

The Senior Medicare Patrol is.....

LOOKING OUT FOR YOU

DATE: 12/1/2015

2015-12

SUBJECT: Be Aware of Genetic Testing Lures

- Seniors in group settings, such as senior centers and residences, are being targeted by companies promoting “free” genetic testing.
- The invitation may even include a “party” during which a painless cheek swab is pitched to seniors as the key to information which will enable their doctors to fine-tune their medications and care.
- And to seal the deal, seniors are told that this test is absolutely free because Medicare will pay for it. All that is needed is their Medicare numbers.
- Be aware that Medicare will not pay for genetic testing without a doctor’s prescription that includes the specific need for such a test. People have been stuck with big bills when their insurance plan decided the test was not medically necessary.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- If you are present at a group meeting about genetic testing, think twice before you agree to testing. Check with your doctor and your insurance plan first.
- Do NOT give out your Medicare number if you are asked for proof of age, Medicare enrollment, or attendance.
- Report genetic testing events to the Hawaii Senior Medicare Patrol at 808-586-7281 or 800-296-9422. Or use the Contact Form on our website at <http://smphawaii.org/contact/>.



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