

# UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE & GENETIC TESTING

## IS IT A SCAM?

Genetic testing scams emerged in 2019 targeting cancer screening and pharmacogenetics (medication metabolism). The latest growing genetic testing fraud trend focuses on cardiovascular genetic testing. Scammers are offering people with Medicare cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for fraudulent billing purposes or possibly medical identity theft.

### What is Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud?

Cardiovascular genetic testing fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a cardio type of test or screening that was not medically necessary and/or was not ordered by an individual's treating physician. Testing may be advertised as "free" or "at no cost." Individuals could be responsible for the entire cost of the test, with the average amount between \$9,000 to \$11,000.

### When is Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Covered by Medicare?

- When the test is medically reasonable and necessary.
- When it is ordered by a treating physician.
- When a treating physician orders the test as a diagnostic service and uses the results to manage the patient's condition.

### Prevent Genetic Testing Fraud



**Be sure your doctor has assessed you 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.



**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.

NEBRASKA  
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**Report suspected Medicare fraud  
to the Nebraska SHIP!**

**1-800-234-7119**

**PROTECT** Personal Information | **DETECT** Fraud and Scams | **REPORT** Your Concerns