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Volunteer News



Volunteering with SMP

The SMP program offers volunteers an opportunity to make an important difference in their communities. Volunteers take pride in working to ensure that the Medicare program will be protected for future generations. We know that one of the most effective and direct steps we can take to improve Medicare's long-term health is ridding the program of waste, fraud, and abuse. SMP volunteers may serve Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers in many creative ways. *Volunteering* can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You will be doing good for others and the community, Help ND SMP fight fraud in your community. Call 1-800-233-1737 to learn more about becoming a volunteer.

Scams ♦ Shams ♦ Shenanigans

What is Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud?

Cardiovascular genetic testing fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a cardio-type test (cheek swab) or screening that was not medically necessary and/or was not ordered by a beneficiary's treating physician. Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for fraudulent billing purposes/medical identity theft. If Medicare denies the claim, you could be responsible for the entire cost, which averages \$9,000 to \$11,000.

- You receive an unsolicited call from someone stating your doctor or cardiologist requested that you have the testing done and they will send you a cheek swab testing kit.
- Caller ID may even show your doctor's name or phone number.
- A company calls offering you "free" or "at no cost to you" testing without a treating physician's order and then bills Medicare. Many scammers 'coach' you on what to say when transferred on to another 'agent.'
- Billing Medicare (usually thousands of dollars) for a broad range of cardiac genetic tests that you did not request or even receive.

Source of Information: AR SMP Quarterly Newsletter (April-June 2022).

Improving Health and Wellness

NDC3 is improving health and wellness in ND. Through a network of local leaders, community organizations and health systems, **NDC3** delivers programs to help individuals self-manage chronic health conditions, prevent falls, and foster well-being. If you are coping with high blood pressure, heart disease, COPD, arthritis, diabetes or other chronic conditions, NDC3 can support your efforts. For more information visit www.ndc3.org or visit with your health care provider about a referral.

