

BACKGROUND

ACA Section 3136 Power-Driven Wheelchairs

We amended the regulation at 42 CFR §414.229 to adjust payment for power-driven wheelchairs under the Medicare Part B Durable Medical Equipment Orthotics and Prosthetics (DMEPOS) fee schedule to pay 15 percent (instead of 10 percent) of the purchase price for the first three months under the monthly rental method and 6 percent (instead of 7.5 percent) for remaining rental months. Payment is based on the lower of the supplier's actual charge and the fee schedule amount. These changes are mandated by section 3136(a)(1) of the ACA and are effective for items furnished on or after January 1, 2011.

We also amended the regulations 42 CFR §414.202 and §414.229 to eliminate lump sum (up-front) purchase payment for standard power-driven wheelchairs. We are revising the regulations to permit payment only on a monthly rental basis for standard power-driven wheelchairs effective for items furnished on or after January 1, 2011. For complex rehabilitative power-driven wheelchairs, the regulations will continue to permit payment to be made on a lump sum purchase method or a monthly rental method. These changes are mandated by section 3136(a)(2) of the ACA.

In accordance with ACA, we specified at 42 CFR §414.408 that these changes do not apply to power-driven wheelchairs furnished pursuant to contracts entered into prior to January 1, 2011 as part of the Medicare DMEPOS competitive bidding program.