

HealthEast Medical Laboratory (HML)
Fairview Diagnostic Laboratories (FDL)

For Your Information

New Medicare Card: Transition Period Ends in Less Than 6 Months Effective January 1, 2020

Starting January 1, 2020, you must use the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). CMS and HML/FDL will reject claims you submit with the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN), with a few exceptions and reject all eligibility transactions.

Many providers are using the MBI for Medicare transactions. For the week ending July 5, providers submitted 76% of fee-for-service claims with the MBI. Protect your patients' identities by using MBIs now for all Medicare transactions.

For more information, see the MLN Matters Article.

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE18006.pdf>

The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) requires CMS to remove Social Security Numbers from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new, randomly generated Medicare Beneficiary Identifier, or MBI, is replacing the SSN-based HICN. The new MBI is noticeably different than the HICN. Just like with the HICN, the MBI hyphens on the card are for illustration purposes: don't include the hyphens or spaces on transactions. The MBI uses numbers 0-9 and all uppercase letters except for S, L, O, I, B, and Z. We exclude these letters to avoid confusion when differentiating some letters and numbers (e.g., between "0" and "O").

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is also mailing new Medicare cards with the MBI. The RRB logo will be in the upper left corner and "Railroad Retirement Board" at the bottom, but you can't tell from looking at the MBI if your patients are eligible for Medicare because they're railroad retirees. You'll be able to identify them by the RRB logo on their card, and we'll return a "Railroad Retirement Medicare Beneficiary" message on the Fee-For-Service (FFS) MBI eligibility transaction response.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information.
Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>

To sign up for your MAC's secure portal MBI look-up tool, visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Providers/MACs-Provider-Portals-by-State.pdf>

The MBI format specifications, which provide more details on the construct of the MBI, are available at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Understanding-the-MBI.pdf>