



SMP CONNECT

VERMONT SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

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MUD SEASON IN VERMONT

It's mud season here in Vermont. Snow is melting. The ground is thawing. The sun stays out longer and longer. It's important to get out and enjoy the changing weather. Still, scammers love to scam during all the seasons. It's important to stay vigilant.

As always, you will need to avoid suspicious calls. Scammers will call and pretend to be working for Medicare or social security or other important places. They may pretend to be law enforcement. They may say they need your personal information to keep a loved one or yourself out of jail. Scammers are getting pushier and more creative. It's frightening. Luckily, there are easy ways to avoid these people.

- **Avoid any phone calls from numbers you do not recognize.** If you do answer, hang up and don't give out any of your information. Do not accept free merchandise, or kickbacks.
- **Remember, Medicare will never call you.** If someone says they are from Medicare, hang up. It is not a legitimate call.
- If you feel like you have been a victim of fraud, **contact Senior Medicare Patrol at 877-272-8720.**
- **Stay organized.** Mud season makes Spring cleaning intense, but it's also the perfect time to take care of your MSN's and EOB's. Keep them in a file somewhere safe, easy to get to and easy to remember. Make sure to look them over. If you need help organizing and understanding the material, reach out to a friend, family member or senior center in your area.

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MUD SEASON, cont.

Mud season will stick around for a while. There may be a couple more snowstorms. Spring will be here soon enough though. Keep organized. Don't let these fraudsters get to you. Don't let them complicate your life and time. Avoid those phone calls. Try to enjoy the sun and listen to the birds. There are more birds than scammers.

Justin Grimbol, Community Outreach Specialist

SMP ON THE MOVE

Being part of Senior Medicare Patrol can be a lot of fun. Seniors in Vermont are very engaged and friendly. Our Community Outreach Specialist, Justin Grimbol, had an especially nice time giving an SMP presentation at the **Whitingham Municipal Center** in Jacksonville. They have formed a great community there. During the fraud talk, there were wonderful discussions and food.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful **SASH** (Support and Services at Home) coordinators for their support of the SMP program throughout Vermont. They have welcomed Jean McDermott, VT Team Lead, with open arms, scheduling her for our Fraud Talk presentations at their facilities.



Be the first to know about the latest in Medicare fraud and scams. Using your cell phone camera, scan the QR code for a link to our website, Facebook page, YouTube channel and listen to our podcasts, Sip & Learn with Senior Medicare Patrol.



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

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