

GENETIC TESTING IS NEVER FREE.

Here is how the scam works: You attend a health fair or presentation where people offer “free” genetic testing/screenings for cancer and/or other diseases. Then they take your Medicare number.



What the business will do next is charge your Medicare account for the genetic testing services. You may or may not receive your test results, but if you read your MSN, you will see Medicare is charged a large amount of money for something you were told was “free.”



Always work with your doctor. If you need genetic testing, your doctor can order it for you and talk about the results with you.



If you’ve received genetic testing paid for by Medicare at a fair or presentation or notice something suspicious on your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN), please contact the Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol at AgeOptions at **(800)699-9043**.



PROTECT, DETECT AND REPORT

Follow the **SMP** message to help prevent Medicare fraud.

1

Do not give out your Medicare number or Social Security number. Be cautious of unsolicited requests for your Medicare or Social Security numbers. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.

2

Do not consent to any lab tests at senior centers, health fairs, or in your home. Be suspicious of anyone claiming that genetic tests and cancer screenings are at no cost to you.

3

Genetic tests and cancer screenings must be medically necessary and ordered by your doctor to be covered by Medicare. Random genetic testing and cancer screenings are not covered by Medicare. If you are interested in the test, speak with your doctor.

4

Monitor your Medicare Summary Notice to see if there are any services you did not have or did not want but were billed for. Medicare Summary Notices are sent every three months if you get any services or medical supplies during that 3-month period.

If you notice something suspicious on your MSN, please contact the Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol at AgeOptions at: **1 (800)699-9043**.



This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0036, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.