MBI Generation and Transition Period

Transition Period:
(April 2018 – December 2019)
CMS will accept & process both HICN and MBI transactions.

Beginning January 1, 2020, only the new card will be usable. HICNs will no longer be exchanged with beneficiaries, providers, plans, and other third parties.

* Limited Exceptions

April 2018:
Transitional period begins with the start of mailing new cards to people with Medicare benefits.

January 2018:
CMS will activate the MBI generator & translation services.

April 2018:
CMS will complete its system and process updates to be ready to accept and return the new Medicare numbers starting on April 1, 2018.

April 2018 – April 2019:
Phased card issuance to beneficiaries

• Beginning April 2018, Medicare cards will stop being issued with social security numbers.
• Once the design formally switches in April 2018, all cards produced will be the new card design with the random number.
• Existing beneficiaries will get a new card over a period of approximately 12 months.