



**Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)**  
a Project of *Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A)*

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# **Volunteer** **with Your Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol**

**Be a Part of the Solution to Stop Medicare Fraud**

You've probably heard tales of Medicare fraud: scam artists asking for your Medicare card, providers charging for procedures you never had, or charging Medicare patients higher rates. Thankfully, in Iowa, there are seniors on patrol.

This isn't your typical neighborhood crime watch. Instead, it's a statewide network of volunteers charged with helping older adults avoid Medicare fraud and abuse. They are called the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), and they want to save you from Medicare and Medicaid scams.

Nationwide, it's estimated that Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse costs taxpayers \$60 billion a year, so the work SMP not only helps seniors, but also taxpayers who eventually shoulder the burden of these expenses.

Most SMP volunteers are retired Medicare beneficiaries and thus well-positioned to assist peers. Their primary goal is to teach beneficiaries how to protect their personal identity, identify and report errors in health care bills, and spot deceptive health care practices.

If you suspect that you are a victim of fraud, contact Iowa SMP by calling 800-423-2449. SMP will help you take action to prevent, detect or report the situation.

## **As a volunteer, you may:**

- Distribute information to local seniors, community centers and health care facilities
- Educate seniors about Medicare fraud
- Present information in your community about Senior Medicare Patrol
- Connect victims of fraud to the appropriate resource for help

**If you are interested in training and becoming an SMP volunteer, call 800-423-2449 and begin the process today. Make a difference, one person at a time.**

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