

Introduction to the SMP Medicare Minute Program

(Volunteers can use this script before their first Medicare Minute at a new location.)

Hello, I'm [your name], and I'm here through a volunteer program called the Senior Medicare Patrol Medicare Minute program.

This program was created by the Medicare Rights Center, a nonprofit organization that works to make sure people with Medicare have access to affordable health care, in partnership with the Administration on Community Living. The program was developed to reach people with Medicare with timely Medicare-and fraud-related information.

The reason I'm here is to provide you with information about Medicare and avoiding fraud.

I'm going to give a short talk today about [topic of the month]. I [may/will] return each month [or whatever time frame was established] to talk about a different Medicare-and fraud-related topics. There will be time for questions at the end.

I'm not from Medicare or an insurance company. I'm a volunteer with the Senior Medicare Patrol, a nationwide program that helps seniors and people with disabilities prevent, detect, and report health care fraud and errors. I'm here to give you information and be a resource for you.

To start out, I'd like to tell you briefly what Medicare is, even though most of you are probably familiar with it.

Medicare is health insurance for people 65 and older and people with disabilities. You can get Medicare no matter what your income is. But there are residency, citizenship, and work-history requirements. Medicare is a national program run by the federal government but can be provided by private companies.

There's Medicare health insurance to cover your health care. There's also Medicare drug

coverage, called Part D. Before I get started with my presentation, are there any questions about what Medicare is or why I am here?

ABOUT THE MEDICARE RIGHTS CENTER

The Medicare Rights Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs, and public policy initiatives.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90SM0010-01-00, from the U.S.

Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington,

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