



Genetic Testing Fraud

Tips for Protecting Yourself and Medicare

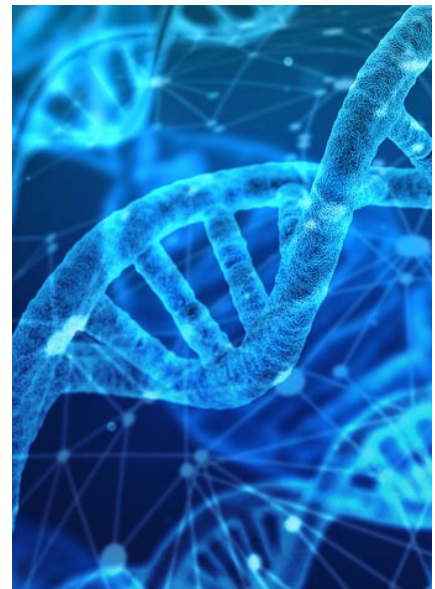
Genetic testing scams are currently a widespread issue throughout the country. Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for identity theft or fraudulent billing purposes.

What is Genetic Testing

Genetic testing fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a test or screening that was not medically necessary and/or was not ordered by a beneficiary's treating physician.

What are Examples of Genetic Testing Fraud?

- A company offering you "free" testing without a treating physician's order and then billing Medicare. These tests go by many names and claim to test for many things. Here are some examples of how you may see this advertised:
 - ◇ Cancer screening / test
 - ◇ DNA screening / test
 - ◇ Hereditary cancer screening / test
 - ◇ Dementia screening / test
 - ◇ Parkinson's screening / test
 - ◇ Pharmacogenomics – (e.g. drug sensitivity)

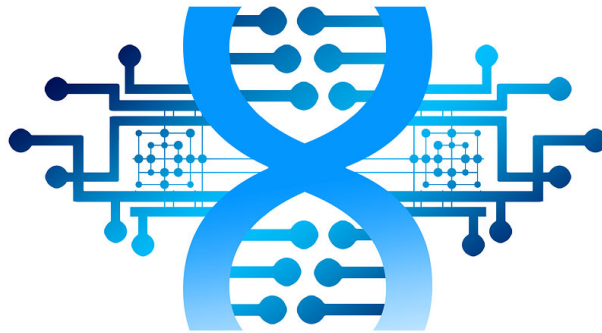


What Can You Do to Stop Genetic Test Fraud

- Be sure your doctor has assessed your condition. Although Medicare covers some genetic tests for diagnostic use, it only covers one preventative genetic screening test for colorectal cancer screening (Cologuard™).
- Medicare diagnostic tests must be ordered by the physician treating you and documentation in the medical records is required to substantiate the need for testing.

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- Do not give out your personal information or accept genetic screening services from someone at a community event, a local fair, a farmer's market, a parking lot, or any other event, or by some one who contacts you by phone or comes to your home.
- Always read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB). The words "gene analysis" and "molecular pathology" may indicate questionable genetic testing has occurred.
- If you received a cheek swab or a screening that was not medically necessary, report your concerns about billing errors or possible fraud and abuse to the Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-800-351-4665.
- You could be responsible for the entire cost of the test! The average is \$9,000-\$11,000.



Iowa Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP):

Provides you with the information you need to **PROTECT, DETECT, AND REPORT Medicare** fraud, errors, and abuse.

Makes knowledgeable speakers available for your community, civic, or business group to learn more about this important issue.

To contact Iowa SMP:

Visit www.smp.iowa.gov or call 1-800-351.4664

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