

FRAUD ALERT



Friday July 23, 2010

Please share this Fraud Alert with colleagues, consumers, or other professionals in your area. If you have any questions about the Illinois SMP program, or to receive these Fraud Alerts directly, please contact Erin Weir, Healthcare Consumer Protection Coordinator at AgeOptions.

What you will find in this week's Fraud Alert

- Watch the First Regional Health Care Fraud Prevention Summit
- Mystery Shopper Scam Warning
- Fraud in the News

Fraud In The News

The following are current news articles about health care and fraud issues.

1. "Consumer Group: Insurers Kept Surplus While Hiking Premiums":http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/insurance/2010-07-22-insurers_N.htm?POE=click-refer
2. "County: to Expand Fraud Program" (Madison County):
http://www.theintelligencer.com/articles/2010/07/22/local_news/doc4c4877fedc74e607261390.txt
3. "AARP Scam Alert: Warning Bells":
http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-07-2010/scam_alert_warning_bells.html

Dear SMP readers,

This week's Fraud Alert is fairly short. Enjoy, and have a great weekend!

Watch the First Regional Health Care Fraud Prevention Summit!

As I mentioned in last week's Fraud Alert, the first Regional Health Care Fraud Prevention Summit was held last Friday in Miami, Florida. That summit was a huge success. You can see a press release about the event here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/07/20100716a.html>

Also, for anyone who would like to see the webcast from the event, you can view a video of each of the panels on YouTube:

http://m.youtube.com/watch?desktop_uri=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DYGdqVsyOkes%26feature%3Dchannel&feature=channel&v=YGdqVsyOkes&gl=US

Mystery Shopper Scam Warning

I recently received a warning from one of our local SMP coordinators regarding a mystery shopper scam. This scam involves a letter that claims to be from the Illinois Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which instructs the recipient to go shopping at Walmart, then mail the remainder of the check to an out-of-state location. Please remember that you don't have to pay money to get money – anything that asks for money up front in order to obtain money or some other prize is a scam!



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AgeOptions, the Area Agency on Aging of Suburban Cook County, is committed to improving the quality of life and maintaining the dignity of older adults and those who care about them – through leadership and support, community partnerships, comprehensive services, accurate information and powerful advocacy.

Fraud Alerts contain information about current scams taking place in Illinois, announcements and updates about programs or services related to health care and/or fraud protection, and links to news articles about health care and fraud topics. Please forward any recommendations or announcements that you would like to be included in a future Fraud Alert to erin.weir@ageoptions.org.