

# GENETIC TESTING IS NEVER FREE.

**Here is how the scam works:** You attend a health fair or presentation where people offer “free” genetic testing/screenings for cancer and/or other diseases. Then they take your Medicare number.



**What the business will do next is charge your Medicare account for the genetic testing services.** You may or may not receive your test results, but if you read your MSN, you will see Medicare is charged a large amount of money for something you were told was “free.”



**Always work with your doctor.** If you need genetic testing, your doctor can order it for you and talk about the results with you.



If you’ve received genetic testing paid for by Medicare at a fair or presentation or notice something suspicious on your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN), please contact the Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol at AgeOptions at **(800)699-9043**.



# PROTECT, DETECT AND REPORT

Follow the **SMP** message to help prevent Medicare fraud.

1

**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.

2

**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.

3

**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 are not covered by Medicare. If you are interested in the test, speak with your doctor.

4

**Monitor your Medicare Summary Notice to see if there are any services you did not have or did not 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.

If you notice something suspicious on your MSN, please contact the Illinois Senior Medicare Patrol at AgeOptions at: **1 (800)699-9043**.