

**A0600. Social Security and Medicare Numbers****A. Social Security Number:**

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**B. Medicare number (or comparable railroad insurance number):**

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**Item-Specific Instructions****A0600. Social Security and Medicare Numbers****A. Social Security Number**

- **Enter the Social Security Number (SSN)**, one number per space, starting with the left-most space. If the patient does not have an SSN or the SSN is unavailable, the item may be left blank.
  - An SSN is a tracking number assigned to an individual by the U.S. federal government for taxation, benefits, and identification purposes.

**B. Medicare Number (or comparable railroad insurance number)**

- **Enter the Medicare number** exactly as it appears on the patient's Medicare card.
- A Medicare number is an identifier assigned to an individual for participation in national health insurance program(s). The Medicare number may contain both letters and numbers.
  - In an effort to fight identity theft for Medicare beneficiaries, CMS is replacing the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) with a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).
  - **Prior to April 1, 2018:** Enter the HICN, identified as the Medicare Claim Number on the patient's Medicare card. The HICN may differ from the patient's SSN. For example, many patients receive Medicare benefits based on a spouse's Medicare eligibility.
  - **April 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019:** Enter the patient's HICN, or the patient's new MBI.
  - **After December 31, 2019:** Enter the MBI. Do not report the patient's SSN-based HICN.
- If the patient does not have a Medicare number, a Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) number may be substituted. RRB numbers contain both letters and numbers; to enter the RRB number, enter the first letter of the code in the left-most space followed by one letter/digit per space.
- Confirm that the patient's name on the HIS record matches the patient's name on the Medicare or RRB card.
- If the patient has neither a Medicare number nor an RRB number, the item may be left blank.

**A0600. Social Security and Medicare Numbers****Item-Specific Tips**

- To avoid inaccuracies in patient record matching, Item A0600 should only be left blank if the patient does not have a SSN or in rare instances where the SSN is unavailable.
- Item A0600B can only be a Medicare number or an RRB number.
- *The Medicare Number or RRB number entered in A0600B is not intended to reflect the patient's payer source. For the purposes of HIS item completion, the Medicare Number or RRB number is used for patient identification purposes only. If the patient has a Medicare Number or RRB number, enter it in A0600B, even if Medicare is not a payer or is a secondary payer.*
- If the hospice is notified after the record has been submitted that the patient does have a Medicare number, include it on the next record. For instance, if the Medicare number is received after submission of the HIS-Admission record, include the patient's Medicare number on the HIS-Discharge record. Including the Medicare number on the HIS-Discharge record at a later date does not require a Modification Request to the original HIS-Admission Record.