



June 2017

CMS NEWS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is starting a fraud prevention initiative that removes Social Security numbers from Medicare cards to help combat identity theft, and safeguard tax dollars. The new cards will use a unique and random number called a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI), to replace the Social Security based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) now appearing on the Medicare card. CMS will begin mailing new cards in April 2018. Many providers will still want to collect the patient's Social Security number as a way to verify policy numbers as there are times when having the SSN is still the method to like policies in insurance carrier websites.

INDUSTRY NEWS

According to the Department of Justice News dated May 31, 2017 eClinicalWorks (ECW) will pay a total of \$155 million to resolve a False Claims Act lawsuit alleging that ECW misrepresented the capabilities of its software. To read the news follow the link below. If you are an ECW client you may be able to receive new updates or transfer your data to another EHR at no charge to you.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/electronic-health-records-vendor-pay-155-million-settle-false-claims-act-allegations>

WHERE ARE THE EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS GOING?

As insurers reduce paper costs, more and more explanation of benefits (EOBs) are being routed to either a clearinghouse of their choice, a clearinghouse that PPR is affiliated with, or even worse, no clearinghouse at all. You may receive the funds in a paper check, or an electronic funds transfer (EFT), but the patient's account remains outstanding in the Accounts Receivable. This means that there are times when PPR staff finds the payment information while performing follow up on unpaid claims. It benefits everyone, especially the patient when the payment is posted timely and the patient knows their responsibility. Please make sure to notify PPR every time a payment is received, even if there is no EOB attached to the payment. We'll be happy to track it down and post it for you.

And remember, we're here to help *you*. Don't hesitate to call at any time for any reason.