



DMEPOS ACCREDITATION

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Please Note: The information in this publication applies only to the Medicare Fee-For-Service Program (also known as Original Medicare).

Table 2. Hyperlink Table, at the end of this document, provides the complete URL for each hyperlink.

To furnish Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS), suppliers must:

- Meet DMEPOS Quality Standards established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Be accredited by a CMS-approved independent national Accreditation Organization (AO)

This fact sheet provides information on the accreditation requirement (including the types of exempted providers), the accreditation process, and resources for more information. In this publication, “you” refers to DMEPOS suppliers.

Overview of the Quality Standards and Accreditation Requirement

All DMEPOS suppliers (unless exempted as described below) must comply with the DMEPOS Quality Standards to obtain or retain their Medicare billing privileges and become accredited.

The accreditation requirement applies to suppliers of the products and services listed on [CMS Form-855S](#) in Section 3D.

This does not include:

- Drugs used with DME (inhalation drugs and drugs infused with a DME pump)
- Medical supplies from Home Health Agencies
- Other Part B drugs, such as immunosuppressive drugs and anti-emetic drugs

DMEPOS Quality Standards

The “[DMEPOS Quality Standards](#)” publication outlines the DMEPOS Quality Standards, gives specific standards for some DMEPOS items, and provides resources for more information.

Providers Exempted from the Accreditation Requirement

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) exempts certain eligible professionals and other persons (listed below) from the accreditation requirement, unless CMS determines that the quality standards are specifically designed to apply to such professionals and other persons.

Exempted eligible professionals include:

- Certified Nurse-Midwife
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nutrition Professional
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Qualified Speech-Language Pathologist
- Registered Dietitian

MIPPA also exempts “other persons” from the accreditation requirement unless CMS determines that the quality standards are specifically designed to apply to such “other persons.” At this time, such “other persons” are limited to the following types of practitioners:

- Audiologist
- Optician
- Orthotist
- Prosthetist

MIPPA allows CMS to exempt such eligible professionals and “other persons” from the DMEPOS Quality Standards based on their licensing, accreditation, or other applicable mandatory quality requirements. However, CMS does not currently exercise this statutory authority.

Accreditation Process

DMEPOS suppliers (except for those exempted eligible professionals and “other persons” listed above) must be accredited prior to submitting a Medicare enrollment application Form CMS-855S to the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC).

As the entity that processes enrollment applications and verifies information, the NSC will not process any enrollment application unless the applicant has been accredited or is exempt.

CMS deemed AOs to accredit DMEPOS suppliers as meeting DMEPOS Quality Standards under Medicare Part B.

The accreditation process includes a pre-application, application review, and on-site survey. The accreditation process may take up to 9 months when you submit a complete accreditation application to an AO and have no deficiencies to correct following an on-site survey.

Supplier Standards and Quality Standards

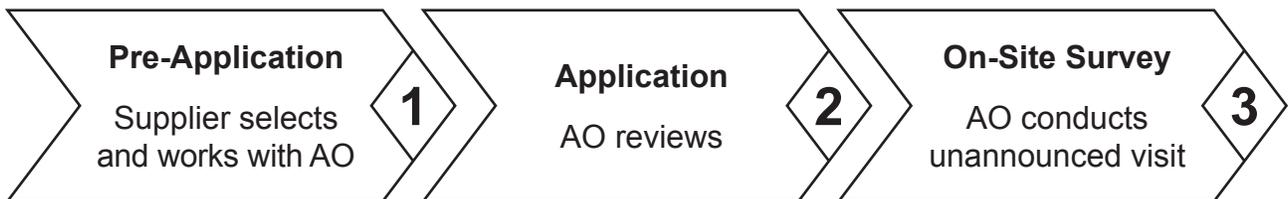
Suppliers must also comply with the current supplier standards to obtain or retain their Medicare billing privileges through the NSC. Suppliers should submit the Medicare Enrollment Application to the NSC **after** receiving accreditation.

The NSC and AOs are completely autonomous. Compliance with one entity does not guarantee compliance with the other. The supplier standards are published in [42 CFR 424.57\(c\)](#).

AOs

Contact an AO directly for accreditation information. CMS keeps this [list of approved AOs with contact information](#) up to date.

Figure 1. Accreditation Process



1. Pre-Application Process

- You contact the AOs and get information about each organization's accreditation process
- You review the information and choose which organization to apply to
- The AO helps you determine what required changes will ensure you meet the accreditation standards (for example, modifying existing services and practices, developing appropriate policies and procedures, developing an implementation plan and timeline, and training employees)
- You apply for accreditation after the changes are in place or during implementation

2. Application Process

- You submit a completed application to the AO with all required supporting documentation.
- The AO reviews the application and documentation (for example, verifies organizational chart and licensure). The average review period is 4 to 6 months.

3. On-Site Survey

- The AO conducts an **unannounced** on-site survey

The AO determines your accreditation based on the data you submitted and the on-site survey results. AOs report accreditation information to the NSC. You may also report accrediting information to the NSC on the CMS Form-855S enrollment application. AOs also conduct unannounced on-site surveys at least every 3 years.

Accreditation cannot automatically transfer upon merger, acquisition, or sale. You must notify CMS, the NSC, and the AO when a merger, acquisition, or sale occurs.

Resources

For more information about DMEPOS, the DMEPOS Quality Standards, and accreditation, refer to the resources listed below.

Table 1. DMEPOS Resources

| Resource | Website and Description |
|---|---|
| CMS Resources | <p>DME Center https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Durable-Medical-Equipment-DME-Center.html</p> <p>DMEPOS Accreditation https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/DMEPOS-Accreditation.html</p> <p>“DMEPOS Quality Standards” booklet at https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905709.html</p> <p>“DMEPOS Information for Pharmacies” fact sheet at https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246766.html</p> <p>DMEPOS Competitive Bidding https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid</p> <p>DMEPOS Supplier Enrollment https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/cms855s.pdf</p> <p>DMEPOS Supplier Standards https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/DMEPOSSupplierStandards.pdf</p> |
| U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) | https://oig.hhs.gov |

Table 1. DMEPOS Resources (cont.)

| Resource | Website and Description |
|--|--|
| DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) Contact Information | https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map |
| Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Guided Pathways (GPs) | <p>For more information about DMEPOS, refer to the “Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies” section in the “MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources” booklet at https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf</p> <p>For all other GPs, visit https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Guided_Pathways.html</p> |
| National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) | http://www.palmettogba.com/nsc |
| Physician Self-Referral Law (Stark Law) Considerations for DMEPOS Suppliers | <p>Title 42 “Code of Federal Regulations” (CFR) 411.355 https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title42-vol2/pdf/CFR-2015-title42-vol2-sec411-355.pdf</p> <p>Physician Self-Referral https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Fraud-and-Abuse/PhysicianSelfReferral</p> <p>“Physician Self-Referral Law” Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) Provider Compliance Training Video</p> <p>Click the image below to play the video:</p>  |

Table 2. Hyperlink Table

| Embedded Hyperlink | Complete URL |
|---|---|
| CMS Form-855S | https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/cms855s.pdf |
| DMEPOS Quality Standards | https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905709.html |
| 42 CFR 424.57(c) | https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title42-vol3/pdf/CFR-2015-title42-vol3-sec424-57.pdf |
| List of Approved AOs With Contact Information | https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/DeemedAccreditationOrganizationsCMB.pdf |

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