

Date: March 23, 2018

Market: ALL

CMS to Remove Social Security Numbers from Medicare Cards – New Cards to Begin Mailing April 2018

Background

To comply with the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015 and minimize the risk of identity theft, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be removing Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019.

SSNs on Medicare cards will be replaced with a new identifier

A new, unique Medicare Number, referred to as the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will be used to replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) currently used on Medicare cards.

New Medicare cards will be mailed beginning April 2018

CMS will begin mailing the new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare on a flow basis starting April 2018. Additional details from CMS regarding the timeline of issuing new Medicare cards by geographic location can be found [here](#).

To ensure new Medicare cards are received, members should make sure their current mailing address is accurate. Address updates can be made by contacting the Social Security Administration at www.ssa.gov/myaccount or **800-772-1213**.

Effective April 1, 2018, CareFirst will begin accepting the new Medicare number, now referred to as the MBI. Members with Medicare should use the new card once they receive it; however, the previous SSN-based number will be accepted through December 2019.

Beginning on January 1, 2020, only the new MBI will be accepted and usable.

Additional information for members, partners, employers, and providers can be found on the CMS [New Medicare Card](#) website.

Should you have any questions, please contact your broker sales representative.