

New Medicare Cards Now Being Mailed

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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is now sending new cards to everyone with Medicare. To help combat identity theft and illegal use, instead of a Social Security Number (SSN), the new cards will use a unique, randomly-assigned number called a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

CMS began mailing new cards in April 2018 and will meet the congressional deadline for replacing all Medicare cards by April 2019.

Medicare will automatically mail the new card to the address Medicare recipients have on file with Social Security. For those who need to update their address, they can log into to their "my Social Security" account at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>.

When Can You Expect Your New Medicare Card?

Visit <https://www.mymedicare.gov/> and sign up to get email alerts from Medicare. Medicare will send you an email when cards start mailing in your state.

Medicare has also provided a list of the new card mailing plan here <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/NMC-Mailing-Strategy.pdf>

Steps to Protect Your Information and Identity After Receiving New Medicare Card

The Social Security Administration recommended the following:

- Destroy your old Medicare card right away. Make sure you destroy your old card to help protect your SSN and other personal information.
- Start using your new Medicare card. Doctors, other health care providers, and plans approved by Medicare know that Medicare is replacing the old cards, so carry the new card with you. They are ready to accept your new card when you need care. Your Medicare coverage and benefits will stay the same.
- Keep your Medicare Advantage Plan card. If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), keep using your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card whenever you need care. However, you should also carry your new Medicare card—you may be asked to show it.
- Protect your Medicare Number like you would your credit cards. Only give your new Medicare Number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurer, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf. Beware of people contacting you about your new Medicare card and asking you for your Medicare number, personal information, or to pay a fee for your new card. Medicare will never contact you uninvited to ask for your personal information.