



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – August 2024

Genetic Testing Scams are BACK!

Have you received phone calls or emails with offers for genetic testing to find out if you are at risk for certain diseases? And did the offer say that Medicare will pay for the genetic test or that the test is FREE? **Beware of offers for tests or services that didn't come from a trusted provider.** Medicare is seeing an increase in scams involving “free” genetic testing that show your risk for cancer, dementia or other hereditary conditions.

Scammers may call and tell you that your health care provider is ordering a genetic test for you and all they need is your Medicare number. Other ways this scam works:

- You may get offers from a company wanting to send you a free genetic test kit.
- Fraudsters target people at senior centers or health fairs offering a cheek swab right at the event.

The point of this scam is to get your Medicare card number. Fraudsters then bill Medicare for thousands of dollars for tests and other services never received.

Medicare statement red flags:

- Be sure to read your Medicare Summary Notice if you are on Original Medicare or your Explanation of Benefits if you are on a Medicare Advantage plan.
- Look for any unusual charges. Look for words like “gene analysis” or “molecular pathology” which could be red flags for fraudulent charges.

Medicare covers genetic testing ONLY to see whether people with cancer have an inherited gene mutation. Only agree to testing ordered by your health care provider. They know best what testing you need for your continued medical care. Don't be left with a huge bill for genetic testing that Medicare will not cover. Remember, never give out your Medicare number to anyone other than a trusted health care provider.

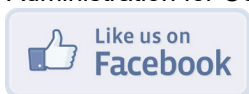
Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: AARP Bulletin. (2024, June). Medicare made easy. *AARP.org/Bulletin*, 65(5).

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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