

## Medicare Fraud Prevention

June is the perfect time to focus on Medicare fraud prevention outreach, especially as **June 1-5 is Medicare Fraud Prevention Week**. This national awareness week, supported by the [Senior Medicare Patrol \(SMP\)](#), encourages beneficiaries, caregivers, and community partners to learn how to recognize, prevent, and report Medicare fraud.

The SMP program promotes three simple, but effective steps beneficiaries can take to help prevent Medicare fraud: **Protect, Detect, and Report**.

**Protect:** Encourage beneficiaries to protect their medical identification cards, treat their Medicare card and number like they would a credit card and avoid sharing it with unsolicited callers or unfamiliar organizations. Treat any offer of free services in exchange for your Medicare or health care identification number with caution and suspicion.

**Detect:** Educate beneficiaries on how they can help detect fraud by reviewing Medicare Summary Notices and Explanation of Benefits for services they did not receive, duplicate charges, or unfamiliar billing. Encouraging beneficiaries to regularly review their Medicare paperwork can help identify problems early.

**Report:** If beneficiaries notice suspicious activity or possible billing errors, encourage them to call their health care provider, health plan, Senior Medicare Patrol or contact a local SHIP counselor for assistance.

**You can incorporate information on Medicare fraud into your existing outreach efforts by:**

- Sharing fraud prevention tips in newsletters or [social media](#)
- Host presentations at senior centers or libraries
- Staff an outreach table at wellness events or farmers markets, and
- Distribute [SMP educational materials](#)

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## Common scams to highlight may include:

- Durable medical equipment scams
- Scam phone calls requesting Medicare numbers
- Deceptive Medicare advertisements
- Identity theft, or
- Billing for services never received.



Fraud prevention outreach helps beneficiaries feel informed and empowered rather than fearful. By incorporating scam awareness into regular Medicare outreach, you can continue strengthening trust, community-based education and support for beneficiaries.

SMP also offers presentations ranging from 15 to 60 minutes and have an engagement activity which provides more interaction with the attendees. To request a SMP Presentation complete the following form at <https://www.smpwi.org/request-smp-presentation/>.

Outreach materials and additional resources are available through [SMP Resource](#) or [SMP Wisconsin](#).

## GWAAR Medicare Outreach and Assistance Resources updates:

- New to Medicare
  - Outreach Material
    - [Creating a Medicare Account at Medicare.gov Video](#)
    - [Creating a Medicare Account at Medicare.gov \(PPT\)](#)
    - [Using the Plan Finder on Medicare.gov Video](#)
    - [Using the Plan Finder on Medicare.gov \(PPT\)](#)
  - Welcome to Medicare PowerPoints
    - [English 2026 Customizable \(PPT\)](#)
    - [English 2026 Figures \(PDF\)](#)
    - [English 2026 Figures \(PPT\)](#)
  - Welcome to Medicare Videos
    - [English](#) (6 Part Series)

These videos and some PowerPoints can also be found on the [Educational Videos for Medicare Outreach](#) page.

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Medicare Mingle is a casual and informative meeting aimed at supporting Wisconsin SHIP counselors in their role of guiding individuals through the Medicare process.

Medicare Mingle provides a chance for SHIP Counselors to:

- Connect with your peers
- Offer and receive support
- Seek advice
- Explore outreach strategies, what's working and what's not
- Discuss various Medicare topics

### **2026 Medicare Mingle Dates**

|                     |                 |                           |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Wednesday June 24   | 9:00am-10:00am  | <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> |
| Wednesday August 26 | 10:00am-11:00am | <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> |
| Wednesday October 7 | 9:00am-10:00am  | <a href="#">Zoom Link</a> |

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**Navigating Medicare**