

Replace Medicare Cards on the Web

People on Medicare who lose their Medicare cards can now apply for a replacement on the internet at Social Security's website, www.ssa.gov, or at the official Medicare website, www.medicare.gov.

"Medicare beneficiaries will now be able to apply for a replacement card at their convenience, any time of the day or night," announced Tom Prztarski, Social Security manager in Denver. "We are pleased to partner with the Health Care Financing Administration to make obtaining a new Medicare card both easy and convenient for beneficiaries."

People using the websites to request a new Medicare card will complete the online form and send it electronically to the agency. Social Security uses the highest available level of encryption to ensure the confidential information is secure as it travels over the Internet. The requests will be processed and new cards mailed about 30 days later.

People without internet access can also apply for a replacement card by calling Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or by visiting a Social Security office. Social Security processes approximately 750,000 requests annually for a replacement Medicare card.