

October 2023



## Fraud Fighters In Action

### Be Aware of Misleading Marketing Tactics



While Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, comprising about 40% of Medicare beneficiaries, report high consumer satisfaction, some of the insurers have come under criticism for allegedly aggressive and misleading sales tactics and failing to provide adequate coverage for beneficiaries. In 2021 the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program saw a 24% increase in marketing complaints over the prior year.

Complaints are expected to spike like they always do during Open Enrollment. The key is for beneficiaries to educate themselves before enrolling in a MA plan. Each state has a State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or SHIP, that provides free help for people considering their Medicare options. Read a [story](#) from Kiplinger.

### Justice has been Served in Ohio ...published in Ohio SMP app 10-5-22

Thomas G. O'Lear, 58, of North Canton, Ohio, was sentenced September 29, 2022, to 15 years in prison and was ordered to pay \$1,989,490 in restitution to Medicare, Medicaid and two Medicaid Managed Care Organizations.

Read more: <https://ohiosmp.org/fraud-alerts/justice-has-been-served-in-ohio/>

### 2022 National Health Care Fraud Enforcement Action



2022 NATIONAL  
**HEALTH CARE  
FRAUD**  
ENFORCEMENT ACTION

[OIG.HHS.GOV](https://oig.hhs.gov)

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, along with our law enforcement partners, participated in a sweeping, coordinated law enforcement action to combat health care fraud related to telehealth services.

36 defendants in 13 U.S. federal districts were charged for their alleged participation in various health care fraud schemes that exploited the growing acceptance and use of telehealth. Defendants include telemedicine executives who allegedly paid doctors and other medical providers to order unnecessary laboratory testing, durable medical equipment (DME), and other medical services.