

How Will the New Medicare ID Numbers Impact My Practice?

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Starting in April 2018, new Medicare beneficiary cards and numbers will be issued, with all Medicare cards expected to be replaced by April 2019.

The new Medicare Beneficiary ID (MBI) numbers will be 11 alphanumeric characters. During the transition period, healthcare providers will be able to use either patient identifier (HICN or MBI) when submitting claims, until December 31, 2019.

The new ID numbers require that your practice management systems are updated with the new numbers. Practice staff should keep in mind that their systems will have to be able to identify and handle dual MBI numbers until all claims are paid. Additional concerns could occur when a practice submits a claim with an old MBI number and CMS sends back the electronic remittance with the new MBI number. Some practice management systems may not be able to identify the patient.

The biggest challenge will be secondary payers. CMS will notify the secondary payers; however, it is up to the secondary payer to update their systems.

The best way to prepare for this change is to inform and train your front desk staff of the upcoming change and work with your practice management vendor and IT consultant to enlist their aid for a smooth transition.

Source: www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/index.html