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Avoid this genetic testing scam

Have you heard about the latest scam? Scammers are offering “free” genetic tests and claiming Medicare will cover it — so they can get your Medicare Number and use it to commit fraud and identity theft. They’re targeting people through telemarketing calls, health fairs, and even knocking on doors.

Only a doctor you know and trust should order and approve any requests for genetic testing. If Medicare is billed for a test or screening that wasn’t medically necessary and/or wasn’t ordered by your doctor, the claim could be denied. That means you could be responsible for the entire cost of the test, which could be thousands of dollars.

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Here’s how to protect yourself:

- **Don’t share your Medicare Number, Social Security Number, or other personal information** with anyone who offers to give you a “free” in-person genetic screening or cheek swab, or a DNA testing kit in the mail.
- If you get a genetic testing kit in the mail, **refuse the delivery or return to sender** unless your doctor ordered it.
- **If you suspect Medicare fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE.**

Sincerely,

The Medicare Team