

New Medicare Cards Being Issued

Due to the increased frequency and refinement of identity theft, President Obama signed a bill in 2015 that ended the use of Social Security numbers on Medicare cards. Medicare officials were given up to four years to start issuing cards with new identifiers. The new cards will have a randomly generated eleven-digit number. Residents of Pennsylvania will be the first to receive the new cards. This has been a huge undertaking for the Department of Health and Human Services and the transition to new cards should be completed by April 2019.



The new Medicare card will work exactly like the old one, as the new numbers will be linked to existing Medicare accounts; however, the new cards without your Social Security number will safeguard private information that thieves try to access.

When you receive your new Medicare card, destroy the one you have been using, but remember to keep your health insurance cards that you carry for your supplemental insurance, Prescription Part D insurance or Medicare Advantage plans.

And if someone calls you or comes to your home claiming they need additional information from you before you can receive your new card, do not allow yourself to become a victim of these scammers. Medicare or CMS will not call you for personal information and they would never send representatives to your home. If you need assistance from Medicare, call their helpline at 800.633.4227.