

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**

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**DATE:** February 23, 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 to the Announcement of the February 2018 Software Release

This letter provides important updated information regarding the release of systems changes that occurred February 17, 2018. The updates described in this communication will be included in the February 2018 Plan Communications User Guide v12.0, scheduled for publication on February 28, 2018.

This announcement is an addendum to the *Announcement of the February 2018 Software Release*, dated February 5, 2018. It provides a clarification on the following two items:

- [New Medicare Card Project – Medicare Beneficiary Database Suite of Systems \(MBDSS\) Changes](#)
- [New Medicare Card Project – Updates to the Coordination of Benefits \(COB\) – Other Health Insurance \(OHI\) File](#)

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).

- **New Medicare Card Project – Medicare Beneficiary Database Suite of Systems (MBDSS) Changes**

Beginning February 17, 2018, the Beneficiary Eligibility Query (BEQ) Response file contains both the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) and Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). Plans should process these files. Note, the Active MBI Field #174 now contains the active MBI and could be treated as “Filler” when processing the file. If Plans experience difficulty processing the BEQ file, they should contact the MAPD Help Desk.

After the transition period for the New Medicare Card project is completed, the BEQ Request File will only allow the MBI to be submitted. The BEQ Response File will only contain the MBI. Until that time, the BEQ Response File will include both the HICN and the MBI.

- **New Medicare Card Project – Updates to the Coordination of Benefits – Other Health Insurance File**

Beginning February 17, 2018, CMS began sending an expanded file layout for the Coordination of Benefits (COB) – Other Health Insurance (OHI) File. CMS is working to revert back to the previous record layout, as well as to provide a replacement file. This replacement file will provide data to Plans that was sent starting the week of February 17th, but will be formatted in the original file layout. Reverting back to the previous layout for the OHI file means only the HICN will be included. The previously added MBI field will not be included and the file length will remain at 1100 bytes.

CMS will keep Plans informed regarding the status of this effort.