

## Understanding the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Format

### How many characters does the MBI have?

The MBI has 11 characters.

### Does the MBI's characters have any meaning?

Each MBI is randomly generated. The MBI's characters are "non-intelligent" so they don't have any hidden or special meaning.

### What kinds of characters are in the MBI?

MBIs are numbers and upper-case letters. We use numbers 1-9 and all letters from A to Z, except for S, L, O, I, B, and Z. If you use lowercase letters, our system will convert them to uppercase letters.

### How does the MBI look on the card?

The MBI has letters and numbers. Here's an example: 1EG4-TE5-MK73

The MBI's 2nd, 5th, 8th, and 9th characters are always letters.

Characters 1, 4, 7, 10, and 11 are always numbers.

The 3rd and 6th characters are letters or numbers.

We don't use dashes in the MBI. They aren't part of our computer systems and we don't use them in file formats.

**MBI Format**

Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Type	C	A	AN	N	A	AN	N	A	A	N	N

### Where positions hold numbers and letters?

C – Numeric 1 thru 9 N – Numeric 0 thru 9 AN – Either A or N A – Alphabetic Character (A...Z); Excluding (S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 1** – numeric values 1 thru 9

**Position 2** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 3** – alpha-numeric values 0 thru 9 and A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 4** – numeric values 0 thru 9

**Position 5** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 6** – alpha-numeric values 0 thru 9 and A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 7** – numeric values 0 thru 9

**Position 8** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z) **Position 9** – alphabetic values A thru Z (minus S, L, O, I, B, Z)

**Position 10** – numeric values 0 thru 9

**Position 11** – numeric values 0 thru 9