

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



**Medicare Plan Payment Group
Enterprise Systems Solutions
Group**

DATE: February 27, 2018

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

FROM: Jennifer Harlow /s/
Deputy Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group

Cathy Carter /s/
Director, Enterprise Systems Solutions Group

**SUBJECT: Addendum Update to the Announcement of the February 2018 Software
Release**

This announcement is a further update to the *Addendum to the Announcement of the February 2018 Software Release*, dated February 23, 2018. The addendum provided further information regarding the February 5, 2018 memo.

In the February 23 memo, Plans were informed that CMS began sending an expanded file layout on February 17, 2018 for the Coordination of Benefits (COB) – Other Health Insurance (OHI) File. Effective **February 26, 2018**, CMS has reverted back to the record layout used prior to February 17, and has sent replacement files with data for the applicable period (February 17-February 25) to all affected Plans. The previously added MBI field has been removed and the file length remains at 1100 bytes. CMS will keep Plans informed about when the MBI will be populated in the COB-OHI File.

Additionally, Plans were informed that, effective February 17, the Beneficiary (or Batch) Eligibility Query (BEQ) Response File contained both the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) and Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). Plans were not expecting the MBI field to be populated until April 1, 2018, and were inquiring whether the data was valid. It is valid, although it should only be used internally by Plans until April 1.

Additional files will also now contain the Active MBI field, in addition to the HICN, effective February 17. These files include:

- Auto Assignment Address (PDP) Notification File
- MA Full Dual Auto Assignment Notification File
- No Rx File

Note: After the transition period for the New Medicare Card project is complete, currently scheduled for January 1, 2020, the files listed above will only contain the MBI.

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.