

ANNOUNCEMENT – New Medicare Card Replacement Initiative

In an effort to combat identity theft and safeguard taxpayer dollars, the United States Congress passed the [Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act \(MACRA\) of 2015](#) directing the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove any reference to Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. This mandated national undertaking, formerly referred to by CMS as the Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI), is now known simply as the **New Medicare Card** replacement initiative.

The focal point of the New Medicare Card replacement initiative is the *Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)* which will replace a recipient's existing SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) currently inscribed on their Medicare benefits card. The MBI will be used for all Medicare transactions including eligibility status, claims, and billing. CMS will begin issuing MBIs and mailing new Medicare cards to active beneficiaries in April 2018 in advance of meeting the Congressionally-mandated deadline. Additionally, inactive Medicare beneficiaries will have an MBI assigned to their historical record but will not receive a new Medicare card.

In preparation for the national transition from HICN to MBI, all state agencies need to ready their respective Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and **all** associated downstream data systems to support usage of the MBI for "dual eligible" (Medicare and Medicaid) beneficiaries. As per CMS guidance, such programmatic changes must be made before October 2017 in order to allow a sufficient testing window prior to the April 2018 issuance of new Medicare cards. Each state's governing Medicaid authority is tasked by CMS to oversee and monitor statewide efforts and report overall progress to CMS on a regular basis.

The New York State Department of Health is working diligently to make programmatic changes in *eMedNY* in advance of the October 2017 testing deadline and likewise anticipates working with its Medicaid managed care organizations, providers, and other stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition. Downstream data partners are expected to make similar programmatic changes to their respective systems and to likewise work in concert with their respective stakeholder community.

For more information regarding the **New Medicare Card** replacement initiative, please feel free to visit any of the following resources.

Helpful Links

- CMS Press Release:
<https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-releases/2017-Press-releases-items/2017-05-30.html>
- General Information Portal:
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/new-medicare-card/nmc-home.html>
- Information for State Medicaid Agencies:
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/States/States.html>
- Information for Providers:
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Providers/Providers.html>

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