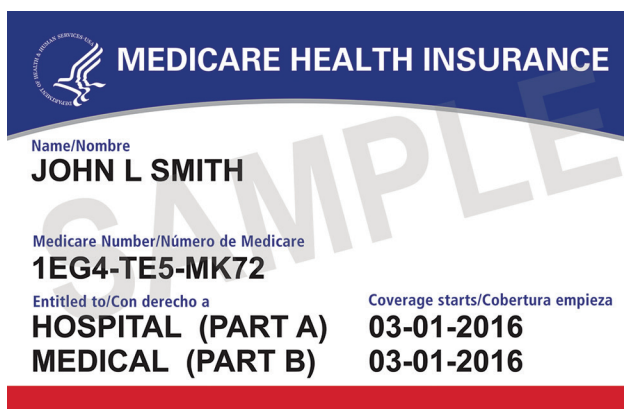




## UNDERSTANDING THE MEDICARE BENEFICIARY IDENTIFIER

A new, unique Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) replaces the Social Security Number-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN).

### New Medicare Card



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE MBI

The MBI has 11 randomly-generated characters using the numbers **0-9**, and all uppercase alphabet letters **EXCEPT: S, L, O, I, B, and Z**.

**IS THIS AN “O” OR IS IT A “0”?**

CMS **never** uses the letter “O” as part of the MBI to avoid confusion between letters and numbers; it is easy to mistake the letter “O” with the number “0” (zero).

Similarly, S, L, B, I, and Z can also be mistaken for numbers, so we do not use these letters either.

Starting January 1, 2020, you must use the MBI, with a few [exceptions](#).

For more information, refer to the MLN Matters® Article, [New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier \(MBI\) Get It, Use It](#).

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