

Letter to the Editor – For Immediate Release.

From: Chris Kuchta – Advocacy and SMP Coordinator
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Dear Editor,

Recent national articles have described some of the ways that seniors are scammed and how many are now volunteering to help their peers avoid becoming victims. *(See ABC news website at: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9442119> where this was first aired.)*

It's all part of a program called Senior Medicare Patrol, and it relies on more than 4,700 volunteers across the country. Together, these wonderful individuals protect older people and fight health care fraud, leaving more money in the system for everyone. Here in Iowa we have about 100 volunteers, who assisted us in educating almost 20,000 Medicare beneficiaries in 2009 about how to avoid becoming victims of health care fraud. We also intervened on behalf of many Medicare beneficiaries with complicated problems, including fraud and identity theft, related to their Medicare benefits.

We at the Siouxland Aging Services SMP need your help. If you'd like to become a volunteer, contact us at Siouxland Aging Services – Siouxland's Area Agency on Aging. Register to participate in an upcoming training scheduled in March. Contact us also if you are interested in attending or hosting one of our educational events or if you would like more information about how to avoid becoming a victim of health care fraud or identity theft.

More information about SMPs and health care fraud is available at the national SMP website: www.smpresource.org and for Iowa SMP information, www.StopMedicareScams.org.

Siouxland Aging Services, one of 13 Area Agencies on Aging in Iowa, has a mission to enable older Iowans to live with maximum dignity, independence, and well-being. Contact us a 712.279.6900, at 800.798-6916, or on the internet at www.siouxlandaging.org.