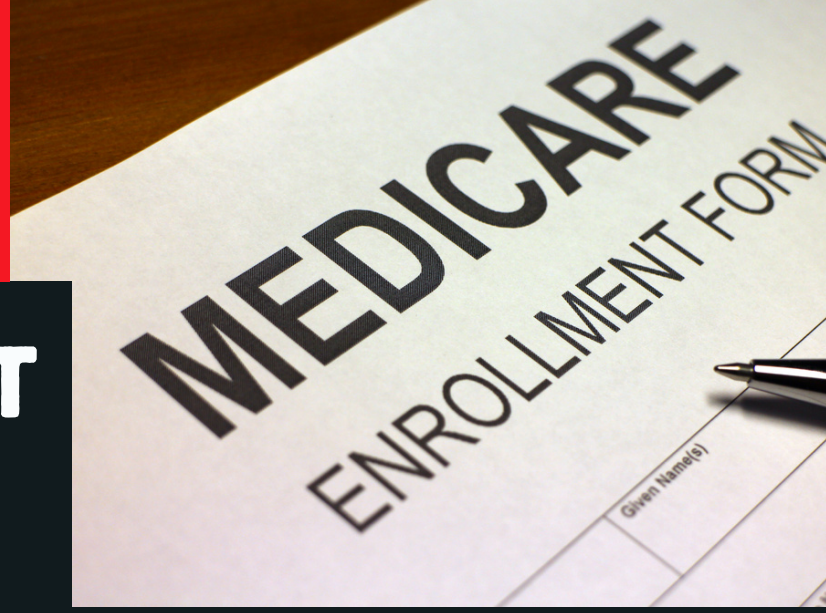




SMP SPOTLIGHT

MISSISSIPPI SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

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BEWARE OF THE "MEDICARE" SALESMAN

Medicare's Open Enrollment period begins on October 15th and ends on December 7th of each year. This is the one time of the year when ALL people with Medicare can make changes to their health and prescription drug plans for the next calendar year. During this time, you can compare health plans and find the one that best fits your needs.

This is also the time of year when the phone calls from scam artists claiming to be from Medicare or another Medicare type of program increase. You want to be sure that you know who you are speaking with. Remember that Medicare will not call you and request your Medicare number. Beware of someone offering you cash or free gifts for switching your plan. To avoid becoming a victim of an open enrollment scam, hang up the phone if you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from Medicare or Social Security. If you are interested in learning more about a plan, ask your friends what insurance agent they use and if they have been satisfied with this agent. Then call that agent directly to inquire about plans. You may also call your local SHIP (Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program) if you are unsure about a plan or need assistance in choosing a plan. If you are satisfied with your current Medicare plan, then you do not need to do anything.

The following is a short list of ways that Medicare beneficiaries can protect themselves and reduce the chance that they may become a victim of Medicare fraud:

- Protect your Medicare card. Only give your Medicare card to your healthcare provider, your physician or hospital.

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Beware of the "Medicare" Salesman, continued

- Remember that Medicare and Social Security will never call you on the phone or contact you by email. Do not give your Medicare or Social Security number to someone on the phone or on the internet.
- If you find something odd REPORT IT. Do not let embarrassment stop you from reporting Medicare fraud, scams or abuse.
- If you are not sure what to do you can call Senior Medicare Patrol toll-free at 1-877-272-8720 or you can visit www.stopmedicarefraud.org.

CLARKE FEST

It all started with a canvassing trip to Clarke County-scoping out new places for MS Senior Medicare Patrol to expand our outreach efforts in underserved and unreached counties in MS.

During this trip, I stumbled upon a Clarke County Chamber building. While approaching the building, I walked upon a lady with a pleasant and welcoming smile. We greeted each other and I introduced myself, our SMP organization and purpose. I handed her a packet with our brochure and my business card. She introduced herself as the Clarke Co. Chamber Secretary! Ms. Seely immediately saw the value in our program for their aging population and asked if we would be interested in being a guest speaker for the Chamber Board of Directors meeting. I informed her I was both delighted and honored.

Soon after, we got on the calendar and officially met 7/31/2025. Our presentation was so well received by the Chamber president and directors that he invited us to the 33rd annual Clarke Fest! The County Supervisor informed me that 65% of Clarke County residents are in the mature population and outreach at this event would be a very beneficial opportunity to reach and serve the senior citizens residing in the Quitman area.

The event was wonderful; and we formed meaningful connections and relationships in Clarke County. We look forward to future opportunities to work with and empower your senior citizens! Thank you for welcoming MS SMP into your wonderful community!



SMP ON THE MOVE

877-272-8720



WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS WITH SMP

October 29th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Home Health & Hospice Fraud
November 19th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Don't get in a jam, let's talk scams!
December 17th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Protecting YOUR Medicare

(click on links to register)

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