



Social Security Number Removal

Social Security numbers are being removed from uniformed services identification cards as part of the Department of Defense's continued effort to protect privacy and security.

As of June 2011, Social Security numbers (SSNs) are no longer listed on new uniformed services identification (ID) cards. SSNs are being removed from ID cards as part of the Department of Defense's (DoD's) continuing effort to protect the privacy and security of the 9.6 million TRICARE® beneficiaries.

The removal of SSNs from ID cards applies to all active duty service members and their families, retirees and their dependents, and civilian employees. Instead of displaying the sponsor's SSN, uniformed services ID cards, including the Common Access Card (CAC), now show the individual's 10-digit DoD ID number. This number is also known as the Electronic Data Interchange–Personal Identification number (EDI-PI). The EDI-PI is assigned through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and is retained in the magnetic strip of all cards.

If you have DoD benefits (*e.g., health care, commissary, exchange privileges*), an 11-digit DoD Benefits Number (DBN) is also printed on the card. The DBN is a unique number like the SSN and will ensure patient records are clearly aligned with the appropriate patient and his or her treatments. The DBN consists of two unique family identifier numbers: The first is connected to the sponsor, and the second, following a dash, is a two-digit number unique to each family member. In the absence of the sponsor's SSN, health care providers can verify eligibility by using the first nine digits of the DBN and the date of birth.

The process of removing SSNs is expected to last several years, until all current DoD ID cards are replaced as they come up for renewal. Depending on your card's expiration date, you may find

that your DoD ID cards retain your SSN until you are required to get a new card. **Note:** Your health care providers, regional contractor, and others may continue to use SSNs to verify your eligibility. You do **not** need to get a new ID card until your old card expires.

To get a new ID card when your old card expires, visit any uniformed services ID card-issuing facility. To find a location near you, go to www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl.

For more information about reducing SSNs on uniformed services ID cards, visit www.tricare.mil/ssn.

KEY POINTS

- DoD is removing SSNs from ID cards as part of the continued effort to protect the privacy and security of TRICARE's 9.6 million beneficiaries.
- You do **not** need to get a new ID card until your old card expires. Your health care providers will be able to access your benefits with either your SSN or DBN.
- The process of removing SSNs began in June 2011, and is expected to last several years until all current DoD ID cards are replaced as they come up for renewal.
- All new military ID cards now have a 10-digit DoD ID number assigned through DEERS.
- A DBN is printed on new cards in addition to the DoD ID if you have DoD benefits. The DBN is a unique number like the SSN and will ensure patient records are clearly aligned with the right patient and his or her treatments.