

What is an MBI?

April 11, 2018

By now you are aware that the current Medicare number, also known as the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) is going away, and it is being replaced with a new identifier that will not include a person's social security number.

The new identifier is formally called the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). Below is a comparison between the HICN and the MBI.

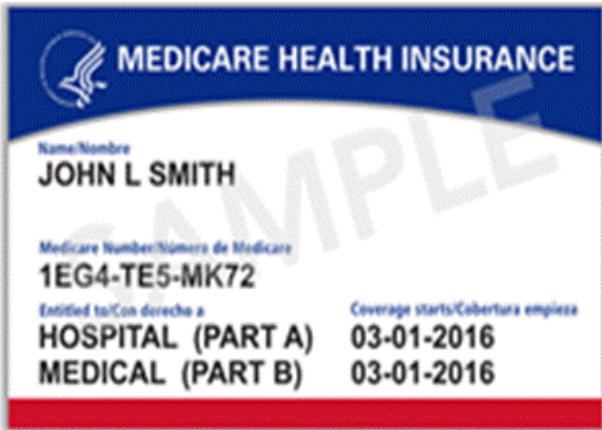

Please visit the [MBI format specifications](#) page of the [New Medicare Card](#) website for full MBI details.

HICN	MBI
Is a person's Social Security Number.	Is an individual randomly generated alpha-numeric combination and does not contain personally identifiable information.
10-11 characters long	11 characters long
Uses numbers 0-9 Various letters in the English alphabet	Uses numbers 1-9 All letters from A to Z, except for S, L, O, I, B, and Z.
Prefixes and suffixes designate entitlement reasons (i.e., aged, disabled, ESRD)	No identifiable characters to show reason for entitlement.
More than one beneficiary can have the same SSN in their HICN. Spouses or dependents may have the same HICN with different prefix/suffix.	Each person with Medicare will get their own MBI. Spouses or dependents who may have had similar HICNs will each get their own MBI.
Example HICN: 012345678A A123456789 = RRB	Example MBI: 1EG4-TE5-MK73 RRB will follow same format

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Sample Card

New CMS Medicare Card	New Railroad Retirement Board Card												
 <p>MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE</p> <p>Name/Nombre JOHN L SMITH</p> <p>Medicare Number/Número de Medicare 1EG4-TE5-MK72</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Entitled to/Con derecho a</td> <td>Coverage starts/Coertura empieza</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOSPITAL (PART A)</td> <td>03-01-2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEDICAL (PART B)</td> <td>03-01-2016</td> </tr> </table>	Entitled to/Con derecho a	Coverage starts/Coertura empieza	HOSPITAL (PART A)	03-01-2016	MEDICAL (PART B)	03-01-2016	 <p>MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE</p> <p>Name/Nombre JOHN L SMITH</p> <p>Medicare Number/Número de Medicare 1EG4-TE5-MK72</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Entitled to/Con derecho a</td> <td>Coverage starts/Coertura empieza</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOSPITAL (PART A)</td> <td>03-01-2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MEDICAL (PART B)</td> <td>03-01-2016</td> </tr> </table> <p>RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD</p>	Entitled to/Con derecho a	Coverage starts/Coertura empieza	HOSPITAL (PART A)	03-01-2016	MEDICAL (PART B)	03-01-2016
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