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## New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)

CMS released an MLN Matters article on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with guidance on the new MBI number for providers. Per the article, “You can start using the MBIs even if the other health care providers and hospitals who also treat your patients haven’t. When the transition period ends December 31, 2019, providers must use the MBI for most transactions.”

Below is an excerpt with additional information that might be helpful when looking for the patient’s MBI and interacting with patients on the front end or if he/she has not received an updated card.

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is mailing the new Medicare cards with the MBI in phases by [geographic location](#). Here are 3 ways you and your office staff can get MBIs:

1. Ask your Medicare patients

- Ask your Medicare patients for their new Medicare card when they come for care. If they haven’t received a new card at the completion of their geographic wave, refer them to 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227).

2. Use the MAC’s secure MBI look-up tool

- Once the new Medicare card with the MBI has been mailed to your patient, you can look up MBIs for your Medicare patients when they don’t or can’t give them. [Sign up](#) for the Portal to use the tool. You can use this tool even after the end of the transition period – it doesn’t end on December 31, 2019.

3. Check the remittance advice

- Starting in October 2018 through the end of the transition period, Medicare will return the MBI on every remittance advice when you submit claims with valid and active Health Insurance Claim Numbers (HICNs).

Click on the link below to review the full MLN Matters Number SE18006:

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE18006.pdf>

CMS published a Mailing Strategy to help providers understand when to expect to see the new MBI assigned in their area. For already enrolled Medicare insured patients, the new cards will be received by month based on the geographic location and other factors. *For newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries, delivery of the MBI cards began in April 2018 and is ongoing.*