



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TO: All Medicare Eligible Plan Participants

FROM: Board of Trustees

RE: **New Medicare Cards and Identifiers Are Coming Your Way**

DATE: April 2018

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Your Medicare identification number is changing. Beginning in April 2018, and by no later than April 2019, you will receive a new Medicare identification card in the mail from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The new card will no longer show your Social Security Number and will instead show your new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

You will need to give your new MBI to your medical providers and your health plan so that they can use it for billing and to confirm your eligibility. **This would be a good time to make sure that CMS has your current address so that you do not miss your new Medicare card.** The new card could arrive anytime between April 2018 and April 2019.

Even though your new MBI will not have your Social Security Number, you should be careful not to disclose it to others. Here are some tips from the Federal Trade Commission:

Having your Social Security number removed from your Medicare card helps fight medical identity theft and protect your medical and financial information. But even with these changes, scammers will still look for ways to take what doesn't belong to them. Here are some ways to avoid Medicare scams:

- Is someone calling, claiming to be from Medicare, and asking for your Social Security number or bank information? Hang up. That's a scam. First, Medicare won't call you. Second, Medicare will never ask for your Social Security number or bank information.
- Is someone asking you to pay for your new card? That's a scam. Your new Medicare card is free.
- Is someone threatening to cancel your benefits if you don't give up information or money? Also a scam. New Medicare cards will be mailed out to you automatically. There won't be any changes to your benefits.

The health plan should get your new MBI from CMS. But if you want to make sure that your health plan has your most current information, please send a copy of your new MBI to the Fund Office after you get your card in the mail. The Fund Office is always happy to help with your questions, but please remember that we do not issue Medicare cards and do not know when yours will be sent.