 cases, having pled guilty of conspiracy to pay and receive kickbacks and other charges through his operations in health care clinics and clinical testing laboratories in New York. As a result, he was excluded from participation in Medicare and all federal health care programs but continued to bill these federal health care programs between August 2018 and April 2022. He was arrested and ordered detained without bond, for fraudulently billing Medicare approximately \$234 million for which Medicare paid approximately \$31.7 million based on these fraudulent claims. He sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay \$31.7 million in restitution.

SOURCE: [Office of Public Affairs | Serial Health Care Fraudster Sentenced for \\$234M Medicare Fraud Scheme | United States Department of Justice](#)

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December 5, 2023

## **Jury finds caregiver guilty of felony elder abuse, fraud**

Garland County AR—Arkansas' Attorney General announced the sentencing of a woman for Abuse of Adults Exploitation, Class B Felony and Medicaid Fraud, Class A Misdemeanor. She will serve 5 years in prison and was ordered to pay \$125,000 in restitution to her victim. The perpetrator was a local tax preparer and neighbor of the victim, and forged documents to get financial power of attorney and took money within days. She also attempted to obtain guardianship in order to sell the victim's home and also take that money for herself.

SOURCE: [Attorney General Griffin Announces Sentencing in Garland County Elder Abuse Case – Arkansas Attorney General \(arkansasag.gov\)](#)

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>AANHR</b> —AR Advocates for Nursing Home Residents   | <b>501-548-8423</b>   |
| <b>AFMC</b> —AR Foundation for Medical Care             | <b>1-888-354-9100</b> |
| <b>Area Agency on Aging</b>                             | <b>1-800-986-3505</b> |
| <b>AG-Attorney General</b> (Consmr Prot Div)            | <b>1-800-482-8982</b> |
| <b>AG Medicaid Fraud Hotline</b>                        | <b>1-866-810-0016</b> |
| <b>APS</b> —Adult Protective Services (DHS)             | <b>1-800-482-8049</b> |
| <b>Alzheimer's Arkansas</b>                             | <b>501-224-0021</b>   |
| <b>Arkansas Rehabilitation Services</b>                 | <b>1-800-981-4463</b> |
| <b>AR SMP</b> (Healthcare Fraud & Scams)                | <b>1-866-726-2916</b> |
| <b>Better Business Bureau (BBB)</b>                     | <b>501-664-7274</b>   |
| <b>CareLink</b> (Pulaski Co)                            | <b>501-372-5300</b>   |
| <b>CMS</b> —1-800MEDICARE                               | <b>1-800-633-4227</b> |
| (Medicare)—(Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) |                       |
| <b>Community Health Centers of AR</b>                   | <b>1-877-666-2422</b> |
| <b>Coordination of Benefits</b>                         | <b>1-855-798-2627</b> |
| <b>DHS</b> (Customer Assistance Unit)                   | <b>1-800-482-8988</b> |
| <b>DHS Resource Center</b>                              | <b>1-866-801-3435</b> |
| <b>Do Not Call Registry</b>                             | <b>1-888-382-1222</b> |
| <b>El Dorado Connections/RSVP</b>                       | <b>1-870-864-7080</b> |
| <b>Elder Care Locator</b>                               | <b>1-800-677-1116</b> |
| <b>Federal Trade Commission</b>                         |                       |
| Report <b>STOLEN IDENTITY</b>                           | <b>1-877-438-4338</b> |
| <b>Future Builders' AmeriCorps Srs RSVP</b>             | <b>501-897-0793</b>   |
| <b>ICan</b> —Increasing Capabilities Access Network     | <b>501-666-8868</b>   |
| <b>KEPRO</b> -AR QIO(Quality Improvmt Org)              | <b>1-888-315-0636</b> |
| <b>LGBTQ+ Elder Hotline (SAGE)</b>                      | <b>1-888-234-SAGE</b> |
| <b>Medicaid</b> —(Claims Unit)                          | <b>1-800-482-5431</b> |
| <b>Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG)</b>                | <b>1-855-527-6644</b> |
| <b>MEDICARE</b> (CMS 1-800MEDICARE)                     | <b>1-800-633-4227</b> |
| <b>Medicare Part D</b>                                  | <b>1-877-772-3379</b> |
| <b>Medicare Rights Center</b>                           | <b>1-800-333-4114</b> |
| <b>Mid-Delta Community Consortium</b>                   | <b>1-870-407-9000</b> |
| <b>Oaklawn Foundation Inc.</b>                          | <b>501-623-0020</b>   |
| <b>OIG</b> -Nat'l Medicare Fraud Hotline                | <b>1-800-HHS-TIPS</b> |
| (OIG) Office of Inspector General                       | <b>1-800-447-8477</b> |
| <b>OLTC</b> —Office of Long Term Care                   | <b>1-800-LTC-4887</b> |
| <b>OLTC</b> —Abuse Complaint Section                    | <b>501-682-8430</b>   |
| <b>Ombudsman</b> —State Ofc of Long Term Care           | <b>501-682-8952</b>   |
| <b>Resource Center (ADRC)</b>                           | <b>1-866-801-3435</b> |
| (DHS'S Choices in Living Resource Center)               |                       |
| <b>SHIIP</b> (Senior Health Ins. Info Program)          | <b>1-800-224-6330</b> |
| <b>SMP Locator</b> —(locate an SMP outside AR)          | <b>1-877-808-2468</b> |
| <b>SSA</b> (Social Security Administration)             | <b>1-800-772-1213</b> |
| Little Rock Office                                      | <b>1-866-593-0933</b> |
| <b>SSA Fraud Hotline</b>                                | <b>1-800-269-0271</b> |
| <b>South Central Center on Aging</b>                    | <b>1-866-895-2795</b> |
| <b>SEARK Foster Grandparent Prog</b>                    | <b>1-870-367-4819</b> |
| <b>Texarkana Regional Center on Aging</b>               | <b>1-870-773-2030</b> |
| <b>Tri-County Rural Health Network</b>                  | <b>1-870-338-8900</b> |
| <b>UALR Senior Justice Center</b>                       | <b>501-683-7153</b>   |
| <b>UofA Cooperative Extension Service</b>               | <b>501-671-2000</b>   |

