

SILVER LININGS



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

PSWR OLDER ADULT
MINISTRY COMMITTEE
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HOW TO GUARD AGAINST MEDICARE FRAUD

Medicare fraud costs taxpayers more than \$60 billion every year, making it one of the most profitable crimes in America. Here's what you should know, along with some tips for preventing, detecting and reporting if it happens to you.

What is Medicare Fraud?

In a nutshell, Medicare fraud happens when Medicare is purposely billed for services or supplies that were never provided or received. Examples include:

- ... A healthcare provider bills Medicare for services you never received.
- ... A supplier bills Medicare for equipment you never received.
- ... Someone uses your Medicare card to get medical care, supplies or equipment.
- ... A company offers a Medicare drug plan that has not been approved by Medicare.
- ... A company uses false information to mislead you into joining a Medicare plan.

What Can You Do?

The best way for you to spot Medicare fraud is to review your quarterly Medicare Summary Notices (MSN), or your Explanation of Benefits (EOB). Be on the lookout for things like charges for medical services, medications or equipment you didn't get, dates of services and charges that look unfamiliar, or if you were billed for the same thing twice. You can also check your Medicare claims early online at *MyMedicare.gov*. If you go online, you'll need to create an account first. Or you can simply call Medicare at 800-633-4227.

If you do spot any unusual or questionable charges, your first step is to contact your doctor or health care provider. The charge may be just a simple billing error. If, however, you can't resolve the problem with the provider, your next step is to report the questionable charges to Medicare at 800-633-4227, or to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Fraud Hotline at 800-477-8477.

When you call, have the MSN or EOB with the questionable charges handy because you'll need to provide them with the following information: your Medicare card number; the physician, supplier, and/or facility name where the service was supposedly provided; the date the service was rendered; the payment amount approved and paid by Medicare; as well as the reason you think Medicare shouldn't have paid. As an incentive, if the suspicious activity you report turns out to be fraud, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

If you need help identifying or reporting Medicare fraud, or resolving your Medicare billing errors, contact your state's Senior Medicare Patrol program, which provides free assistance. Go to smpresource.org, or call 877-808-2468 for contact information.

Protect Yourself

To help protect yourself from becoming a victim of Medicare fraud, you need to guard your Medicare card like you would your credit cards, and don't ever give your Medicare or Social Security number to strangers. Also, don't ever give out your personal information to someone who calls or comes to your home uninvited to get you to join a Medicare plan. Medicare will NEVER call or visit your home to sell you anything.

It's also a smart idea to keep records of your doctor visits, tests and procedures so you can compare them with any suspicious charges on either your MSN or EOB. Visit StopMedicareFraud.gov for more tips on protecting yourself.

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YOUR OLDER ADULT MINISTRY COMMITTEE

It is assumed that all persons receiving this monthly newsletter, i.e. "Silver Linings," are aware that the Regional Church has a very active group working on matters related to Senior Adults in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pacific Southwest Region. That group is known as the Older Adult Ministry Committee, OAM for short. It is currently chaired by Judy Thorndyke, a member of the Glendora Christian Church and the retired CEO of California Christian Home, the one-time Senior Adult Residence of the National Benevolent Association, i.e. the Disciples' version of the NBA, which by the way, is older than that other group known as the NBA.

One of the major responsibilities of this group is to receive and evaluate the merits of requests from Senior Adult Disciples in PSWR congregations for financial assistance. Those whose requests are approved by the OAM Committee may receive monthly stipends for a year in amounts up to \$600, or they may receive one-time grants for assistance up to \$2,000. The monthly grants are renewable on an annual basis, if the need still exists. The funds that are available for said grants came to the Regional Church in 2008 from the residue of funds that had originally been given to support what was known as the Fellowship of John. This fund benefitted residents of California Christian Home whose income no longer covered their living expenses at CCH. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of receiving financial help for yourself, or for a member of your family who is 62, or older, contact the Regional Office in Altadena for more information. The phone number is: 626-296-0385.

Other activities of the Older Adult Ministry Committee have included the presentation of Workshops at Regional Assemblies, as well as the planning and hosting of an Annual Older Adult Retreat for Seniors in PSWR congregations.

ATTENTION SENIOR GOLFERS: IS THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR?

All Senior Adults who play golf and are part of the PSW Region are reminded that the 2017 edition of the Don Shelton Memorial Golf Classic is set for Monday, September 18, 2017. As has been the case for several years, the venue for this event will be the San Dimas Canyon Golf Course, located in San Dimas, just north of the 210 Freeway and east of the spot where the 57 freeway ends with the option of going west to Pasadena or east to San Bernardino. Registration information for this event will be mailed out to all past participants and to congregations in the PSW Region by mid-July.

Another way Senior Golfers can be part of this annual event is to be one of our Sponsors and/or to encourage your congregation to be a Sponsor. Sponsorships begin as low as \$100 and go up from there. A Contest Sponsorship goes for \$500 as does a Hole Sponsorship. A Tee/Foursome Sponsorship is \$1,000 and this covers the green and cart fees, plus the meals, for four golfers. For more information about being a Sponsor, call Ed Linberg at: 909-392-6688.

FEATURED HYMN

A FINE HYMN FOR EASTER IS "THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT."

"THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT, THE SUN SHONE OUT WITH FAIRER LIGHT, WHEN, TO THEIR LONGING EYES RESTORED, THE GLAD APOSTLES SAW THEIR LORD.

HIS RISEN FLESH WITH RADIANCE GLOWED, HIS WOUND-ED HANDS AND FEET HE SHOWED; THOSE SCARS THEIR SOLEMN WITNESS GAVE THAT CHRIST WAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE.

O JESUS STRONG IN GENTLENESS, COME NOW YOURSELF OUR HEARTS POSSESS, THAT WE MAY GIVE YOU ALL OUR DAYS THE TRIBUTE OF OUR GRATEFUL PRAISE.

COME, RISEN CHRIST, WITH US ABIDE IN THIS OUR JOYFUL EASTERTIDE; YOUR OWN REDEEM-ED FOREVER SHIELD FROM EV'RY WEAPON DEATH CAN YIELD."

THIS IS A LATIN HYMN DATED TO THE 5TH CENTURY. IT WAS TRANSLATED BY JOHN MASON NEALE IN 1852. THE MUSIC IS BY MICHAEL PRAE-