



CareFirst Broker Flash

For Consumer Direct contracted brokers only.
For additional information or supplies, please contact your Broker Sales Representative.
(Not intended for distribution to groups and members)

Date: May 18, 2018

Market: Consumer Direct

New Initiatives Launching May 18, 2018 Social Security Number (SSN) Removal, Autopay Credit Card Acceptance

Social Security Number Removal Initiative

Currently, Medicare uses an SSN based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) for Medicare transactions such as billing, eligibility status and claims. However, using sensitive Personally Identifiable Information increases the risk of identity theft. As a result, CMS is issuing all Medicare members a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) to replace their HICN.

CMS has started issuing new member ID cards:

- April 2018 – CMS began issuing updated member ID cards with MBIs to new Medicare enrollees
- May 2018 – Existing Medicare enrollees are being issued their new member ID cards with MBI
- April 2019 – All new ID cards must be issued and mailed

All carriers, providers, and other stakeholders must be able to accept both the HICN and MBI during this transition period which ends December 31, 2019. After December 31, 2019, carriers must accept only the MBI. CareFirst implemented the SSN Removal Initiative to ensure all strategic business units, systems and platforms are prepared to accept, process and store this new information.

Senate Bill 48 – Maryland Only

Senate Bill 48 is an existing bill for health insurance, specifically Medicare Supplement policies for dual eligible individuals. This bill grants those who are under age 65 and eligible for Medicare – due to a disability – the right to obtain coverage from health insurance carriers.

The bill was modified to allow for an extension of their open enrollment period and requires a carrier to accept an applicant if they received notification from Medicare that their coverage was retroactive during the six-month period following notification of enrollment in Medicare. This modification went into effect in July 2017.

As a result of the bill, CareFirst launched a manual process to identify potential applicants who may be subject to a special Guaranteed Issue Period. The law is specific to Maryland; however, we are implementing these changes to include Washington, D.C. and Virginia. The manual process will be fully automated.

Today, CareFirst reaches out to these applicants and processes them based on their situation. The current volume of applicants is minimal.



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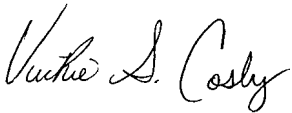
Autopay Discount to Include Credit Cards in Maryland

Due to an addition to Senate Bill 94/House Bill 800 in September 2017, insurance carriers cannot provide premium discounts that favor other forms of payment over credit card payments.

CareFirst offers an autopay discount to our Maryland Over 65 members who sign-up for recurring payments through their checking or savings account. Because of the bill, we had to decide whether to eliminate the autopay discount or include credit cards as an additional option. To stay competitive, we decided to expand the scope of our autopay discount to include credit card payments in Maryland only. We do not have plans to offer the credit card option in Washington, D.C. or Virginia.

These initiatives are effective Friday, May 18, 2018.

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



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