## HELPFUL WEBSITES:



**ADRC**—AR Aging & Disability Resource Center (DHS)—  
[www.choicesinliving.ar.gov/](http://www.choicesinliving.ar.gov/)

**AR Advocates for Nursing Home Residents**  
(AANHR)—[www.aanhr.org](http://www.aanhr.org); **e-mail:** [Info@aanhr.org](mailto:Info@aanhr.org)

**AR Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**—  
[www.arombudsman.com](http://www.arombudsman.com)

**Arkansas Aging Initiative**—<http://aging.uams.edu/?id=4605&sid=6>

**Arkansas Attorney General**—[www.arkansasag.gov](http://www.arkansasag.gov)

**AR Attorney General Consumer Protection Division**—  
**e-mail:** [consumer@ag.state.ar.us](mailto:consumer@ag.state.ar.us)

**Area Agencies on Aging**—<https://agingarkansas.org/>

**Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care**—[www.afmc.org](http://www.afmc.org)

**Arkansas SMP**—[www.ar.gov/SMP](http://www.ar.gov/SMP)

**BBB (Better Business Bureau)**—scams and alerts—  
<https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/arkansas/>

**CMS (Medicare) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**—  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)

**DHS**—<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov>

**Do Not Call**—[www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)

**Do Not Mail**—[www.DMAchoice.org](http://www.DMAchoice.org)

**Elder Tree / Spinsterhaven**—[Spinsterhaven@gmail.com](mailto:Spinsterhaven@gmail.com)

**Elder Care Locator**—[www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov)

**H.E.A.T**—[www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/](http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/)  
(Healthcare Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team)

