

## Understanding the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Format

### How many characters does the MBI have?

The MBI has 11 characters.

### Does the MBI's characters have any meaning?

Each MBI is randomly generated. The MBI's characters are "non-intelligent" so they don't have any hidden or special meaning.

### What kinds of characters are in the MBI?

MBIs are numbers and upper-case letters. We use numbers 1-9 and all letters from A to Z, except for S, L, O, I, B, and Z. If you use lowercase letters, our system will convert them to uppercase letters.

### How does the MBI look on the card?

The MBI has letters and numbers. Here's an example: 1EG4-TE5-MK73

- The MBI's 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> characters are always letters.
- Characters 1, 4, 7, 10, and 11 are always numbers.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> characters are letters or numbers.
- We don't use dashes in the MBI. They aren't part of our computer systems and we don't use them in file formats.

Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Type	C	A	AN	N	A	AN	N	A	A	N	N

### Where positions hold numbers and letters?

**C** – Numeric 1 thru 9    **N** – Numeric 0 thru 9    **AN** – Either A or N    **A** – Alphabetic Character (A...Z); Excluding (S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 1** – numeric values 1 thru 9

**Position 2** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 3** – alpha-numeric values 0 thru 9 and A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 4** – numeric values 0 thru 9

**Position 5** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 6** – alpha-numeric values 0 thru 9 and A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 7** – numeric values 0 thru 9

**Position 8** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 9** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 10** – numeric values 0 thru 9

**Position 11** – numeric values 0 thru 9