

# Genetic Testing Scam

2019



## CALIFORNIA SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL WARNING!

Individuals promoting genetic testing of Medicare beneficiaries through cold calls, meetings, and educational sessions could be using these tests to commit Medicare fraud and abuse.

**Ask your doctor if genetic testing is medically necessary for you.**

**855-613-7080**

For additional information on healthcare fraud, visit **[cahealthadvocates.org](http://cahealthadvocates.org)**



Find additional details on this fraud alert on the reverse side.

# CALIFORNIA SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL WARNING!

## Genetic Testing Scam

If you are approached by someone who offers “free” genetic testing or cancer screening, turn it down. This is not a free test and needs to be ordered by your primary physician if medically necessary.

One way these scammers reach lots of people is by approaching senior centers or the Coordinators of senior residence homes.

Some scammers cold call seniors about genetic testing kits. The caller usually offers to send a free genetic testing kit and only asks you to return the completed kit “with your insurance information”. This is so they can bill Medicare for thousands of dollars of expensive, medically UN-necessary genetic testing.

Sometimes scammers offer an “ice cream social” to increase the allure and other times they just say they want to come offer a free presentation to residents about “free” genetic testing and/or cancer screenings. In the presentation, they’ll ask residents for their Medicare numbers to bill insurance thousands of dollars for these “free services.”

### Remember:

- » **Don’t give your DNA away to a stranger!** Beware of folks who are calling you, visiting senior centers or senior apartments to advertise free genetic testing and cancer screenings. Check with your doctor first!
- » **Don’t become a victim of medical theft.** Watch out for folks who promise genetic testing and cancer screenings covered 100% by Medicare. Medicare only covers tests and procedures that are medically necessary.
- » **Look for charges on your Medicare Summary Notice statements for unnecessary tests or screenings** that you did not want or were not ordered by your doctor.



If you do come across such a scam, please report it to our **California Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** at **855-613-7080**