Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN)
Prefixes and Suffixes

What is the Health Insurance Claim Number?
The HICN is the number assigned by the Social Security Administration to an individual identifying him/her as a Medicare beneficiary. This number is shown on the beneficiary’s insurance card and is used in processing Medicare claims for that beneficiary.

How is the HICN formatted?
If the HICN starts with a number, the first nine positions must be numeric. The final position is one of the following:
A: Signifies a retired worker over 65 years old or a disabled worker.

B: Signifies a wife over 65 years old of a retired or disabled worker. This letter may be followed by numbers 1-9 or A,D,G,H,J,K,L,N,P,Q,R,T,W, or Y.
B1 Husband of a retired or disabled worker
B2 Young Wife with a child in her care
B3 Second wife
B4 Second husband
B5 Second wife with a child in her care
B6 Ex-wife with a child in her care
B7 Third wife with a child in her care
B8 Third wife
B9 Second ex-wife
BA Fourth wife
BD Fifth wife
BG Third husband
BH Fourth husband
BJ Fifth husband
BK Fourth wife with a child in her care
BL Fifth wife with a child in her care
BN Third ex-wife
BP Fourth ex-wife
BQ Fifth ex-wife
BR Ex-husband
BT Second ex-husband
BW Second husband with a child in his care
BY Husband with a child in his care

C: Signifies a child or grandchild, including a disabled child or student. This letter may be followed by any number 1-9 or letter A-Z. The suffixes for these beneficiaries are assigned by age (i.e. C1 Youngest C2 next youngest, ect.)

D: Signifies a widower. This letter may be followed by numbers 1-9 or letters A,C,D,G,H,J-N,P-T, or V-Z.
D1 Widower
D2 Second widow
D3 Second widower
D4 Widow, remarried after age 60
D5 Widower, remarried after age 60
D6 Surviving ex-wife
D7 Surviving second ex-wife
D8 Third widow
D9 Second remarried widow
DA Third Remarried widow
DC Surviving ex-husband
DD Fourth widow
DG Fifth widow
DH Third widower
DJ Fourth widower
DK Fifth widower
DL Fourth remarried widow
DM Surviving second ex-husband
DN Fifth remarried widow
DP Second remarried widower
DQ Third remarried widower
DR Fourth remarried widower
DS Surviving third ex-husband
DT Fifth remarried widower
DV Surviving third ex-wife
DW Surviving fourth ex-wife
DX Surviving fourth ex-husband
DY Surviving fifth ex-wife
DZ Surviving fifth ex-husband

E: Signifies widowed mother. His letter may be followed numbers 1-9 or letters A-D,F-H,J,L, or M.
E1 Surviving divorced mother
E2 Second widowed mother
E3 Surviving second divorced mother
E4 Widowed father
E5 Surviving divorced father
E6 Second widowed father
E7 Third widowed mother
E8 Fourth widowed mother
E9 Surviving second divorced father
EB Surviving third divorced mother
EC Surviving fourth divorced mother
ED Surviving fifth divorced mother
EF Third widowed father
EG Fourth widowed father
EH Fifth widowed father
EJ Surviving third divorced father
EK Surviving fourth divorced father
EM Surviving fifth divorced father

F: Signifies the parent category for the aged dependent. This letter may be followed by numbers 1-8. This suffix is not used alone.
  F1 Father
  F2 Mother
  F3 Step-father
  F4 Step-mother
  F5 Adopting father
  F6 Adopting mother
  F7 Second alleged father
  F8 Second alleged mother

J: Signifies special beneficiaries whose entitlement depends on the number of quarters of employment they have under Social Security. This suffix may be followed by numbers 1-4.
  J1 Primary Prouty entitled to Part A (general fund)
  J2 Primary Prouty entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  J3 Primary Prouty not entitled to Part A (general fund)
  J4 Primary Prouty not entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)

K: Signifies special beneficiaries whose entitlement depends on the number of quarters of employment they have under Social Security. This suffix may be followed by numbers 1-9, or letters A-H,J,L, or M.
  K1 Prouty wife entitled to Part A (general fund)
  K2 Prouty wife entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  K3 Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (general fund)
  K4 Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  K5 Second Prouty wife entitled to Part A (general fund)
  K6 Second Prouty wife entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  K7 Second Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (general fund)
  K8 Second Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  K9 Third Prouty wife entitled to Part A (general fund)
  KA Third Prouty wife entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  KB Third Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (general fund)
  KC Third Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  KD Fourth Prouty wife entitled to Part A (general fund)
  KE Fourth Prouty wife entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
 KF Fourth Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (general fund)
  KG Fourth Prouty wife not entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  KH Fifth Prouty wife entitled to Part A (general fund)
  KJ Fifth Prouty wife entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)
  KL Fifth Prouty not entitled to Part A (general fund)
  KM Fifth Prouty not entitled to Part A (RSI trust fund)

M: Signifies an individual enrolled in Part B who is not entitled to Retirement and Survivor’s or Railroad Retirement Insurance and is not eligible for Part A, but may have bought Part A coverage. The number 1 may follow this suffix. Suffix M1 applies to an individual enrolled in Part B only who meets the requirements for Part A.
  TA Federal wage earner
  TB Living spouse
  TC MQGE Disabled Adult Child (DAC)
  TD MQGE widow or widower
  TE MQGE first young widow(er)
  TF MQGE male parent
  TG MQGE second spouse
  TH MQGE third spouse
  TJ MQGE fourth spouse
  TK MQGE fifth spouse
  TL MQGE second widow(er)
  TM MQGE third widow(er)
  TN MQGE fourth widow(er)
  TP MQGE fifth widow(er)
  TQ MQGE female parent
TR MQGE second young widow(er)
TS MQGE third young widow(er)
TT MQGE fourth young widow(er)
TU MQGE fifth young widow(er)
TV MQGE disabled widow(er)
TW MQGE second disabled widow(er)
TX MQGE third disabled widow(er)
TY MQGE fourth disabled widow(er)
TZ MQGE fifth disabled widow(er)
T2-T9 MQGE 2nd-9th DAC

W: Signifies a disabled widow age 50 or over. This suffix may be followed by numbers 1-9, B,C,F,G,J,R, or T.
W1 Disabled widower age 50 or over
W2 Second disabled widow
W3 Second disabled widower
W4 Third disabled widow
W5 Third disabled widower
W6 Disabled surviving ex-wife
W7 Disabled surviving second ex-wife
W8 Disabled surviving third ex-wife
W9 Fourth disabled widow
WB Fourth disabled widower
WC Disabled surviving fourth ex-wife
WF Fifth disabled widow
WG Fifth disabled widower
WJ Disabled surviving fifth ex-wife
WR Disabled surviving ex-husband
WT Disabled surviving second ex-husband

The HICN represents a Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) beneficiary when the following characters are present on the health insurance card as a prefix in front of the HIC number instead of a suffix after it. The number itself has either six digits or nine digits. The following are the most common prefixes for Railroad Retirement beneficiaries.
A Retired railroad worker (annuitant)
H Retired worker on a pension
JA Survivor “joint annuitant,” an employee who is receiving a reduced annuity in order to guarantee payment to his widow
MA Spouse of an annuitant
MH Spouse of a pensioner
PA Parent of a deceased annuitant
PD Parent of a deceased employee
PH Parent of a deceased pensioner
WA Widow or widower of an annuitant who is 60 or over.
WCA Widow with a child in her care, or child alone (of annuitant)
WCD Widow with a child in her care, or child alone (of an employee)