

# COVID-19 Exploitation Scheme

Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries COVID-19 tests and using their Medicare information to bill for additional, unrelated tests that are medically unnecessary and more expensive.

## The Alleged Scheme:



**Marketers offer beneficiaries COVID-19 tests** at senior living facilities, medical offices, and other locations. While collecting samples for COVID-19 tests, **marketers suggest additional, unrelated testing** supposedly free to patients and covered by Medicare (e.g., allergy, genetic, respiratory testing).



**These additional tests are medically unnecessary and far more expensive.**



**Fraudulent labs** pay marketers to receive beneficiaries' samples and Medicare information for processing.



**These COVID-19 test results are typically not timely or reliable. Results for the unnecessary tests are useless to the patients and their actual treating physicians.**



**Conspiring telemedicine providers** are paid by marketers or labs to authorize referrals for the unnecessary tests. Referrals are required for Medicare payment of these tests.



**If beneficiaries have consultations with these providers, appointments are brief and do not adequately validate need for testing.**



**Labs submit claims** to Medicare and receive reimbursement for COVID-19 and additional, unrelated tests.



**Medicare pays for illegitimate and inappropriate tests. Beneficiaries may be responsible for any costs of tests denied by Medicare.**

This alleged scheme is current as of May 2021.



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