

THE CLAIM NUMBER THAT UNIQUELY IDENTIFIES A MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (AND AN EDB RECORD). IT IS COMPOSED OF TWO PARTS: A NINE POSITION ACCOUNT NUMBER (BENE_CLM_ACNT_NUM) AND A ONE OR TWO POSITION BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION CODE (BENE_IDENT_CD OR BIC). THE ACCOUNT NUMBER IS A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR A RAILROAD BOARD NUMBER THAT WAS CONVERTED TO CMS'S INTERNAL RRB FORMAT.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS ALWAYS CONSIST OF NINE NUMERIC DIGITS. THE FIRST THREE DIGITS ARE CALLED THE 'AREA'. VALID AREA RANGES ARE 001-779. THE FOURTH AND FIFTH DIGITS OF THE ACCOUNT NUMBER ARE CALLED THE 'GROUP'. VALID GROUPS RANGE FROM 01 TO 99. THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THE ACCOUNT NUMBER ARE CALLED THE 'SERIAL'. VALID SERIALS RANGE FROM 0001 TO 9999. SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION CODES ARE ALWAYS 1 OR 2 ALPHA-NUMERIC CHARACTERS. THE FIRST POSITION IS ALWAYS ALPHABETIC. THE SECOND POSITION CAN BE A LETTER OR A NUMBER.

CMS'S INTERNAL RAILROAD BOARD ACCOUNT NUMBERS ALWAYS START WITH A LETTER FROM 'A' TO 'G' OR WITH THE 'PLUS ZERO' CHARACTER (HEX 'C0'). (ON MOST KEYBOARDS, THIS IS THE LEFT BRACE CHARACTER: '{'.) DIGITS TWO THRU NINE OF THE ACCOUNT NUMBER ARE ALWAYS NUMERIC. RAILROAD BOARD BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION CODES ARE ALWAYS TWO NUMERIC DIGITS. APPENDIX B DESCRIBES HOW TO CONVERT A RAILROAD BOARD NUMBER TO CMS'S INTERNAL FORMAT.

[Here is the excerpt from Appendix B...](#)

The Railroad Board (RRB) identifies its employees and retirees with claim numbers that consist of letter prefixes followed by either six or nine numeric digits. These claim numbers are incompatible with the claim number structure used in CMS's data processing systems. When a Medicare beneficiary falls under the jurisdiction of the RRB, the RRB claim number has to be converted to a format compatible with the Social Security type claim numbers used by CMS.

A. Before April 1, 1964, RRB established claim numbers with a prefix of 'A', 'D', or 'H' followed by six numeric digits. The alphabetic portion of the claim number indicated the initial type of claim action. 'A' was used to set up a disability or retirement claims file; 'D' was used to set up a survivor's claim file when no previous claim file had been established during the RRB employee's life; 'H' was used to set up a claims file for individuals on the pension or gratuity rolls of RR employers as of March 1, 1937. Additional prefixes were used to identify individuals who were entitled to benefits based on their relationship to the primary RR beneficiary.

The numeric portion of the claim number had no special meaning, other than to denote the numeric series. In the RRB data processing system, two beneficiaries could have the same claim number. When a widower remarried, the new wife was assigned the same RRB claim number as the first wife. Since Medicare data processing requires a unique claim number for each individual, a special number series from 995000 through 999999 was created for those beneficiaries who

would otherwise have a claim number already assigned to someone else.

Once a six-digit claim number was established, it was used for all subsequent processing, including processing that occurred after March 1964.

Valid RRB claim number prefixes and numeric series are:

A, CA, MA, WA, WCA, PA, JA	000001-991273	995000-999999
WD, WCD, PD	000001-415935	995000-999999
H, MH, WH, WCH, PH	000001-049159	995000-999999

B. In April 1964, the RRB began using a different claim number format when establishing new case files. The same letter prefixes continued to be used, but the six numeric digits were replaced by the RR employee's Social Security number.

C. Valid RRB Health Insurance claim numbers are:

A-000000	PD-000000	JA-000000
A-000-00-0000	PD-000-00-0000	H-000000
		MH-000000
CA-000000	WD-000000	PH-000000
CA-000-00-0000	WD-000-00-0000	WH-000000
		WCH-000000
MA-000000	WCA-000000	
MA-000-00-0000	WCA-000-00-0000	
PA-000000	WCD-000000	
PA-000-00-0000	WCD-000-00-0000	
WA-000000		
WA-000-00-0000		

D. An explanation of RRB prefixes:

<u>RRB PREFIX</u>	<u>CMS BIC</u>	<u>TYPE OF RRB BENEFICIARY</u>
A	10	RETIREMENT - EMPLOYEE OR ANNUITANT
H	80	RR PENSIONER (AGE OR DISABILITY)
MA	14	SPOUSE OF RR EMPLOYEE OR ANNUITANT
(HUSBAND OR WIFE)		
MH	84	SPOUSE OF RR PENSIONER
CA	17	DISABLED ADULT CHILD OF RR ANNUITANT
WA	16	WIDOW/WIDOWER OF RR ANNUITANT
WD	46	WIDOW/WIDOWER OF RR EMPLOYEE
WH	86	WIDOW/WIDOWER OF RR PENSIONER
WCA	13	CHILD OF RR ANNUITANT; OR
		WIDOW OF ANNUITANT WITH A CHILD IN HER
CARE		
WCD	43	CHILD OF RR EMPLOYEE; OR
		WIDOW OF EMPLOYEE WITH A CHILD IN HER
CARE		

CARE	WCH	83	WIDOW OF PENSIONER WITH A CHILD IN HER
	PA	15	PARENT OF ANNUITANT
	PD	45	PARENT OF EMPLOYEE
	PH	85	PARENT OF PENSIONER
	JA	11	SURVIVOR, JOINT ANNUITANT (REDUCED BENEFITS TAKEN TO INSURE A SURVIVING SPOUSE)
BENEFITS FOR			

NOTE: WCD and WCA have two designations each.

EMPLOYEE: a MEDICARE beneficiary who is still working
or a worker who died before retirement

ANNUITANT: a person who retired under the RAILROAD ACT
after March 1, 1937

PENSIONER: a person who retired prior to March 1, 1937
and who was included in the RR RETIREMENT ACT.

E. It is possible for a RRB prefix to change. This will occur when a worker dies and an auxiliary beneficiary becomes a survivor.

Possible changes: MA to WA; MA to WCA; MH to WH; MH to WCH;
WCA to WA; WCH to WH

F. It is possible to have two RRB claim numbers with identical numbers and different prefixes. These claim numbers are not necessarily related.

To determine if the numbers are related, use the following rules.

1. An RRB claim number with an 'A' in the prefix is not related to claim numbers that have identical numbers and a 'D' or 'H' in the prefix.

2. An RRB claim number with a 'D' in the prefix is not related to claim numbers that have identical numbers and an 'A' or 'H' in the prefix.

3. An RRB claim number with a 'H' in the prefix is not related to claim numbers that have identical numbers and an 'A' or 'D' in the prefix.

G. To convert an RRB claim number to CMS's internal claim number format, first convert the prefix to a numeric Beneficiary Identification Code (BIC).

See D above.

NOTE: '{' = 'plus zero' (EBCDIC hex 'C0'). On most keyboards, this is the left brace character: '{'.

If the original RRB number has 6 numeric digits, add '{00' to the left end of the six digits and append the BIC to the end.

If the original RRB number has 9 numeric digits, convert the first digit as follows and append the BIC to the end.

0 = {; 1 = A; 2 = B; 3 = C; 4 = D; 5 = E; 6 = F; and 7 = G

