



SMP CONNECT

VERMONT SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

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BEWARE OF GENETIC TESTING SCAMS

Have you heard about the latest scam involving Genetic Testing?

You or someone you know may have been approached at a health fair, senior apartment complex, a senior event or pharmacy. Or, you may have even been contacted over the phone, through email or saw an ad on Facebook. The individuals offer genetic testing at no cost to you if you are on Medicare but you might not even qualify for the testing.

According to the CDC, genetic testing is a series of tests that can provide a diagnosis for a genetic condition or information about your risk to develop cancer. There are many different kinds of genetic tests and they are done by using a cheek swab, blood sample or spit sample. In order for Medicare to cover genetic testing, it must be ordered by your physician, and it must be medically necessary. If Medicare denies the genetic testing claims, you could be charged for the entire amount which could easily run \$9,000-\$11,000.

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. Scammers offer Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for identity theft and fraudulent billing purposes. Each cheek swab could potentially make the scammer thousands of dollars by billing Medicare and/or you for services that were not needed.

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GENETIC TESTING SCAMS, continued

If you or someone you know received a cheek swab or screening that was not ordered by your doctor, report the incident to SMP. Review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) for words like "gene analysis", "molecular pathology" or "laboratory". This may indicate that questionable genetic testing has been billed.

To avoid becoming a victim of the Genetic Testing scam, decline the offer. If cancer runs in your family and you feel that you could benefit from genetic testing, schedule an appointment to see your physician to address your concerns.

SMP ON THE MOVE



VT Team Lead Jean McDermott at the annual SASH Conference at Lake Morey.



Jean McDermott and Justin Grimbol, Community Outreach Specialist, at the UVM Gerontology Symposium.



Be the first to know about the latest in Medicare fraud and scams. Using your cell phone camera, scan the QR code for a link to our website, Facebook page, YouTube channel and listen to our podcasts, Sip & Learn with Senior Medicare Patrol.



Webinar Wednesdays w/ SMP:

October 29th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Home Health & Hospice Fraud

November 19th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Don't get in a jam, let's talk scams!

December 17th 10:30CT/11:30ET - Protecting YOUR Medicare

Click on links above to register.



877-272-8720

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