

1st Assistant Credentialing Services

Austin, Texas
questions@1stassistant.net
Tel: 512.201.2668
www.1stcredentialing.com

- In This Issue...**
- **Note from Heidi**
 - **5 Ways to Protect the Privacy of Your Medicare Enrollment Information**
 - **Learn More about NPIs with these 7 Frequently-Asked Questions**
 - **Tips on Getting the New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)**
 - **Food Favorites Named for Famous People**



Heidi Henderson

Note From Heidi

Our lives have changed dramatically in the last couple of months and our view of how to deliver medicine will be forever changed because of the circumstances we are in today. Many of our clients have had to shut down or re-direct how they deliver medical services to their patients. This has made us all more innovative, forward thinking, and stronger than ever before. We hope the new normal is just around the corner and we can get back to delivering the highest level of patient care.



From all of us at 1st Assistant, our hearts go out to anyone who has been impacted by the virus. Our thoughts are especially with those who are sick, to whom we extend our heartfelt wishes for a full recovery. We are truly inspired by the selfless healthcare workers around the world who are on the front lines working tirelessly to care for people in need. Thank you for all you do.

Knowledge Center, Medicare and Medicaid

5 Ways to Protect the Privacy of Your Medicare Enrollment Information



It's estimated that fraudulent and improper Medicare and Medicaid payments total approximately \$65 billion dollars annually. Keeping personal health and professional information secure is essential. If you use the **PECOS** electronic Medicare enrollment system you can protect your private information from identity thieves who want to use it to defraud the Medicare program. With **PECOS** your private information is secure and view your Medicare **PECOS** enrollment information. **CMS** does not disclose your Medicare enrollment information to anyone except when authorized or required by law.

[Additional steps to protect your identity and privacy...continue reading>](#)

Knowledge Center, Medicare and Medicaid

Learn More about NPIs with these 7 Frequently-Asked Questions



If you are a **healthcare provider** covered under HIPAA, or if you file claims or use a clearinghouse to bill insurance, then you are required to apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI). This unique, 10-digit identification number is issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Other healthcare providers that are not required to apply for an NPI may do so if they desire.

The NPI system was created to improve the electronic transmission of health information by making it more efficient and effective. Covered healthcare providers and plans are required to use NPIs in their administrative and financial transactions.

[Frequently-Asked Questions about NPIs and management of Payer Enrollment and Credentialing Services...continue reading>](#)

Knowledge Center, Medicare and Medicaid

Tips on Getting the New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)



To better protect patients' identities, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) required **CMS** to remove SSNs from all Medicare cards and to replace them with a randomly generated Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI). On January 1, 2020 it became mandatory for providers, physicians, and suppliers to use MBIs when submitting claims for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. Claims submitted with Health Insurance Claim Numbers (HICNs) will be rejected (with a few **exceptions**). All eligibility transactions you submit with HICNs will also be rejected.

[Proper procedures in obtaining an MBI from your patients...continue reading>](#)

Food Favorites Named for Famous People



Many foods that we love were created and/or named for famous people. Some may be fairly obvious, such as Oysters Rockefeller—a creation of the celebrated Antoine's restaurant in New Orleans which features a rich, buttery sauce and spinach (the color of "greenbacks") and so was named after John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in America. Others may be less apparent. Check out this list of foods and where they got their names.

- **Kaiser Rolls**—the title "Kaiser" means emperor. These tasty rolls were first baked in Austria to honor Emperor Franz Joseph.
- **Margherita Pizza**—the colors of the Italian flag and the fresh flavors of tomato, basil and mozzarella tickled the fancy of Queen Margherita of Savoy when chef Raffaele Esposito made 3 special pizzas for her and her husband King Umberto to try in 1889. The Queen's favorite now bears her name.
- **Earl Grey Tea**—tea aficionado, Prime Minister Earl Charles Grey of Britain, received tea leaves made with berga mot oil and citrus as a gift. He loved the brew so much that he named it after himself and gave the recipe to the London tea company, Jackson of Piccadilly to produce.
- **Baby Ruth Candy Bar**—there's a sweet story behind this treat. The Curtiss Candy Company during the 1920's decided to name its new candy bar after President Grover Cleveland's daughter, Ruth, affectionately known to her family as "Baby."
- **Pavlova**—this light and airy dessert made of meringue and fruit was named for the Russian ballerina, Anna Pavlova who was beautifully light on her feet.
- **Granny Smith Apples**—believe it or not, there is a real, Granny Smith—her full name was Marie Ana Smith and she invented this tart, green favorite by mistake in Australia in 1868.



Disclaimer: Content of this newsletter may not be used or reproduced without written permission of the author. This newsletter is not intended to replace the services of a doctor. No expressed or implied guarantees have been made or are made by the author or publisher. Information in this newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice.