

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
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**Medicare Plan Payment Group**  
**Enterprise Systems Solutions Group**

**DATE:**       **July 28, 2017**

**TO:**           All Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration  
Organizations Systems Staff

**FROM:**       Jennifer Harlow /s/  
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**SUBJECT:   Advance Announcement of the November 2017 Software Release**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to implement software improvements to the enrollment and payment systems that support Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) programs. This letter provides advanced information regarding the planned release of systems changes scheduled for November 2017. This release focuses on improving the efficiency of CMS systems as well as Plan processing.

The November 2017 Release changes will include the following:

1. [\*\*New Medicare Card Project – MARx Data File/Report Changes \(also known as the Social Security Number Removal Initiative \(SSNRI\)\)\*\*](#)
2. [\*\*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Enterprise Portal Changes\*\*](#)

## **1. New Medicare Card Project – MARx Data File/Report Changes**

As referenced in the November 18, 2016 HPMS letter titled “Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI) Selected Updates for Medicare Advantage and Part D Plans,” the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, requires that CMS remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. The New Medicare Card Project will issue new Medicare cards to all beneficiaries. On the new cards, the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN).

The MARx system stores Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) Part C and Part D Sponsor enrollment, payment, and premium information and calculates monthly Part C/D payments and adjustments for each plan. Via MARx, MAOs and Part D sponsors are able to submit batch data files, view information on a User Interface (UI), and download reports.

While transitioning to the MBI (April 2018 to December 2019), MAO and Part D sponsors will be able to submit data using either the HICN or MBI on all input transaction types, including any online interaction with the MARx UI. MARx output data files/reports will contain the MBI only.

At the start of the MBI transition period (April 2018), CMS will replace the HICN with the MBI on all MARx output data files/reports that are transmitted to Plans.

Questions related to the implementation of the New Medicare Card Project (aka SSNRI) can be emailed to [MARXSSNRI@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MARXSSNRI@cms.hhs.gov).

## **2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Enterprise Portal Changes**

At the end of October 2017, CMS will launch a redesigned Enterprise Portal. The main goals of the Enterprise Portal redesign are to:

- Streamline the user experience including login and new user registration.
- Provide consistent navigation and styling across the site.
- Highlight the primary user interface components.

Changes include:

- New login screen.
- Changes to the “Forgotten Password” screens.
- Changes to the “New Registration” screens.

As part of the redesign, the Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug User Interface (MARx UI) will be integrated into the CMS Enterprise Portal. After the Portal redesign, users will need to access the CMS Enterprise Portal URL (<https://portal.cms.gov>) to utilize the MARx UI. The MARx UI will no longer be accessible using the URL <https://marx.cms.hhs.gov>.

Plans are encouraged to contact the MAPD Help Desk for any issues encountered during the systems update process. Please direct any questions or concerns to the MAPD Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or e-mail at [mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:mapdhelp@cms.hhs.gov).