



10 things to know about your new Medicare card

From the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards starting in April 2018. Here are 10 things to know about your new Medicare card, and some tips for making sure you don't fall victim to a Medicare card scam.

- 1. Mailing takes time.** Your card may arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.
- 2. Destroy your old Medicare card.** Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old one and start using your new card right away.
- 3. Guard your card.** Only give your new Medicare number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.
- 4. Your Medicare number is unique.** Your card has a new number instead of your Social Security number. This new number is unique to you.

5. Your new card is paper. Paper cards are easier for many providers to use and copy, and they save taxpayers a lot of money. Plus, you can print your own replacement card if you need one!

6. Carry your new card with you. Show it to your health care providers whenever you need care.

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7. Your doctor knows it's coming. Doctors, other health care facilities and providers will ask for your new Medicare card when you need care.

8. You can find your number. If you forget your new card, you, or your doctor or other health care provider may be able to look up your Medicare number online.

9. Keep your Medicare Advantage card. If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like a HMO or PPO), your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card is still your main card for Medicare – you should still keep it and use whenever you need care. However, you also may be asked to show your new Medicare card, so you should carry this card too.

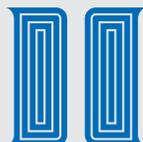
10. Help is available. If you don't get your new Medicare card by April 2019, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

Medicare Card Scam Alert Warning

Be alert – if you get phone calls from Medicare or Social Security regarding the new Medicare cards telling you any of the following:

- You need to pay a fee and/or provide your bank or credit card information
- You need to confirm your identity or update your health care information
- If you don't do what they say, you will lose benefits immediately

Report it to the phone number above! You don't need to do anything, new Medicare cards will be mailed out by April 2019, just make sure your address is updated.



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