



Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – December 2024

Scam Alert: “Neuro” Testing

Watch out for calls, texts, emails or social media messages offering genetic testing for your brain or nerves. Scammers are contacting people on Medicare, saying these tests are “free” or that Medicare covers them. If you hear this, report it right away—**it’s a scam!**

The scammers want your Medicare number. Once they have it, they charge Medicare thousands of dollars for fake tests and services you never got. Never accept any genetic test kits that your doctor did not order for you.

Look for these warning signs:

- A company offers you “free” testing without your doctor’s approval.
- A company wants to set up testing over the phone with a doctor you don’t know.
- Always check your Medicare Summary Notice if you have Original Medicare or your Explanation of Benefits if you have a Medicare Advantage plan, to make sure there aren’t any strange charges.
- Someone asks for your Medicare number at a health fair, senior center, or other wellness event.

Medicare only covers certain genetic tests, like those for cancer risks or genetic conditions, if a doctor says they are necessary. Always make sure any test is ordered by your healthcare provider. **And remember, only share your Medicare number with people you trust in healthcare.**

Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-833-818-0029. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General’s Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Medicare Rights Center. November 2024 Medicare Minute, and the SMP National Resource Center. (2024 October 28). Scam Alert! Be on the lookout for calls, texts, emails, and social media messages offering you or your loved ones. Facebook. URL: https://www.facebook.com/SMPNationalResourceCenter/photos/scam-alert-be-on-the-lookout-for-calls-texts-emails-and-social-media-messages-of/944079411092738/?_rdr

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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