**Medicare Person Numbers.**

As a reminder if your site or patients are required to claim from Medicare, recording incorrect Medicare and Person Numbers will cause claims to be rejected by Medicare. The following information has been prepared to help these and all sites when reporting Medicare Person Numbers.

The picture to the left shows a typical Medicare card and the various information on the face of the card.

1. Medicare number: This is the 10 digit number on top of the card
2. Individual reference number: This is the 1 digit number to the left of the person’s name
3. Valid to: Ensure the date is entered as per your Patient Administration System requirements.

It is important to note that when entering the details from a Medicare Card that you enter the Individual Reference Number for the person that is being provided with services. Most Patient Administration Systems will require you to enter an Individual Reference Number, sometimes referred to as a Person Number, as a mandatory value.

Please note that there is no default or ‘unknown’ value for Individual Person Numbers, so entering a ‘9’ or ‘0’ is incorrect. If you are required to enter information for newborns or young children, entering a ‘1’ is also incorrect as they are unlikely to ever be listed as the only entitlement holder on a Medicare card. If your site has obstetric patients and delivers newborns, you should note that a newborn is not automatically registered with Medicare upon birth. Sites with newborns should not be supplying a Medicare Number for a baby until it is registered. Please contact Medicare for any further advice in this regard

The Data Quality team would like to thank all sites that are submitting correct Medicare number and Medicare Person Number data as part of their data submissions. We hope that your site-specific procedures for collecting and validating Medicare information from patients have been accepted into everyday practice when admitting patients at your facility.

Wherever possible, record these details from the card itself into your Patient Administration System. Should you have any concerns regarding the collection and submission of Medicare information, please contact the Data Integrity Team on the following email hmds.edits@health.wa.gov.au or contact Medicare Offices directly for specific Medicare advice.