



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

December 27, 2019

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Effective January 1, 2020

Dear IEHP Pharmacy Provider,

Starting January 1, 2020, all Medicare transactions must use the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

Based on the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, CMS issued each Medicare enrollee a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) in early 2018 to replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) as the beneficiary identifier.

Below table highlights the key differences of HICN vs. MBI:

Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN)	Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary Beneficiary Account Holder Social Security Number (SSN) plus Beneficiary Identification Code (BIC)• 9-byte SSN plus 1 or 2-byte BIC• Key positions 1-9 are numeric• Example: 123-45-6789-A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Non-Intelligent Unique Identifier• 11 bytes• Key positions 2, 5, 8, and 9 will always be alphabetic• Example: 1EG4-TE5-MK73

In an effort to prevent disruption in services, CMS designated a transition period from April 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019, where stakeholders could use either the MBI or HICN when communicating with providers. To ensure uninterrupted access to pharmacies services during the transition period, the E1 transaction response was changed to include the beneficiary MBI when a beneficiary match is identified. When the transition period ends on December 31, 2019, the E1 will no longer include the MBI.

Effective January 1, 2020, please use MBIs for all Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status. Every person with Medicare has been assigned an MBI. The MBI is confidential like the SSN and should be protected as Personally Identifiable Information.

Please see below for additional resources and information on the Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs):

- CMS New Medicare Card Page: <https://www.cms.gov/newcard>
- CMS New Medicare Card – Information for Partners and Employers: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Partners-and-Employers/Partners-and-employers.html>
- New MBI: Get it, Use It: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE18006.pdf>
- DHCS New Medicare Card: Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) – Courtesy Notice: http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/newsroom/newsroom_30027.asp?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=medi-cal-newsflash&utm_content=DCN_30027

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at (909) 890-2049 between 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
IEHP Pharmaceutical Services