

Wisconsin Senior Medical Patrol Fraud Alert



December 2020

Senior Medicare Patrols (SMPs) empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education.

Please feel free to share this publication with others who may benefit from its contents.

TO CONTACT WI SMP

Call: (888) 818-2611

E-mail: smp-wi@gwaar.org

Website: <https://gwaar.org/senior-medicare-patrol>

Facebook:
[@WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol)



COVID-19 Vaccine is in the Pipeline. The Scammers Won't be Far Behind!

The Food and Drug Administration, FDA, has authorized two vaccines from pharmaceutical manufacturers, these vaccines are now being distributed to federal- and state-approved locations. For most people living in the U.S., states and territories will make the final decisions on who will get the vaccines and when. States are also working on their own specific vaccination plans. You can check with Wisconsin Department for Health Services for the latest information regarding the vaccine:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>.

While we enter the distribution phase of the vaccine, there's no doubt scammers are scheming. Here's what you need to know to avoid a vaccine-related scam:

- You likely will not need to pay anything out of pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You cannot pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer, like a private insurance company, will call you asking for your Social Security number or your credit card or bank account information to sign you up to get the vaccine.
- Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. Check with your health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19-related treatment.
- If you get a call, text, email, see an advertisement — or even someone knocking on your door — claiming they can get you early access to the vaccine, STOP. That is a scam. Do not pay for a promise of vaccine access or share personal information. Instead, contact the WI SMP Helpline at (888) 818-2611 to notify them of this development and you can also report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).

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Fraud Alert

SMP SCAM WATCH: COVID-19 VACCINE

Be on the lookout for COVID-19 scams:

- You *likely* will not need to pay anything out-of-pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine early.
- No one from Medicare or the Health Department will contact you.
- Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus.
- No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer will call and ask for your Medicare number, Social Security number, or banking information to sign you up for a vaccine.

**Contact the SMP to report Medicare fraud, errors, or abuse
at 877.808.2468 or at smpresource.org.**

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Wisconsin SMP is available for outreach events, educational sessions for beneficiaries, caregivers and professionals, workshops and exhibits at events.
Please contact us at smp-wi@gwaar.org for more information



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