

January 8, 2017

Dear CHRISTUS Health Plan Provider:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards. This package includes important information about our work to assign new identification numbers and issue new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare beginning in April 2018. We want to be sure that you know about these changes and have the information you need to make a seamless transition.

CMS will replace the current Health Insurance Claim Numbers with a unique, randomly generated number on the new Medicare cards. Your Medicare patients usually call this their “Medicare number.” In our official guidance and documents to you, we’ll refer to this new Medicare number as the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier or MBI. Our top priorities as we move to new Medicare cards and numbers are to make sure your Medicare patients have continuous access to care and you have the tools and information you need to make the change. You’ll be able to look up your Medicare patient’s new Medicare number through your Medicare Administrative Contractor’s (MAC’s) secure web portal starting in June 2018. If you don’t already have access to your MAC’s portal sign up at, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Providers/MACs-Provider-Portals-by-State.pdf>

If you use vendors to bill Medicare and they haven’t already shared their new Medicare card and number system changes with you, contact them and ask if they’ll be ready for these

changes. We’re committed to a successful transition to the new cards and numbers for people with Medicare and for the health care provider community. You can get information on this initiative and other CMS news by signing up for your MAC’s electronic mail notifications.



Thank you for helping us change to the new Medicare cards and numbers so we can help protect identities of people with Medicare. Throughout the transition, we'll closely track how the new numbers are used for things like claims and eligibility transactions to make sure things are going smoothly. We appreciate your time and efforts to make this change a success.

Sincerely,
CHRISTUS Health Plan