



TNEJC WEEKLY UPDATE

National developments. Tennessee-ready prevention and response.

STATEWIDE PARTNERS | PROFESSIONAL EDITION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

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THIS WEEK'S ACTION

Before changing Medicare coverage, review your plan's Annual Notice of Change, check your doctors and prescriptions, and compare total costs - not just advertised extras. For free, unbiased help in Tennessee, call TN SHIP: 1-877-801-0044.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT | OCT. 15 - DEC. 7

COMPARE THE COVERAGE. NOT JUST THE EXTRAS.

Dental, vision, hearing, transportation, fitness and over-the-counter benefits can be useful. But the right plan still has to cover the care, prescriptions and providers you actually use.

LOOK PAST THE ADVERTISEMENT

Compare the core coverage. Check whether your prescriptions are covered, whether your doctors and pharmacies are in network, and what you may pay in premiums, deductibles and expected yearly costs.

Read the Annual Notice of Change. Plans send this each fall to explain changes in benefits, costs and coverage details that take effect in January.

Do not let pressure make the decision. Plan marketers cannot make unsolicited sales calls unless you are already a member or have given permission to contact you.

[Official Medicare: Open Enrollment and plan comparison](#)

RED FLAGS

- "Act now or you will lose coverage."
- The caller asks for your Medicare, Social Security, bank or credit-card number unexpectedly.
- The pitch focuses on "free" extras but avoids doctors, prescriptions, networks or costs.
- Someone says they are "from Medicare" and wants to enroll you by phone.

[Medicare marketing rules](#)

1 CHECK WHAT CHANGED

Review the Annual Notice of Change and confirm coverage for doctors, hospitals, pharmacies and prescriptions.

[Source](#)

2 GET UNBIASED HELP

TN SHIP provides free, confidential Medicare counseling and does not sell insurance. Call 1-877-801-0044.

[Source](#)

3 REPORT SUSPICIOUS SALES

Tennessee Senior Medicare Patrol helps beneficiaries prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud, errors and abuse: 1-866-836-7677.

[Source](#)



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ENFORCEMENT & PROTECTION WATCH | OCTOBER 13-16, 2026

FROM UNNEEDED BRACES TO VIOLENT ABUSE

This week shows why elder justice must cover both financial harm and personal safety - from Medicare schemes that turn beneficiary information into a billing commodity to violence against an older adult in her own home.

MEDICARE PROSECUTION | SENTENCED | DOJ, OCT. 15

19 YEARS FOR \$1B MEDICARE FRAUD

DOJ says a Kansas software-company owner was sentenced to 19 years for a scheme that generated false doctors' orders for unnecessary braces and other items. More than 346,000 Medicare beneficiaries were affected and federal programs were billed more than \$1 billion. Takeaway: unexpected equipment or bills should trigger a review of your Medicare Summary Notice and a report.

[Official DOJ release](#)

TENNESSEE ABUSE WATCH | WARRANTS ISSUED

87-YEAR-OLD BEATEN IN RIPLEY HOME

Ripley Police announced warrants for an adult and a juvenile suspect after an 87-year-old woman was allegedly beaten and robbed in her home. Reported charges include attempted murder, aggravated abuse of an elderly person, financial exploitation and theft. The allegations remain unproven unless established in court. Takeaway: elder abuse includes physical violence, intimidation and isolation - not only financial exploitation.

[Action News 5 / Ripley Police update](#)

TENNESSEE MEDICARE UPDATE

DUAL-ELIGIBLE PLAN ALIGNMENT

Some Tennesseans with both Medicare and TennCare may need their D-SNP and TennCare plan aligned for 2027. A TennCare special enrollment period runs through Oct.

[Source](#)

ELDER FRAUD PROSECUTION

IMPERSONATORS TARGET A 93-YEAR-OLD

A man pleaded guilty Oct. 15 after scammers posed as PayPal or federal agents. One 93-year-old victim was told to mail a \$45,000 check.

[Source](#)

PRACTICAL CHECK

READ YOUR MEDICARE STATEMENT

Review Medicare Summary Notices for braces, tests, equipment or services you did not receive. Unexpected billing can be an early warning sign.

[Source](#)

IF MONEY OR INFORMATION WAS ALREADY SENT

ACT QUICKLY. KEEP THE EVIDENCE. TELL SOMEONE TODAY.

- 1 Contact the bank, card issuer, insurer, payment app or Medicare and ask for fraud assistance.
- 2 Save messages, screenshots, receipts, caller IDs, enrollment paperwork and account details.
- 3 Medicare / suspicious enrollment: 1-800-MEDICARE. TN SHIP: 1-877-801-0044.
- 4 Medicare fraud: TN SMP 1-866-836-7677. Abuse/exploitation: APS 1-888-277-8366. Internet fraud: IC3.gov. Immediate danger: 911.

STOP. VERIFY. REPORT.



CHECK BEFORE YOU ACT