



## ND SMP Scam of the Month – July 2021

### COVID-19 Exploitation Scams

Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries COVID-19 tests and vaccinations and using their information to bill for additional, unrelated tests. Following are just a few of the alleged schemes:

- Marketers offer beneficiaries COVID-19 tests. While collecting specimens, fraudsters suggest additional lab tests that are supposedly free and covered by Medicare (e.g., allergy and genetic testing).
  - *These “additional” tests are medically unnecessary and more expensive.*
- Conspiring telemedicine providers are paid by marketers to authorize referrals for unnecessary testing.
  - *Consults with these providers are brief and do not validate the need for the testing.*
- Labs submit claims to Medicare and receive reimbursement for COVID-19 screening and other unrelated tests.
  - *Medicare pays for some of these tests, but beneficiaries may be responsible for any costs denied by Medicare.*

**Reporting Medicare fraud:** If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at [ndsmp@minotstateu.edu](mailto:ndsmp@minotstateu.edu) or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General’s Office at 1-800-472-2600.

### How to Get Off Mailing Lists

Junk mail is advertising designed to get you to buy a product or service. You can contact the Direct Marketing Association’s Mail Preference Service (DMAchoice) to minimize the junk mail you receive (you should see a decrease in your junk mail in about 3 months):

#### **Register by mail:**

- Fill out the DMAChoice Mail-In form found on [www.DMAchoice.org](http://www.DMAchoice.org) or send your name and address (with signature), and a \$3 processing fee (check or money order payable to ANA) to: DMAchoice, Consumer Preferences, P.O. Box 900 Cos Cob, CT 06807.

#### **Online registration:**

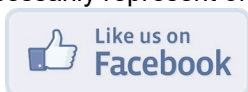
- Consumers can register at the DMA website: [www.DMAchoice.org](http://www.DMAchoice.org) along with a processing fee of \$2 for a period of ten years.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: HHS-OIG (May 2021). [OIG.HHS.GOV/2021TAKDDOWN. COVID-19 exploitation scheme.](https://www.dmachoice.org/register.php)  
Direct Marketing Association’s Mail Preference Service (2021). *How to get off mailing lists* document:  
<https://www.dmachoice.org/register.php>

**North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580**

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit [www.ndcpd.org/smp](http://www.ndcpd.org/smp)

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0021, from the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services. Points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.



**Like us on Facebook:** North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol