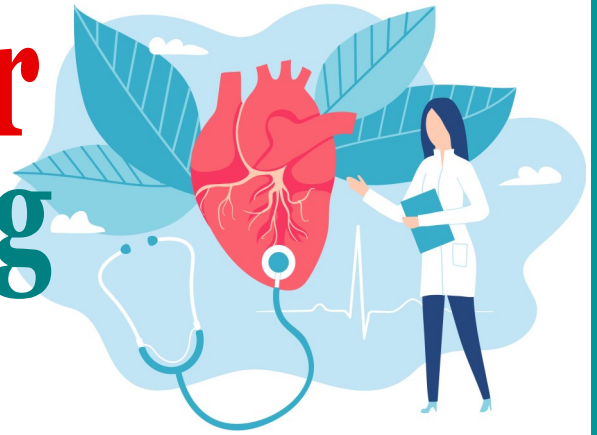


# Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud



The latest growing genetic testing fraud trend focuses on cardiovascular genetic testing. Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for fraudulent billing purposes or possibly medical identity theft.

## Examples of Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud:

- ❌ A company offers you **“free” testing** without a treating physician’s order and then bills Medicare.
- ❌ A company **using “telemedicine”** to offer testing to you over the phone & **arranging for a “teledoc” to order the tests.**
- ❌ **Billing Medicare** for a broad range of **cardiac genetic tests** that you **did not request or receive.**
- ❌ A company calls you stating your **doctor or cardiologist requested that you have the testing done and they will send you a testing kit.**

Always consult with your primary care doctor before agreeing to tests. If the test is denied by Medicare, You may be responsible for the entire cost of the test. **The average cost is \$9,000 to \$11,000.**

**CALL the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-800-333-4374**



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**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.**  
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • (518) 436-1006 • Fax (518) 436-7642  
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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

# Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud



## What Can You Do to Stop Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud?

- ✓ **Be sure your doctor has assessed your condition.** Although Medicare covers many genetic tests to detect heart disease, **it is not a test to predict or screen for cardiovascular disease.**
- ✓ **Do not give out your personal information** to someone calling **claiming your cardiologist has requested the testing.**
- ✓ Do not give out your personal information or **accept screening services** from someone **at a community event, a local fair, a farmers' market, a parking lot, or any other event.**
- ✓ **Always read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB).** The words **“gene analysis,” “molecular pathology,” or “laboratory”** may indicate questionable genetic testing has occurred.
- ✓ If you received a **cardiovascular genetic testing kit** or test that was not medically necessary, report your concerns about billing errors or possible fraud and abuse to your local SMP.

## How Your Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Can Help

Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also can provide information and educational presentations.

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