

ATTENTION: Providers

MARCH 2018 PROVIDER BULLETIN

In an effort to protect people with Medicare and keep personal information protected, the law is requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to remove Social Security Numbers from all Medicare cards by April 2019. **This will begin in April 2018 and there will be a geographical wave of successive mailings.** A new unique Medicare number termed Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will be issued and replace beneficiary's current Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN). Please do not communicate MBIs to beneficiaries until the beneficiary has received his or her card.

What does this mean for UPHP MI Health Link, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Choice members?

- UPHP Medicare members will receive a new card just as all fee for service Medicare Beneficiaries. The difference will be that they will not use this new card (and new number).
- UPHP has always instructed our MI Health Link, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Choice members to store their Medicare cards and **ONLY use their UPHP cards.** This rule will continue to be the same.

We simply want to inform providers that this will be happening in hope they are able to answer member questions and prepare their business systems. Again, **providers and offices will still continue to use ONLY the UPHP Member ID card. This is how we identify members and are able to pay claims.**

Visit www.cms.gov/medicare/new-medicare-card for more information on this change or contact Dr. Eugene Freund, Provider Ombudsman for the New Medicare Card at NMCPProviderQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.

Contact UPHP Provider Relations at uphpproviderrelations@uphp.com or call 906-226-4285 with questions.

