



Inland Empire Health Plan



**To:** Medicare IPAs and All IEHP Providers  
**From:** IEHP – Provider Relations  
**Date:** December 23, 2019  
**Subject:** **Reminder: Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) and New Medicare Cards**

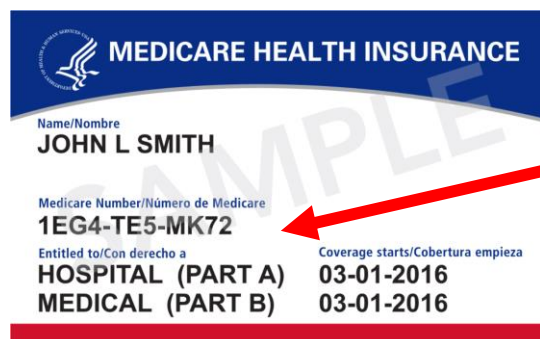
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The MACRA Act of 2015, mandates Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove Social Security Numbers (SSN) from all Medicare Cards to address the risk of Medicare beneficiary medical identity theft. CMS has mailed out new Medicare Cards to Medicare Beneficiaries. Effective **January 1, 2020**, all Medicare Advantage (MA) and Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) **must** use the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

**What you need to know:**

1. The new Medicare Cards include a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) which replaced the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN).
2. CMS has removed SSN from the Medicare Cards to help keep information secure and help protect identity.
3. The MBI is confidential like the SSN and should be protected as Personally Identifiable Information.
4. The new card will not change Member's covered benefits.
5. Please encourage Members who have not received a new Medicare card to visit <http://www.mymedicare.gov> or call 1-800-MEDICARE
6. Go to <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Partners-and-Employers/Partners-and-employers.html> for the latest information.

**Please see an example of new ID card below:**



**New Medicare Number**

- New Non – Intelligent Unique Identifier
- 11 characters in length
- Key positions 2, 5, 8 & 9 will always be alphabetic
- Will use numbers 1-9 and all letters from A to Z, except for S, L, O, I, B, and Z. This will help the characters be easier to read.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.