

Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud

Genetic testing scams quickly emerged in 2019 targeting cancer screening and pharmacogenetics (medication metabolism). The *latest* growing genetic testing fraud trend focuses on cardiovascular genetic testing.

What is Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Fraud?

Cardiovascular genetic testing fraud occurs when Medicare is billed for a cardio type of test or screening that was not medically necessary and/or was not ordered by a beneficiary's treating physician.

What You Should Know:

Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for fraudulent billing purposes/medical identity theft. If Medicare denies the claim, you could be responsible for the entire cost, which averages \$9,000 to \$11,000.

Here are examples of how cardiovascular genetic testing is advertised:

- * Cardio/cardiac genetic screening/test
 - * Comprehensive cardiovascular panel
 - * Cardiovascular disease genetic kit
 - * Cardiovascular genetic screening/test
 - * Comprehensive cardiomyopathy NSG
 - * Hereditary cardiovascular profile
- ◆ A company calls you stating your doctor **or cardiologist** requested that you have the testing done and they will send you a testing kit.
 - ◆ A company offering you "free" or "at no cost to you" testing without a treating physician's order and then billing Medicare.
 - ◆ A company using "telemedicine" to offer testing to you over the phone and arranging for an unrelated physician or "teledoc" to order the tests.
 - ◆ Billing Medicare (usually thousands of dollars) for a broad range of cardiac genetic tests that you did not request or even receive.

How to Respond:

Be sure your doctor has assessed your condition. Although Medicare covers many genetic tests to detect heart disease, this is not a test to predict or screen for cardiovascular disease.

Do not give out your personal information to someone calling claiming to be your cardiologist requesting the testing.

Do not give out your personal information or accept screening services from someone at a community event, a local fair, a farmers' market, a parking lot, or any other event.

Always read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB). The CPT codes series to look for are 81400—81500 associated with the words "gene analysis," "molecular pathology," or "laboratory." This may indicate questionable genetic testing has occurred.

If you received a cardiovascular genetic testing kit or test that was not medically necessary, contact the AR SMP.

REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP — 866-726-2916