

Excessive or Unnecessary Tests and Services

MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER



Medicare pays for services that are **medically necessary** to diagnose or treat a medical condition.

When providers order excessive or unnecessary tests, services, or equipment, it can be Medicare fraud.

Examples of Unnecessary Services May Include:

- Ordering tests that are not needed
- Frequent visits without medical reason
- Providing equipment the patient did not need
- Unnecessary procedures or treatments
- Billing for therapy or home health visits that are not needed

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES OF THIS FORM OF MEDICARE FRAUD



UNNECESSARY GENETIC TESTING

Beneficiaries are offered “free” genetic or cancer screening tests that are not medically necessary. Medicare is billed thousands of dollars for tests they did not need.



EXCESSIVE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME)

Suppliers send equipment or supplies you did not ask for or need—such as braces or catheters—and bill Medicare every month.



UNNECESSARY HOME HEALTH OR THERAPY

Providers may continue therapy or home health visits longer than needed and bill Medicare even when not medically justified.



FREQUENT DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Clinics may order expensive tests—such as nerve tests, ultrasounds, or cardiac screenings—without a clear medical need.



WARNING SIGNS

Be cautious if:

- You are offered “free” tests or equipment
- A provider pressures you into services you do not understand
- You receive supplies you did not order
- Your Medicare Summary Notice lists services you don’t recognize
- You are told Medicare “covers everything” without explanation
- A provider asks you to sign blank forms or paperwork



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- ✓ Review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) regularly.
- ✓ Ask questions about tests, treatments, or equipment.
- ✓ Talk with your primary doctor before agreeing to unfamiliar services.
- ✓ Keep records of appointments and equipment received.
- ✓ Report suspicious billing or services.



If something doesn't seem right, trust your instincts and speak up.

Asking questions can help stop fraud and protect your health and Medicare benefits.