**LGBTQ+ National Resource Cntr on LGBTQ+ Aging**—  
<https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org>

**MEDICAID**—[www.Medicaid.gov](http://www.Medicaid.gov)

**MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL (OMIG)**—  
<http://omig.arkansas.gov/fraud-form>

**MEDICARE**—[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Medicare Interactive Counselor**—  
[www.medicareinteractive.org](http://www.medicareinteractive.org)

**Hospital Compare**—[www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov)

**Medicare.gov**—**CREATE AN ACCOUNT**—  
[www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov)-Log in or Create an Account and access your  
Medicare claims and other information

**MyMedicareMatters.org** (National Council on Aging)

**Office of Long Term Care**—<https://humanservices.arkansas.gov>

**Office of Inspector General (OIG)**—email:  
[HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov)

**Pharmaceutical Assistance Program**—  
[www.medicare.gov/pap/index.asp](http://www.medicare.gov/pap/index.asp)

**Physician Compare**—[www.medicare.gov/find-a-doctor](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-doctor)

**AR SHIIP**—<https://insurance.arkansas.gov/pages/consumer-services/senior-health/>

**SMP Locator**—[SMPResource.org](http://SMPResource.org) (locate an SMP outside of AR)

**Social Security Administration (SSA)**—[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**Spinsterhaven**—[Spinsterhaven@gmail.com](mailto:Spinsterhaven@gmail.com)

**SSA OIG**—Report SS Fraud—<https://oig.ssa.gov/report>

**TAP**—[www.arsinfo.org](http://www.arsinfo.org) (Telecommunications Access Program)

**UofA Cooperative Extension Service**—[www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu)

# SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL (SMP) MISSION

“To empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, error, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education.”

## TO PREVENT HEALTHCARE FRAUD—

### Protect Personal Information

- \* Treat Medicare/Medicaid and Social Security numbers like credit card numbers.
- \* Remember, Medicare will not call or make personal visits to sell anything!
- \* READ and SAVE Medicare Summary Notices (MSN) and Part D Explanation of benefits (EOB), but **shred** before discarding.

### Detect Errors, Fraud, and Abuse

- \* Always review MSN and EOB for mistakes.
- \* Compare them with your Personal Health Care Journal.
- \* Visit [www.mymedicare.gov](http://www.mymedicare.gov) to access your personal account online to look for charges for something you did not get, billing for the same thing more than once, and services that were not ordered and/or you never received.

### Report Mistakes or Questions

- \* If you suspect errors, fraud, or abuse, report it immediately! Call your provider or plan **first**.
- \* If you are not satisfied with their response, call the Arkansas SMP.

## TO RECRUIT & TRAIN VOLUNTEERS—

- \* Retired seniors;
- \* Retired health-care providers; or
- \* Retired professionals, *e.g.*, teachers, accountants, attorneys, investigators, nurses.



**SMP**

Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud

## AR SMP PARTNERS

### El Dorado Connections/RSVP

El Dorado, AR  
870-864-7080

### Future Builders' ACS RSVP

Wrightsville, AR  
501-897-0793

### SEARK Foster Grandparent Program

Monticello, AR  
870-367-4819

### Oaklawn Foundation Inc.

Hot Springs, AR  
501-623-0020

### Spinsterhaven

Fayetteville, AR  
[Spinsterhaven@gmail.com](mailto:Spinsterhaven@gmail.com)

### Tri County Rural Health Network

Helena, AR  
870-338-8900

### Arkansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging

866-245-5498

### UAMS

### Centers on Aging

### South Central Center on Aging

Pine Bluff, AR  
870-879-1440

### Texarkana Regional

### Center on Aging

Texarkana, AR  
870-773-2030

To receive the **Arkansas SMP Newsletter** call or email:  
[kathleen.pursell@arkansas.gov](mailto:kathleen.pursell@arkansas.gov) — **866-726-2916**



**SMP**

Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud

Arkansas Senior Medicare Patrol (AR SMP)

Arkansas Insurance Department (AID)

1 Commerce Way—Ste 110

Little Rock AR 72202

Report Medicare Fraud, Error & Abuse

**1-866-726-2916**