



Genetic Testing Fraud

DEFINITION: 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.

COST TO THE PATIENT: If Medicare denies the genetic test claim, you may be responsible for the cost of the test! The average cost is \$9,000 to \$11,000.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP GENETIC TESTING FRAUD?

- **Do NOT give out your personal information** or accept screening services, including a **cheek swab**, from someone at a community event, a local fair, a farmer's market, a parking lot, and/or any other large event.
- Only **YOUR DOCTOR** should **prescribe your genetic test after assessing your condition**. Medicare only covers one preventative genetic test to screen for cancer.
- **Always read** your Medicare statements.
- **Refuse the delivery** of any genetic testing kit that was not ordered by your physician.
- **Be suspicious** of anyone who **offers free genetic testing** and then requests your Medicare number. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.

REPORT IT!

- **If you are contacted by anyone who offers these tests, don't do it! Report it to the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-333-4374.**
- The NYS SMP and their trained counselors and volunteers help educate Medicare beneficiaries in the fight against health care fraud. We also provide information and educational presentations.



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