



TNEJC WEEKLY UPDATE

National elder-justice developments. Tennessee-ready prevention and response.

PREPARED FOR STATEWIDE PARTNERS | PROFESSIONAL EDITION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

THIS WEEK'S ACTION

Compare Medicare coverage - not just the extras. Confirm doctors, prescriptions, networks, costs and approval rules before changing plans.

COMPARE THE COVERAGE. NOT JUST THE EXTRAS.

Medicare Open Enrollment: October 15-December 7. Use trusted, unbiased help before changing plans.

MEDICARE WATCH | OPEN ENROLLMENT | CONSUMER PROTECTION

Choose coverage for the care you need.

Plans can change networks, drug formularies, copays, deductibles and authorization rules each year. Extra benefits may be valuable, but should not outweigh access to needed doctors, hospitals and prescriptions.

FREE, UNBIASED TENNESSEE HELP

TN SHIP: 1-877-801-0044

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE

What to do: Use Medicare.gov or TN SHIP. Do not rely on an unsolicited caller, online ad or mailer alone.

Source: <https://www.tn.gov/disability-and-aging/disability-aging-programs/tn-ship.html>

COMPARE BEFORE YOU CHANGE

- Doctors and hospitals in network
- Every prescription and pharmacy
- Premiums, deductibles and copays
- Out-of-pocket maximum
- Prior approval and referral rules

NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT | CHARGED

Allegations not proven; presumed innocent.

Federal takedown alleges nearly \$2 billion in healthcare fraud.

On October 22, DOJ announced charges against 15 defendants in Los Angeles-area cases. Allegations include unnecessary atherectomy, hospice schemes involving people said not to be terminally ill, and substance-use treatment billing.

Tennessee takeaway: Question care or enrollment pressure that does not match the patient's needs.

Source: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/federal-health-care-fraud-takedown-central-district-california-results-15>

PROSECUTION WATCH | MARYLAND | CONVICTED

Lab owner convicted over testing billed for nursing-home residents.

A federal jury convicted Patrick Britton-Harr on October 21. Prosecutors said laboratories billed Medicare more than \$18 million for costly respiratory tests residents did not need, doctors did not order and, in many cases, were not performed.

What to do: Review Medicare statements; report services you did not receive.

Source: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/federal-jury-convicts-laboratory-owner-medicare-fraud-scheme>

ENFORCEMENT & CONSUMER-PROTECTION STRIP

1 READ THE NOTICE

Review Medicare notices. Flag a provider, test, device or visit you do not recognize.

2 VERIFY INDEPENDENTLY

Call Medicare, the plan or provider using a trusted number - not a caller's number.

3 ACT QUICKLY

Ask for an explanation, report suspected fraud, and save notices, dates and records.



TNEJC WEEKLY UPDATE

National elder-justice developments. Tennessee-ready prevention and response.

PREPARED FOR STATEWIDE PARTNERS | PROFESSIONAL EDITION

PAGE 2 | ACTION & RESPONSE

TENNESSEE UPDATE | ABUSE & NEGLECT

Neglect and abuse are elder-justice issues.

Everyone in Tennessee must report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an older or vulnerable adult. Warning signs include injuries, fearfulness, poor hygiene, untreated medical needs, unsafe conditions, isolation or blocked access.

APS: 1-888-277-8366 | 911 for immediate danger.

Source: <https://www.tn.gov/disability-and-aging/disability-aging-programs/aps.html>

FACEBOOK PUBLIC-POST WARNING



PUBLIC

Globe-style audience symbol

A Facebook post marked Public may be visible beyond friends. Replies can reveal routines, family names, travel, health concerns or financial interests that criminals use to build trust.

Pause before replying. Check the audience setting and avoid sharing personal details.

FAX SCAM WATCH: DON'T PAY AN INVOICE YOU DIDN'T VERIFY.

A supplied example claims a \$498.85 annual fax-service renewal and requests wire or ACH payment. An unsolicited invoice may look like a routine bill for a service never ordered.

Verify safely: Compare vendor records and contracts, find contact information independently, and ask a second person or finance office to review. Do not use contact or payment details printed on the suspicious invoice.

IF MONEY OR INFORMATION WAS ALREADY SENT

- Contact the bank, card issuer, wire service, payment app, exchange or gift-card company immediately; ask for fraud assistance.
- Save messages, screenshots, receipts, usernames, phone numbers and account details.
- Report vulnerable-adult exploitation to Tennessee APS: 1-888-277-8366.
- Report internet-enabled fraud at IC3.gov. Call 911/local law enforcement for danger, threats or coercion, and tell one trusted person today.

FIELD NOTE | UNSOLICITED MEDICARE CALL

Knowing your name or plan is not proof. Pause if a caller requests payment or a Medicare number, promises unexplained benefits, or rushes you. Hang up; call Medicare, the number on your member card, or TN SHIP.

CHECK BEFORE YOU ACT TENNESSEE



**Free educational review
Pause before money or
information moves.**

CheckBeforeYouActTN.org

SUPPORT THE ELDER JUSTICE PLATE



Express interest - no purchase or payment.

TNElderJusticeCoalition.org/license-plate

