

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Reader Questions: Medicare Uses B3 for Second Claimant

Question: What does the B3 on a patient's Medicare card stand for?

Colorado Subscriber

Answer: The B3 on a Medicare card stands for "Wife Age 65 or over; second claimant."

You'll find B3 placed as either a suffix or a prefix on the patient's Health Insurance Claim (HIC) number, which is usually a Social Security number (for example, 123-45-6789B3).

Medicare organizes records using HIC numbers. So you must include them on all Medicare claim forms, related bills, documents, notices and any other communications dealing with a Medicare claim.