Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)

January 18, 2018

Income Maintenance Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting



What is it?

- The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, requires the Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to be removed from all Medicare cards by April 2019.
- A new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards for Medicare transactions like billing, eligibility status, and claim status.

When?

- Beginning in April 2018, CMS will start sending the new Medicare cards with the MBI to all people with Medicare.
- Transition period: During the transition period either the HICN or the MBI can be used to exchange data with CMS. The transition period will begin no earlier than April 1, 2018 and run through December 31, 2019.

ACCESS Changes

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Communications

- CMS has sent out mailings to Medicare Card Owners, and has been running Public Service Announcements on TV.
- Wisconsin has been coordinating communication efforts with HMOs, Providers, and medical organizations.
- An Operations Memo will be sent out closer to the release date with more detailed information.

How Will This Impact You?

- The majority of the changes, as they pertain to CARES, are backend changes that will impact data exchanges between CARES and the MMIS.
- There will be some visible changes made to CARES as is illustrated in the screen-shots previously shown.
- Members may inquire as they begin to receive newly issued cards from CMS.