



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0713 **Revised**

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Accreditation Information for Suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)

Key Words

SE0713, DMEPOS, Prosthetics, Orthotics, Supplies, Accreditation

Provider Types Affected

All suppliers of durable medical equipment (DME) that wish to participate in the Medicare DMEPOS program

Note: MLN Matters article SE0713 was impacted by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, which was enacted on July 15, 2008. That legislation delays the implementation of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program until 2009 and makes other changes to the program. SE0713 will be further revised and/or replaced as more details of the modified program are available.

Key Points

- The Special Edition (SE) article SE0713 provides the information that DME suppliers need to comply with Section 302(b)(1) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), which requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish and implement quality standards for DMEPOS suppliers.
- The standards will be applied prospectively and are published at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.
- DMEPOS suppliers need to be accredited and in compliance with these standards.
- **The accreditation deadline for the first round of competitive bidding is August 31, 2007. Suppliers must be accredited before this date in order to be awarded a contract. Suppliers should apply for accreditation immediately to allow adequate time to process their applications.**
- Ten (10) Accreditation Organizations were deemed by CMS in November 2006. Those organizations are listed at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/downloads/DMEPOS_Accreditation_Organizations.pdf on the

CMS website. Suppliers can contact the deemed accrediting organizations directly based on the information provided at that website.

- In the coming months CMS will be publishing more information and resources related to this provision, which will be posted at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/>.

Quality Standards

- All DMEPOS suppliers wishing to bill Medicare for DMEPOS provided to Medicare patients must comply with these standards to receive Medicare Part B payments.
- In addition, Section 1847 (b)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act requires DMEPOS suppliers to meet these standards before being awarded a contract under the upcoming Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program.
- The quality standards are separated into two sections and have three appendices, as follows:

Section/Appendix	Standards
Section I (apply to all suppliers)	Business Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Financial management • Human resource management • Consumer services • Performance management • Product safety • Information management
Section II	Product –Specific Service Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intake • Delivery and setup • Training and instruction of the beneficiary and/or their caregiver • Follow-up service
Appendix A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory Equipment • Supplies • Services
Appendix B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual wheelchairs • Power mobility devices • Complex rehabilitation • Assistive Technology
Appendix C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom fabricated, custom fitted and custom made orthotics • Prosthetic devices • Somatic, ocular and facial prosthetics

Section/Appendix	Standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapeutic shoes and inserts

Accreditation- Compliance with the Standards

- In order to **participate** in Medicare Part B, DMEPOS suppliers will need to be accredited and in compliance with these standards.
- Suppliers must be accredited or have their accreditation pending to **submit a bid**. CMS cannot accept a bid from any supplier that is not accredited or has not applied for accreditation.
- Additionally, suppliers will need to be accredited to be awarded a contract
- The accreditation will be phased-in and to accommodate the suppliers who wish to participate in the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS, CMS will require accreditation organizations to prioritize their surveys of suppliers to accredit suppliers in the selected Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) where the Bidding Program will begin.
- Suppliers should note that all surveys are:
 - Performed on-site at the supplier location, and
 - Are unannounced.
- Accreditation cannot be transferred upon merger, acquisition or sale – CMS, the National Supplier Clearinghouse and the Accreditation Organization must be notified when these events occur.
- The Accreditation Organization and the NSC will be coordinating efforts so that the supplier number can be revoked when accreditation is revoked.

Status of Accreditations

- Almost 5,000 suppliers are already accredited (329 of those are in the 20 MSAs proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Competitive Bidding Program).
- A thousand (1,000) surveys have been scheduled since the start of 2007.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article (SE0713), including the list of covered DMEPOS, can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0713.pdf> on the CMS website.

The CMS complete listing of all DME resources is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/dme.asp> on the CMS website.

The CMS webpage for the Competitive Bidding Program is <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS> on the CMS website.

The following are MLN Matters articles with information on various aspects of the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program:

- MM5574: ("Program Instructions Designating the Competitive Billing Areas and Product Categories Included in the CY 2007 DMEPOS Competitive Bid Program") at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5574.pdf> on the CMS website;

- SE0805 ("Overview of New Medicare Competitive Bidding Program for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) – The first in a series of articles on the implementation of this program") at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0805.pdf>;
- SE0806 ("Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program: Grandfathering, Repair and Replacement, Mail Order Diabetic Supplies and Advanced Beneficiary Notices (ABNs) – The second in a series of articles on the new DMEPOS competitive bidding program") at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0806.pdf>; and
- SE0807 ("Important Exceptions and Special Circumstances that Occur under the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program: – The third in a series of articles on the new DMEPOS competitive bidding program") at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/se0807.pdf>.