

Division of Mental Health, Developmental
Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
3001 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-3001
Tel 919-733-7011 Fax 919-508-0951
Jason E. Vogler, Ph.D.
Senior Director

Division of Medical Assistance
2501 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2501
Tel 919-855-4100 Fax 919-733-6608
Dave Richard
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance

LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J283

Date: March 23, 2018

To: LME-MCOs

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, DMA
Lisa Jackson, Team Leader for System Performance and Project Management, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier Effective April 1, 2018

Effective April 1, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will start replacing the current Medicare Health Insurance Claim Number (HIC) with a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). The purpose of the MBI is to eliminate use of the SSN-based HICN to prevent identity theft and fraud. CMS has published information to the public and providers for several months.

- CMS will issue new Medicare identification cards with the MBI to all current Medicare beneficiaries on a rolling schedule from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.
- Beneficiaries who are newly entitled to Medicare April 1, 2018, and later will have the MBI on their new Medicare cards.

NCTracks will be modified to display the MBI on the Recipient Summary Screen in the Cross-reference/Combine section and in the General section at the top of the page when the source is NC FAST. The MBI also displays on the Medicare pages under the TPL tab.

CMS expects states to delay release of the MBI externally until October 1, 2018. The exceptions are for new Medicare beneficiaries who only have an MBI and beneficiaries who have received their new Medicare cards. If the beneficiary presents the new Medicare card to a provider, it can be released at any time.

The NCTracks recipient eligibility response will continue to include the HICN until October 1, 2018, unless the beneficiary only has an MBI. The HICN will continue to be used for Medicare Buy-In, so it will appear on the NCTracks pages, but the HICN will not be shared with beneficiaries.

Please protect the MBI from release to beneficiaries or any other external entity until October 1, 2018. If you have the MBI on your local system and your network providers access your local system, you need to pass this information on to them and ask them not to share the MBI with external entities.

More information is available at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please call Adolph Simmons at (919) 855-4357.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins>

Cc: Dave Richard, DMA
Jason E. Vogler, DMH/DD/SAS
Dale Armstrong, DHHS
DMA Leadership Team
DMH/DD/SAS Leadership Team
Mary Hooper, i2i Center for Integrative Health