



SMP SNAPSHOT

The Peach Edition

Georgia Senior Medicare Patrol

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USING TRUSTED RESOURCES TO FIGHT FRAUD DURING OPEN ENROLLMENT

Medicare Open Enrollment is here, running from **October 15 to December 7**, and with it comes a surge in fraudulent activity targeting seniors and Medicare recipients. Scammers know this is the time when millions of people are reviewing their healthcare options — and they're eager to exploit confusion, urgency, and misinformation for their own gain.

Beware of Medicare Fraud During Open Enrollment

During Open Enrollment, Medicare beneficiaries can make important changes to their coverage — like switching between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage, or choosing a new Part D prescription drug plan. Unfortunately, this window also presents a golden opportunity for fraudsters to strike. Common Medicare scams during this period include:

- **Fake phone calls or emails** claiming to be from Medicare, offering free services or requiring payment or personal information.
- **Bogus insurance agents** pushing misleading or nonexistent plans.
- **"Phishing" attempts** asking for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or banking information.

Remember: **Medicare will never call you unsolicited to ask for personal information or payment.** If someone says they're with Medicare and pressures you to act fast, it's a red flag. One of SMP's closest partners is our sister program, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program also known as SHIP. SHIP offers **free, confidential, and unbiased** counseling to Medicare beneficiaries. You will often see SHIP in your community giving unbiased cost-free information on navigating Medicare, sometimes even alongside one of our SMP team members. These trained counselors are not affiliated with any insurance companies, and they won't try to sell you anything. Instead, they can help you:

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SHIP SPOTLIGHT, continued

- Compare Medicare Advantage and Part D plans
- Understand your current coverage and benefits
- Identify cost-saving opportunities

Whether you're new to Medicare or reviewing your options for the upcoming year, SHIP can provide clear, personalized guidance to help you make informed choices — without the pressure or risk of scams. Every state has a SHIP program. In Georgia, you can contact SHIP at **1-866-552-4464 opt 4** or visit their website at <https://aging.georgia.gov/georgia-ship>.

Open Enrollment is your chance to make important decisions about your health coverage. Don't let scammers take that opportunity away from you. Use trusted resources like SHIP and always double-check before giving out personal information. To report potential open enrollment scams, please call our SMP hotline number at 877-272-8720.



THE MEDICARE SCAMMER SLAMMER



Two Tifton business owners charged in connection with largest health care fraud action in U.S. Justice Department history.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndga/pr/remote-patient-monitoring-company-settles-false-claims-act-lawsuit-129-million>

SAVE THE DATE

Webinar Wednesdays w/ 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

877-272-8720



SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol

Preventing Medicare Fraud

ADVISEWELL

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