



Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)

What is it?

In 2015, Congress passed the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act. This law requires the removal of Social Security numbers from all Medicare cards by April 2019 and the issuing of new Medicare cards to replace the old ones. This new initiative is referred to as the Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI). A new **Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)** will replace the Social Security Number (SSN)-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards for Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status and claim status.

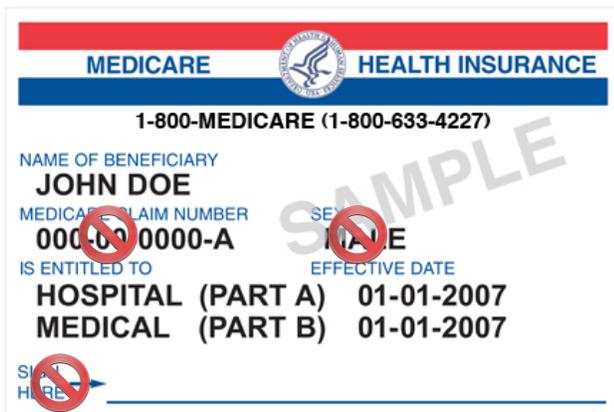
When is it coming?

Starting around April 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will start mailing out the new Medicare cards in phases since there are approximately 60 million beneficiaries on Medicare. If a beneficiary is new to Medicare after April 2018, the beneficiary will receive the new MBI card. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established a transition period from April 2018 through December 31, 2019. During this transition period, your current Medicare card or the new MBI card will be accepted. After December 31, 2019, only the new MBI card will be accepted.

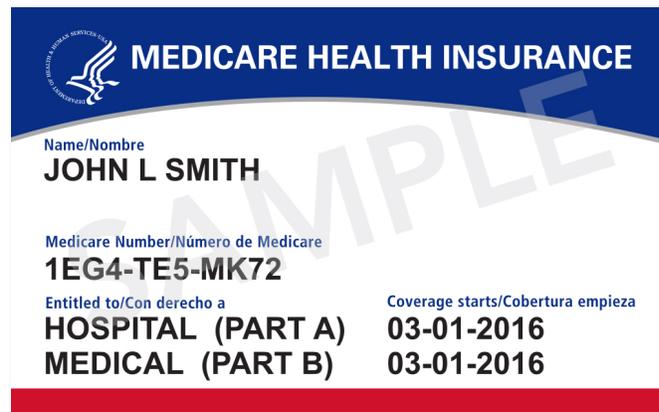
What will it look like?

The new Medicare card will have a completely different and randomly assigned identifier that will be 11 characters long, containing a mix of numbers and uppercase letters. This is the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). CMS is also removing the gender and signature line from the new Medicare card. The MBI is confidential like your SSN and should be protected as personal health information.

Current Medicare Card



New Medicare Card



	KEY	EXAMPLE
CURRENT CARD	SSA HICN	123-45-6789-A1
NEW CARD	MBI	1EG4-TE5-MK73

Why is the SSNRI important?

CMS is removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards to prevent medical identity theft. By replacing the SSN-based HICN on all Medicare cards, you can better protect your private health care information.

Will the MBI's characters have any meaning?

Each MBI is unique and randomly generated, and the characters are “non-intelligent,” which means they don't have any hidden or special meaning.

Will a new card change my Medicare benefits?

The MBI won't change Medicare benefits. People with Medicare may start using their new Medicare cards and MBIs as soon as they get them.

Tips to Help Stop Medical Identity Theft

- Make sure the Social Security Administration has your current address so that you will receive your new card in the mail.
- The new card will not change your Medicare benefits, it only changes your Medicare number.
- **This new MBI number is confidential like your Social Security number and should be protected as personal health information.**
- Remember, CMS and Medicare will never contact you by phone or email asking to confirm your Medicare number so they can send you a new card. **The calls are a scam!**
- There is no charge for the new Medicare cards. Do not pay anyone who asks for money in return for issuing a card.
- Take your new Medicare card to your medical appointments and show your providers your new card.
- Only give your Medicare information to trusted entities, including medical providers, your local SHIP and SMP offices or trusted family members.

For more information or questions about the new **Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) card** contact Medicare at 800-633-4227.