

Financial Services Group

May 02, 2017

Coordination of Benefits Agreement Trading Partners - INFORMATION

Actions Required to Support the New Medicare Card

COBA Crosswalk File

During the SSNRI transition period (April 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019), COBA trading partners may receive Medicare cross over claims that contain either a Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) or a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). So that COBA trading partners can accurately identify their members or benefit recipients, CMS will provide a Crosswalk File to each COBA trading partner with their designated Medicare beneficiaries' HICN and MBI. The COBA trading partners should accept and store this information for subsequent identification of claims.

The COBA Crosswalk file layout is available in the Downloads section of the [COBA File Formats and Connectivity](#) page of CMS.gov. CMS plans to provide COBA Crosswalk files (one file per production COBA ID) by February 2018. (The delivery date for each COBA trading partner will be announced via a COBVA e-mail notification 90 days prior to transmission.)

The COBA Crosswalk file will be delivered to COBA trading partners using their current file transmission methodology:

- **Connect:Direct**

COBA trading partners must provide their BCRC representative with a file dataset name for their Crosswalk file by July 31, 2017.

- **Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) GENTRAN and TIBCO**

COBA trading partners will receive the COBA Crosswalk file in their SFTP mailbox. The 3rd node of the trading partner's filename will be an "M" to denote the Crosswalk file.

Filename Format:

P.CBxxxxx.Mxxxxx.BD.DYYMMDD.THHMMSST.ssssss (GENTRAN)

P.CBxxxxx.Mxxxxx.BD.DYYMMDD.THHMMSST (TIBCO)

COBA E01 and E02 (Incoming) Eligibility Files

The modified COBA E01 and E02 incoming file layouts are available in the Downloads section of the [COBA File Formats and Connectivity](#) page of CMS.gov.

- For COBA E01 Incoming File: The “Beneficiary HICN” field will be renamed to “Beneficiary Medicare ID.”
- For COBA E02 Incoming File: The “HICN” field will be renamed to “Medicare ID.”

Important - Please Read:

- COBA trading partners may submit the MBI in the ‘Medicare ID’ field at any time after obtaining the COBA Crosswalk file. However, COBA trading partners **must** submit using the MBI in the ‘Medicare ID’ field as of January 1, 2020.
- On/after January 1, 2020, submissions of Social Security Number (SSN)-based HICNs will be rejected.

COBA E01 and E02 Eligibility Response Files (ERFs)

The modified COBA E01 and E02 Eligibility Response File layouts are available in the Downloads section of the [COBA File Formats and Connectivity](#) page of CMS.gov.

- For COBA E01 Response File: The “Corrected HICN” field will be renamed “Current HICN” and a new field “Current MBI” will be added.
- For COBA E02 Response File: The “HICN” field will be renamed to “Medicare ID.” Following the changes, the BCRC will now return the most current Medicare ID in the “Medicare ID” field.

Important - Please Read:

- CMS recommends that all COBA trading partners store the MBIs returned to them via the COBA ERF for their covered members/benefit recipients.
- Starting in February 2018, BCRC will begin to return both the “Current HICN” and the “Current MBI” via the COBA E01 ERF.

If a beneficiary enrolls in Medicare on/after April 1, 2018, the BCRC will only return the MBI in the COBA E01 ERF.

HEW 270/271

The earliest that CMS will return the MBI via the HEW 271 will be April 2018. The MBI will be returned in the renamed “Medicare ID” field.