

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2053-MC-FFS-D

DATE: October 9, 2019

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Providers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS), Dental (D)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging all **Medicare** providers to start transitioning from using a beneficiary's Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) to their MBI when submitting Medicare claims.

CMS has finished mailing new Medicare cards with a MBI to all beneficiaries and is encouraging beneficiaries to start using their new MBI to receive services. Using a MBI helps to protect the identities of people with Medicare and helps keep them safer from identity theft.

Beginning January 1, 2020, CMS will reject Medicare claims submitted with the HICN, with limited exceptions. CMS will reject all eligibility transactions submitted with the HICN.

Find more information on CMS [website](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/Providers/Providers-and-office-managers.html)¹.

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