

New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Get It, Use It!

June 25, 2018

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is mailing the new Medicare cards with the MBI in phases by geographic location. There are 3 ways you and your office staff can get MBIs:

1. Ask your Medicare patients

Ask your Medicare patients for their new Medicare card when they come for care. If they haven't received a new card at the completion of their geographic wave, refer them to 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227)

2. Use the MAC's secure MBI look-up tool

Once the new Medicare card with the MBI is mailed to your patient, you can look up MBIs for your Medicare patients when they don't or can't give them. Sign up for the Portal to use the tool. You can use this tool even after the end of the transition period – it doesn't end on December 31, 2019.

3. Check the remittance advice

Starting in October 2018 through the end of the transition period, CMS will also return the MBI on every remittance advice when you submit claims with valid and active Health Insurance Claim Numbers (HICNs). You can start using the MBIs even if the other health care providers and hospitals who also treat your patients haven't. When the transition period ends on December 31, 2019, you must use the MBI for most transactions.

Note: This article was revised on June 21, 2018, to emphasize the need to submit the MBI without hyphens or spaces to avoid rejection of your claim. All other information remains the same.