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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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- ["Medicare Claim Submission Guidelines,"](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 906764, Downloadable

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Clarification of the Quality Standards and Accreditation Requirements for Ultra Lightweight Manual Wheelchairs

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Special Edition Article is intended for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs)) for certain wheelchairs and related services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after March 1, 2013, suppliers who furnish K0005 wheelchairs to Medicare beneficiaries and who are not in compliance with DMEPOS Quality Standards and Accreditation Requirements must come into compliance with these requirements or they will be required to stop furnishing these items to Medicare beneficiaries until these requirements are met.

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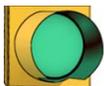
CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Ultra lightweight manual wheelchairs (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code K0005) are highly configurable manual wheelchairs for highly active full time users.

The ultra-light weight manual wheelchairs require individualized fitting and optimal adjustments for multiple features that include axle configuration, wheel camber, and seat and back angles, in addition to ongoing critical support.

These services are furnished by a Rehabilitative Technology Supplier (RTS). Therefore, these items are considered complex rehabilitative wheelchairs subject to the requirements of DMEPOS Quality Standards, Appendix B, Manual Wheelchairs, Power Mobility Devices (PMDs), and Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Assistive Technology, **Section III, Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Assistive Technology**. You must employ at least one Assistive Technology Professional effective for services on or after March 1, 2013 in order to bill Medicare for the K0005 wheelchair. See Background section of this article for further information about Appendix B.

All other lightweight manual wheelchairs are considered standard lightweight wheelchairs and are subject to the requirements of DMEPOS Quality Standards, Appendix B, Section I, Manual Wheelchairs.



GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your staffs are aware of these requirements.

Background

The complete set of requirements, including Appendix B, may be found in the booklet entitled “Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Quality Standards,” available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/DMEPOS_Qual_Stand_Booklet_ICN905709.pdf on the CMS website. Here is the text of appendix B of the DMEPOS Quality Standards.

Appendix B: Manual Wheelchairs, Power Mobility Devices, and Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Assistive Technology

This appendix applies to Manual Wheelchairs, Power Mobility Devices (PMDs), and Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Assistive Technology. Manual wheelchairs include standard recliners, heavy-duty wheelchairs, standard lightweight wheelchairs, and hemi wheelchairs, armrests, leg rests/footplates, anti-tipping devices, and other Medicare approved accessories. PMDs include power wheelchairs and Power Operated Vehicles (POVs) and accessories. Complex Rehabilitative wheelchairs are Group 2 power wheelchairs with power options, Group 3 power wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs that can accommodate rehabilitative accessories and features (e.g., tilt in place).

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I. Manual Wheelchairs

A. Intake & Assessment

In addition to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements (in the booklet entitled "Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Quality Standards"), the supplier shall verify that seating, positioning and specialty assistive technology have been evaluated and documented in the beneficiary's record.

B. Delivery & Set-up

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

C. Training/Instruction to Beneficiary and/or Caregiver(s)

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

D. Follow-up

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

II. Power Mobility Devices

A. Intake & Assessment

In addition to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements, the supplier shall verify that seating, positioning and specialty assistive technology have been evaluated and documented in the beneficiary's record.

B. Delivery & Set-up

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

C. Training/Instruction to Beneficiary and/or Caregiver(s)

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

D. Follow-up

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

III. Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Assistive Technology

In addition to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements, the supplier shall:

1. Employ (W-2 employee) at least one qualified individual as a Rehabilitative Technology Supplier (RTS) per location. A qualified RTS is an individual that has one of the following credentials:

- Certified Rehabilitative Technology Supplier (CRTS);
- Assistive Technology Supplier (ATS) (discontinued 12/31/2008);
- Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) (discontinued 12/31/2008);
- Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) (effective 1/1/2009).

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2. The RTS shall have at least one or more ***trained technicians*** available to service each location appropriately depending on the size and scope of its business. A trained technician is identified by the following:

- Factory trained by manufacturers of the products supplied by the company;
- Experienced in the field of Rehabilitative Technology, (e.g., on the job training, familiarity with rehabilitative clients, products and services);
- Completed at least 10 hours annually of continuing education specific to Rehabilitative Technology; and
- Able to program and repair sophisticated electronics associated with power wheelchairs, alternative drive controls, and power seating systems.

3. The RTS shall:

- Coordinate services with the prescribing physician to conduct face-to-face evaluations of the beneficiary in an appropriate setting and include input from other members of the health care team (i.e., PT, OT, etc.);
- Provide the beneficiary with appropriate equipment for trial and simulation, when necessary;
- Maintain in the beneficiary's record all of the information obtained during the assessment; and
- Implement procedures for assembly and set-up of equipment as well as a process to verify that the final product meets the specifications of the original product recommendation approved by the prescribing physician.

4. If beneficiaries are evaluated in the supplier's facility, the supplier shall:

- Provide the beneficiary private, clean, and safe rooms appropriate for fittings and evaluations; and
- Maintain a repair shop located in the facility or in close proximity or easily accessible from another location of the supplier, as well as an area appropriate for assembly and modification of products.

A. Intake & Assessment

In addition to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements, the supplier shall verify that seating, positioning and specialty assistive technology have been evaluated and documented in the beneficiary's record.

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B. Delivery & Set-up

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

C. Training/Instruction to Beneficiary and/or Caregiver(s)

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service Requirements.

D. Follow-up

Refer to Section II: Supplier Product-Specific Service

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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