Provider Alert #3

January 30, 2018

HealthChoices Contracts:
- Allegheny
- Berks
- Blair
- Carbon/Monroe/Pike
- Chester
- Erie
- Lycoming/Clinton
- North Central
- Northeast
- York/Adams

CMS Issuing New Medicare Cards and New Medicare Numbers

**Purpose:** To notify Providers of the CMS transition to remove Social Security numbers from all Medicare cards by April 2018. A new, Unique Medicare Number called the MBI Medicare Beneficiary Identifier will replace the current HICN number on the new cards. Each person with Medicare will receive their own randomly generated MBI.

Starting in April 2018, Medicare beneficiaries will begin to receive their new Medicare cards. Registration and billing office staff must make the necessary changes to their systems so they can accept/exchange the MBI. The MBI will be 11 digits, alpha and numeric. Systems must be able to accept the MBI by April 1, 2018.

There will be a transition period which will start April 1, 2018 and run through December 31, 2019. The transition period will allow data exchanges to include either the HICN or the MBI. The exception will be people who are new to Medicare as of April 1, 2018 as they will receive a Medicare card with an MBI only.

It is also very important to communicate to Medicare members not to dispose of their old Medicare card during the transition period.

For additional information related to the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier-MBI, please access the CMS website and/or the Social Security Administration website below:


[https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/blog/june16-new-medicare-cards](https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/blog/june16-new-medicare-cards)