

## How can you protect yourself and others?

Remember, Medicare will never call or email you about your new Medicare Card. If someone calls you about a new Medicare or Social Security Card, even if it says the name on the caller ID, it may be a scam.

Never give out your Medicare information, Social Security number or other personal, financial, or healthcare information over the phone.

Caution your family, friends and neighbors to protect themselves from potential healthcare fraud or medical identity theft, particularly during the roll out of the new Medicare Cards.

Remind them that Medicare will never call them and not to give out personal information.

To volunteer with our CA Senior Medicare Patrol, call SMP at

**1-855-613-7080**

or learn more at  
[www.cahealthadvocates.org](http://www.cahealthadvocates.org)

## Help Stop Medical Identity Theft

Keep your mailing address up to date with Social Security, Medicare and healthcare providers in order to receive your mail promptly.

Only share your Medicare and other personal, financial, or healthcare information with persons you know and trust and your healthcare provider.

Don't carry your Social Security or Medicare Card on a daily basis.

Don't give out your Medicare and other personal info over the phone.

If you think you may be a victim of identity theft or medical identity theft call Senior Medicare Patrol or 1-800-MEDICARE .

**California  
Senior Medicare Patrol**

**1-855-613-7080**

2 Executive Circle, Suite 175  
Irvine, CA, 92614

[www.cahealthadvocates.org](http://www.cahealthadvocates.org)



**Social Security  
Number Removal  
Initiative (SSNRI)  
means New  
Medicare Cards**

**April 2018 —  
December 2019**

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE	
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)	
NAME OF BENEFICIARY	JOHN DOE
MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER	000-00-0000-A
SEX	MALE
IS ENTITLED TO	EFFECTIVE DATE
HOSPITAL (PART A)	01-01-2007
MEDICAL (PART B)	01-01-2007
SIGN HERE	→

## Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)

In 2015, Congress passed a law that requires the removal of Social Security Numbers from Medicare cards by 2019. This is known as the Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI). The goal of SSNRI is to eliminate risk of medical identity theft and to better protect:

- Private health care and financial information
- Federal health care benefit and service payments

## New Medicare Cards Mailed

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will issue new Medicare cards starting April 2018.

- New cards will be mailed in phases between April 2018 - March 2019.
- Spouses may not receive their cards at the same time.
- New beneficiaries will receive a new card beginning April 2018.
- Start using your new card immediately.
- Destroy your old card immediately after receiving your new one.

## Your New Medicare Card & the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)

A new Medicare Card will be issued to you in the mail with a new number called the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) beginning April 2018. The new MBI will look different from your Social Security Number.

It has 11 easy to read characters, which will be a combination of numbers and uppercase letters and is unique to each beneficiary.

This new Medicare Card is the card you will use for healthcare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status.

This new number will not change your benefits in any way.

Key	Example
SSA HICN	123-45-6789-A1
MBI	1EG4-TE5-MK73

## How will Healthcare Providers Bill for Services?

Until everyone receives their new Medicare Card with their unique MBI, Medicare will accept and pay to beneficiaries using either their old Medicare Card or new Medicare Card until December 2019. That will allow time for providers to update their billing systems.

## Senior Medicare Patrol

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is a national program to help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud, abuse, and billing errors. Senior Medicare Patrol wants to warn everyone about possible scams related to the Social Security Number Removal Initiative and to remind them to protect their personal financial and medical information!

Report any suspicious scams to California SMP

1-855-613-7080