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# CMS Manual System

## Pub. 100-01 Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement

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Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal 21

Date: APRIL 29, 2005

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CHANGE REQUEST 3760

**SUBJECT: Removal of Medicare Number from Reimbursement Checks**

**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** A new section has been created for Pub 100-01 to instruct Contractors to stop printing the Medicare Number on reimbursement checks to Medicare beneficiaries.

**NEW/REVISED MATERIAL - EFFECTIVE DATE\*: October 01, 2005**

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: October 03, 2005**

*Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply to the red italicized material only. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.*

**II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual not updated.)**  
**(R = REVISED, N = NEW, D = DELETED) – (Only One Per Row.)**

R/N/D	CHAPTER/SECTION/SUBSECTION/TITLE
	Table of Contents
N	6/200/Removal of Medicare Number from Reimbursement Checks

**III. FUNDING:** No additional funding will be provided by CMS; Contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2005 operating budgets.

**IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

X	Business Requirements
X	Manual Instruction
	Confidential Requirements
	One-Time Notification
	Recurring Update Notification

\*Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.



**III. PROVIDER EDUCATION**

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)								
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers				Other
						F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
	None.									

**IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS**

**A. Other Instructions:**

X-Ref Requirement #	Instructions

**B. Design Considerations:**

X-Ref Requirement #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements

**C. Interfaces:**

**D. Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact:**

**E. Dependencies:**

**F. Testing Considerations:**

**V. SCHEDULE, CONTACTS, AND FUNDING**

<p><b>Effective Date*:</b> October 1, 2005  <b>Implementation Date:</b> October 3, 2005  <b>Pre-Implementation Contact(s):</b> Jennifer Kordonski; 410-786-1840; jkordonski@cms.hhs.gov  <b>Post-Implementation Contact(s):</b> Jennifer Kordonski; 410-786-1840; jkordonski@cms.hhs.gov</p>	<p><b>No additional funding will be provided by CMS; Contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2005 operating budgets.</b></p>
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# Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement

## Chapter 6 - Disclosure of Information

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*Table of Contents*  
*(Rev. 21, 04-29-05)*

*200 – Removal of Medicare Number from Reimbursement Checks*

**200 - Removal of Medicare Number from Reimbursement Checks**  
*(Rev. 21, Issued: 04-29-05; Effective: 10-01-05; Implementation: 10-03-05)*

Contractors (FIs, RHHIs, Carriers, and DMERCs) shall stop printing the Medicare Number on reimbursement checks to Medicare beneficiaries.

Reimbursement checks going to Medicare beneficiaries are subject to others (e.g. banks) seeing the Medicare Number. CMS has determined that there is no business reason for the Medicare Number to be printed on the reimbursement check to the beneficiary. Therefore, CMS is directing Medicare contractors to stop printing the Medicare Number on reimbursement checks to Medicare beneficiaries.

This change in policy does not affect the use of the Medicare Number by Medicare contractors. The Medicare program uses the Medicare Number to meet administrative responsibilities to pay for health care and to operate the Medicare program. In performance of these duties, Medicare is required to protect individual privacy and confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws, including the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).