



## You're getting a new Medicare card!

### Cards will be mailed between April 2018 – April 2019

You asked, and we listened. You're getting a new Medicare card! Between April 2018 and April 2019, we'll be removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity.

You'll get a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, and it will only be used for your Medicare coverage. The new card won't change your coverage or benefits. You'll get more information from Medicare when your new card is mailed.

#### Here's how you can get ready:

- Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at [ssa.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount) or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.
- Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. We'll never ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.
- Understand that mailing everyone a new card will take some time. Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.

Drop-in article for use during Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct 15– Dec 7, 2017):

## Fight Fraud: Guard Your Medicare Card (October 18, 2017 – FINAL)

If you have Medicare, you can protect your identity and help prevent health care fraud by guarding your Medicare card like you would a credit card.

Identity theft from stolen Medicare Numbers is becoming more common. Medicare's here to help by removing Social Security Numbers from Medicare cards and replacing them with a new, unique number for each person with Medicare. Medicare will mail new Medicare cards with the new numbers between April 2018 and April 2019.

Here are some important steps you can take to protect yourself from the identity theft that can lead to health care fraud:

- Don't share your Medicare Number with anyone who contacts you by telephone, email or in person, unless you've given them permission in advance. Medicare will NEVER contact you (unless you ask us to) for your Medicare Number or other personal information.
- Don't ever let anyone borrow or pay to use your Medicare Number.
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice to be sure you and Medicare are only being charged for actual items and services received.

If you're looking to enroll in a Medicare plan:

- Remember there are no "early bird discounts" or "limited time offers."
- Don't let anyone rush you to enroll by claiming you need to "act now for the best deal."
- Be skeptical of free gifts, free medical services, discount packages or any offer that sounds "too good to be true."

If someone calls you and asks for your Medicare Number or other personal information, hang up and call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). To learn more about protecting yourself from identity theft and health care fraud, visit [www.Medicare.gov/fraud](http://www.Medicare.gov/fraud) or contact your local Senior Medicare Patrol ([www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org)).

*This message is brought to you by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*