

Frequently Asked Questions about the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey

What is the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey?

Since 1991, the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) has been collecting information about the health and cost of care of Medicare beneficiaries. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, sponsors this study, and also oversees the Medicare program.

How was I selected for the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey?

We have scientifically selected your name from the Medicare administrative files, and we cannot substitute another person for you in this study. You, along with 16,000 other Medicare beneficiaries, have been selected to participate in this study. Together, the study participants represent all of the nation's 49 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Why should I participate?

- To improve the quality of care you and other Medicare beneficiaries receive.
- To help us understand how Medicare affects your daily life and what problems you might be experiencing with it.
- To provide legislators and policy makers with more information to create effective laws and regulations for people enrolled in Medicare.
- To create summary reports to describe key factors about how people use Medicare.
- To determine whether Medicare benefits are meeting the needs of current beneficiaries.

Will my participation or lack of participation affect my Medicare benefits?

Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your Medicare benefits.

How do I know my information is confidential?

The information you provide will be kept in strict confidence under the laws prescribed by the Privacy Act of 1974. Information cannot be disclosed in any form that would permit identification of an individual in this study, except to those involved in this research or for routine use or in very limited circumstances as prescribed by the Privacy Act.

HOW DO I KNOW THIS IS LEGITIMATE?

We encourage you to verify the legitimacy of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS). We want every participant to be well informed.

- Call the MCBS project number at NORC at the University of Chicago at 877-389-3429.
- Email the MCBS project at: mcbs@norc.org.
- Find MCBS online at:
 - www.mcbs.norc.org
 - www.cms.gov/MCBS
- Ask to see the field interviewer's NORC ID Badge.
- If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please call the IRB Administrator toll free at 866-309-0542.
- Information will be used only for statistical purposes. Your responses will be used in tables and graphs along with the data from others.
- According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-0568 and it expires 07/31/2017.