

WEEKLY ROUNDUP
 NY STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL
 800.333.4374 www.nysenior.org



**DON'T DELAY
 MEDICARE ANNUAL
 ENROLLMENT PERIOD
 ENDS DEC 7**

CALL 800.333.4374

FREE personalized, confidential, unbiased information about Medicare options including prescription drug plans.



STATE WIDE
 New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc
 275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax 518-436-7642
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EXPANDED ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

- Starting January 1, 2024, Medicare will allow for the first time additional providers to deliver care.
 - Mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists can enroll as Medicare providers and begin to treat beneficiaries with substance use disorders and mental health conditions.
- Also starting January 1, Medicare will cover intensive outpatient (IOP) services for opioid use disorders.
 - IOP is for patients who need a minimum of 9 hours, but no more than 20, and does not require the beneficiary to otherwise need to be hospitalized.
 - For those with higher needs, Medicare coverage is already provided in hospital outpatient departments as an alternative to inpatient care.
 - The newly covered IOP services can be obtained at hospital outpatient departments, community mental health centers, federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and opioid treatment programs.

[More Information](#)

TEACH IN RECORDINGS

If you missed any of our past teach ins, you can view recordings (below).

- NOV Teach in Topic: Successful Prosecution of Healthcare Fraud in NYS**
 - Speakers: Christopher R. Moran, Assistant United States Attorney, Northern District of NY and Emily Auletta, Special Assistant Attorney General, NYS Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit
- OCT Teach in Topic: Medicare Open Enrollment 2024;**
 - Speaker: Kathleen Otte, Regional Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

NY STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

ACTION ALERT



Your voice is urgently needed to tell your Congressman: Oppose creating a debt commission, which would allow changes to Social Security via a closed-door process to cut already modest earned benefits while avoiding public accountability. Call Your Member of the House of Representatives: (202) 225-3121. If you don't know the name of your Representative [use this link](#)


SCAM ALERT: REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) is alerting the public about a fraud scheme involving monthly billing for remote patient monitoring (RPM).

- Legitimate RPM involves using medical devices such as scales, glucose monitors, blood pressure cuffs, cardiac rhythm devices, and other equipment to remotely monitor for anomalies in patients with chronic medical conditions.
- Unscrupulous companies are signing up Medicare enrollees for this service, regardless of medical necessity. Scammers may make contact over the phone or with internet or television ads.

Be cautious of unsolicited requests for Medicare numbers. If you suspect Medicare fraud, contact the NYS SMP Helpline at 800-333-4374.

Read an [OIG press release](#) for more information



PROGRAMS
 New York State's Master Plan for Aging

MASTER PLAN FOR AGING PUBLIC SURVEY - DEADLINE DECEMBER 31ST

Accessible at www.ny.gov/mpa. The survey input will play a pivotal role in gathering essential insights from individuals across New York State regarding their priorities for the Master Plan for Aging.

- The survey has been made accessible in a total of 17 languages, accessible through a dropdown menu situated in the top-right corner of the [webpage](#).
- [print the survey](#)

OUR MEMBERS ARE PART OF OUR STRENGTH

By joining StateWide, you can have an impact on state and federal issues of importance to older New Yorkers. You can also help spur your peers to become more knowledgeable about issues including Medicare, Medicare Fraud, Social Security, prescription drugs, long-term care, patient's rights and NYS budget issues. Please fill out the [Membership Form](#) and join StateWide today! If you have any questions, call our Helpline at 800-333-4374.

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