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What do the letters after a Social Security or Medicare number mean?**Question**

What do the letters after a Social Security or Medicare number mean?

Answer

The codes following a Social Security number indicate the type of benefits you are entitled to. The Social Security number followed by one of these codes is often referred to as a claim number and they are only assigned once you apply for benefits. These letter codes may appear on correspondence that you receive from Social Security or on your Medicare card. They will never appear on a Social Security number card.

For example, if the Social Security of the wage earner number is 123-45-6789, then once you apply for retirement benefits, your claim number is 123-45-6789**A**. This number will also be used as your Medicare claim number, once you are eligible for Medicare.

Code	Identification
A	Primary claimant (wage earner)
B	Aged wife, age 62 or over
B1	Aged husband, age 62 or over
B2	Young wife, with a child in her care
B3	Aged wife, age 62 or over, second claimant
B5	Young wife, with a child in her care, second claimant
B6	Divorced wife, age 62 or over
BV	Young husband, with a child

D1	in his care
C1- C9	Child - Includes minor, student or disabled child
D	Aged Widow, age 60 or over
D1	Aged widower, age 60 or over
D2	Aged widow (2nd claimant)
D3	Aged widower (2nd claimant)
D6	Surviving Divorced Wife
E	Widowed Mother
E1	Surviving Divorced Mother
E4	Widowed Father
E5	Surviving Divorced Father
F1	Father
F2	Mother
F3	Stepfather
F4	Stepmother
F5	Adopting Father

F6	Adopting Mother
HA	Disabled claimant (wage earner)
HB	Aged wife of disabled claimant, age 62 or over
M	Uninsured – Premium Health Insurance Benefits (Part A)
M1	Uninsured - Qualified for but refused Health Insurance Benefits (Part A)
T	Uninsured - Entitled to HIB (Part A) under deemed or renal provisions; or Fully insured who have elected entitlement only to HIB
TA	Medicare Qualified Government Employment (MQGE)
TB	MQGE aged spouse
W	Disabled Widow
W1	Disabled Widower
W6	Disabled Surviving Divorced Wife

NOTE: This list is not complete, but shows the most common beneficiary codes.