Wisconsin SMP

SCAM SPOTLIGHT

GENETIC TESTING SCAMS

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is seeing genetic testing fraud and scams. Beneficiaries report that they are receiving calls from their medical providers with offers of genetic testing that is covered by Medicare. These callers are not their medical providers. Scammers are spoofing phone numbers and using phony information in order to scam Medicare beneficiaries. These scammers are stealing people's medical identity and falsely billing Medicare, draining the system of needed funds. Tests ordered under these circumstances are medically unnecessary and could lead to confusion about someone's health condition.

SMP recommends that beneficiaries should:

- Refuse to give out their personal information or accept screening services, including a cheek swab, from someone at a community event, a local fair, a farmer's market, a parking lot, and/or any other large event.
- Go to their own doctor to assess their condition, not a doctor on the phone they've never met from a company they don't know.
- Always read their Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB). The words "gene analysis" or "molecular pathology" as service codes may indicate questionable genetic testing.
- Refuse the delivery of any genetic testing kit that was not ordered by their physician.
- Be suspicious of anyone who offers free genetic testing and then requests their Medicare number. If their personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.

Report any suspected fraud or suspicious activity to the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol. Call 888-818-2611 to report fraudulent activity.

For more information, visit www.smpwi.org .

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

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