

Justification for Using SSNs

- **Is the SSN being collected?**

Yes, the SSN is being collected.

- **Is the information being collected electronically?**

No, information is not being collected electronically.

- **Is the information stored electronically?**

No, the information is not stored electronically.

- **Why do you need to use the SSN?**

The SSN is required to ensure individuals with similar names are accurately identified and processed properly. In addition, the claimant using CMS-40B may not be the primary beneficiary on the account. The SSN is used to identify spousal relationship for eligibility to enroll in SMI.

- **What will happen if you cannot use the SSN as a data element?**

If the SSN is not used, the Federal Government will not be able to properly identify individuals, resulting in improper denials of Medicare Part B.

- **Explain alternative data elements considered and why you do not consider them suitable replacements for the SSN.**

Social Security Administration uses only the SSN to determine Title II benefits from which eligibility to enroll in Medicare Part B is derived. Presently, there are no other suitable replacements.

- **What are the costs associated with alternatives?**

N/A