



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beware of Scam in Swabbing Cheeks of Seniors for DNA Cancer Checks

Lincoln, NE (March 27, 2019) – The Nebraska Department of Insurance and the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) have received multiple reports of groups going to senior living communities, assisted living facilities and senior centers offering to swab the cheeks of seniors for genetic material purportedly for DNA checks for cancer.

If a non-cancer patient is brought in for genetic testing under the pretense that it would be covered by Medicare, this may be a scam and should be avoided.

Be alert if the entity asking to swab you cannot comply with CMS requirements, especially if they request that you agree to be billed for services in the event Medicare does not pay for the service.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have set forth guidelines as to when Medicare will allow and pay for these services. CMS has determined that Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) as a diagnostic laboratory test, when performed in an approved and certified laboratory and when ordered by a treating physician, is allowed when **all** CMS requirements have been met. The requirements can be found on the CMS website at www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=290&bc=ACAAAAAAQAAA&.

If you have questions or you if you believe you may have been subject to a potential scam, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Insurance or SHIIP for more information. The Department's website for consumer assistance is doi.nebraska.gov/consumer/consumer-assistance. The Consumer Affairs Division can also be reached at 402-471-0888 or toll free at 1-877-564-7323. SHIIP can be reached at doi.nebraska.gov/consumer/senior-health or toll free at 1-800-234-7119.

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