



# SMP SNAPSHOT

## LOUISIANA SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

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### ***SUPPLY & DEMAND***

Life is full of surprises, some good and some, not so good. Who would have predicted a worldwide pandemic just a few years ago? Who would have predicted record snowfall in Louisiana this winter? Who would have predicted epic wildfires; a Bourbon Street massacre; or eggs selling at a price exceeding \$6.00 a dozen! Each of these catastrophes created a SUPPLY and DEMAND phenomenon.

It has been proven repeatedly that when SUPPLY is limited, DEMAND increases. We have seen this recently in the demand for some of the recently introduced weight control drugs. The DEMAND was tremendous, but the SUPPLY was limited. It did not take long for scammers to see their money-making opportunity and dove right in. Fake medications were quickly made available online and by phone, and at a greatly reduced rate, which is a definite red flag for the scam savvy. The DEMAND is still there, but fortunately, so is the SUPPLY, from ethical and safe suppliers. Prescription drug fraud is just one of many forms of Medicare fraud, waste and abuse.

Scammers see the money-making opportunity in our Medicare program as well. Life expectancy has increased, and we are living longer and healthier lives, resulting in an increased SUPPLY of beneficiaries and more DEMAND for Medicare. With more of us now using Medicare, more of us are at risk of Medicare fraud. The SUPPLY and DEMAND phenomenon applies to Medicare in the same manner it does to any other business or commodity.

Scammers see the vulnerability and availability of seniors and seize every opportunity to victimize this huge SUPPLY of Medicare beneficiaries! They see seniors as potential victims, but we are showing them that we are not! What scammers did not anticipate is our generation of

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## SUPPLY & DEMAND, cont.

intelligent, outspoken fraud-savvy beneficiaries! They did not anticipate programs like Senior Medicare Patrol that relentlessly work to arm beneficiaries, family members, and caregivers with the tools, education, and expertise to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse.

As the SUPPLY of beneficiaries and the DEMAND for Medicare coverage continues to increase, SMP will remain vigilant in our commitment to fighting Medicare fraud and to educating Medicare beneficiaries on these deceitful practices.

If you have questions, would like more information, or need assistance, please feel free to contact Senior Medicare Patrol at 877-272-8720. Please follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Spotify & Apple Podcasts, or visit us at [www.stopmedicarefraud.org](http://www.stopmedicarefraud.org).

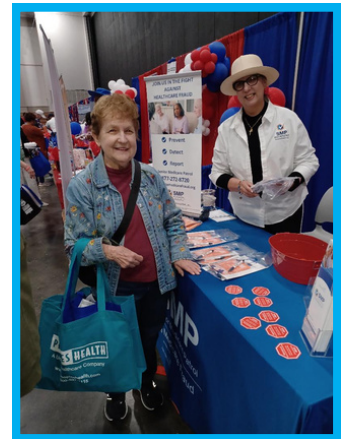
by Yulandera Moody, SMP Community Outreach Specialist

### EVENT SPOTLIGHT

We would like to thank **Mrs. Audrey Clapp from AARP #4924**, Metairie, La., for inviting us to their monthly AARP meeting in February. We talked about our Senior Medicare Patrol program and how everyone can help to prevent Medicare fraud. This was their first SMP presentation and we had plenty of questions from the 82 members that attended this meeting. It was a wonderful audience!



Every year the Louisiana SMP is a proud sponsor of the **Jefferson Parish Senior Expo**. This year, with its Red, White and Blue theme, the event was a great success! We were able to reach more than 300 seniors and speak to some on how to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud. We also met Ms. Eleanor Vincent, one of our regular Virtual Bingo players. It was very gratifying to hear her talk about the SMP program and all that she has learned by participating in our monthly games.



A special thanks to Sydna, our SMP volunteer, for helping us out at the SMP table at this great event.

#### Virtual Bingo w/ SMP:

April 17th at 2:00p  
May 22nd at 2:00p



#### Webinar Wednesdays w/ SMP:

April 30th at 10:30CT/11:30ET - Genetic Testing Scams  
May 28th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Virtual Healthcare Scams  
June 25th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Volunteering for SMP

Click on links above to register.



# 877-272-8720

This project in Louisiana is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$509,005.00 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the US Government.