Genetic Testing Fraud Alert
Agenda

- Reporting Labs
- Office of Inspector General (OIG) Fraud Alert
- ACL Awareness Alert
Clinical Laboratories Improvement Act (CLIA)

- Requires all entities to meet certain Federal requirements if perform even one test on “materials derived from the human body” for the purpose of:
  - Prevention
  - Treatment of any disease or impairment
  - Assessment of the health
  - Screening reported bac to provider or patient

- If an entity performs tests for these purposes, it is considered under CLIA to be a laboratory and must register with the CLIA program.
Complaints about a Lab

- Complaints about a lab should be reported to a State Agency where the testing laboratory is located.

- The State Agency contacts page
Fraud Alert: Genetic Testing Scam

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General is alerting the public about a fraud scheme involving genetic testing.

- Offering Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain Medicare information for identity theft or fraudulent billing purposes.
- Beneficiaries are being targeted through
  - Telemarketing calls
  - Booths at public events, health fairs
  - Door-to-door visits
Fraud Alert: Genetic Testing Scam

- If a beneficiary agrees to genetic testing or verifies personal or Medicare information, a testing kit is sent even if it is not ordered by a physician or medically necessary.
How to Protect Yourself

▶ If a genetic testing kit is mailed to you, **don't accept it unless it was ordered by your physician.** Refuse the delivery or return it to the sender. Keep a record of the sender's name and date returned.

▶ **Be suspicious** of anyone who offers you free genetic testing and then requests your Medicare number. If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.

▶ A physician that you know and trust should approve any testing.

▶ **Medicare beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for their Medicare numbers.** If anyone other than your physician's office requests your Medicare information, do not provide it.

▶ If you suspect Medicare fraud, **contact the HHS OIG Hotline.**
  ▶ 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)
Genetic Testing Awareness

- SHIP and SMP Networks are advised to...
  - Decline the request of representatives from genetic testing companies or possibly insurance agents working on behalf of these companies in the participation of a beneficiary events because of the potential for fraud.
  - CMS has received inquiries from beneficiaries stating that they have been billed for genetic testing or cancer screenings performed at community events and senior centers.
SHIPs and SMPs - Help Spread the Following Messages to Beneficiaries

- Do not give out your Medicare number or Social Security number.
  - Be cautious of unsolicited requests for your Medicare or Social Security numbers.
  - If your personal information is compromised, it may be used in other fraud schemes.
- Do not consent to any lab tests at senior centers, health fairs, or in your home.
  - Be suspicious of anyone claiming that genetic tests and cancer screenings are at no cost to you.
Help Spread the Following Messages

- Genetic tests and cancer screenings must be medically necessary and ordered by your doctor to be covered by Medicare.
  - Random genetic testing and cancer screenings aren’t covered by Medicare.
  - If you are interested in the test, speak with your doctor.
Help Spread the Following Messages

- Monitor your Medicare Summary Notice to see if there are any services you didn’t have or didn’t want but were billed for.
  - Medicare Summary Notices are sent every three months if you get any services or medical supplies during that 3-month period.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-HHS-TIPS if you think you’re a victim of fraud.
Most Effective Way to Address Fraudulent Claims

- Calling 1-800-MEDICARE is probably the most efficient way to address any claims that may have been submitted.

- CMS staff will work directly with the MACs so that they can determine whether the claim(s) should be reversed and an overpayment should be requested from the provider.