

## **Fraud Alert: Covid-19 At Home Test Kit Scams**

Be cautious of an ongoing scam involving COVID-19 TEST KITS. Scammers are sending COVID-19 at home test kits to Medicare beneficiaries and then billing Medicare for reimbursement. These fraudulent test kits are being billed and paid for at approximately \$95.00 each.

“In New York, unsolicited test kits sent to people’s homes are the most reported COVID-19 scam to date. Reports surged in the months leading up to the official end of the pandemic emergency. One senior received 16 unsolicited tests”, Tiffany Erhard, Director, NYS Senior Medicare Patrol.

**As of May 11, Medicare does not cover at home COVID-19 tests.** However, beneficiaries with traditional Medicare can continue to receive COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests with no cost sharing when the test is ordered by a physician or other health care providers. A person enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan can continue to also receive the COVID-19 PCR and antigen tests when covered by Medicare, but there may be cost sharing or copays.

To protect yourself:

- Make sure to purchase COVID-19 test kits that are FDA-approved from reputable providers. If you have any doubts about the legitimacy of a kit, contact your doctor or local pharmacy to verify its authenticity.
- Do not give out your Medicare number to anyone other than your doctor, health care provider, or other trusted representative.
- Ignore offers or advertisements for COVID-19 testing through unsolicited calls, texts, emails, television ads, websites and social media sites.
- Do not use test kits that arrive unsolicited.
- Don’t fall for pressure tactics or time sensitive offers.
- Check your Medicare Summary notice for suspicious claims or services that you did not receive.

**Understanding Medicare coverage is important to protect yourself from Medicare fraud schemes. For more information on Medicare covered services call an outreach counselor at 800-333-4374. New York StateWide Senior Action Council can assist with Medicare questions, appeals and billing issues, Medicare Fraud, and Patient’s Rights.**