



## DMEPOS ACCREDITATION



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

- Meet DMEPOS Quality Standards established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Obtain accreditation by a CMS-approved independent national Accreditation Organization (AO)
- Enroll in Medicare using the paper application [Form CMS-855S](#) or the [Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System](#) (PECOS)

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

**Target Audience:** Medicare Fee-For-Service Program (also known as Original Medicare)

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

## OVERVIEW OF THE QUALITY STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT

DMEPOS suppliers (unless exempted as described below) are subject to the Accreditation Requirement and must comply with the DMEPOS Quality Standards to obtain or retain Medicare billing privileges.

- For more information and resources, refer to the [DMEPOS Quality Standards](#) booklet.
- For the list of covered DMEPOS products and services, review **Section 3.D.** of [Form CMS-855S](#).
- For exempted products, supplies, and eligible professionals, see Table 1.

### SUPPLIER STANDARDS AND QUALITY STANDARDS

Suppliers must comply with the current Supplier Standards, published at [42 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 424.57\(c\)](#) to obtain and maintain Medicare billing privileges through the [National Supplier Clearinghouse \(NSC\)](#).

The Quality Standards are the guidelines CMS-approved AOs use for accrediting suppliers.

The NSC and the AOs are completely autonomous. Compliance with one entity does not guarantee compliance with the other.

## Exemptions

The [Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 \(MIPPA\)](#) exempts certain eligible professionals and “other persons” from the accreditation requirement, unless CMS determines that the Quality Standards are specifically designed to apply to them.

MIPPA also 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.

Additionally, [pharmacies may apply for an AO accreditation exemption](#) from the NSC.



**Table 1. Exempted Products, Supplies, and Professionals**

Exempted Categories	Exempted Products, Supplies, or Professionals
<b>Products and Supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drugs used with DME (inhalation drugs and drugs infused with a DME pump)</li> <li>• Medical supplies from Home Health Agencies</li> <li>• Other Part B drugs, such as immunosuppressive drugs and antiemetic drugs</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Professionals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Nurse-Midwife</li> <li>• Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist</li> <li>• Clinical Nurse Specialist</li> <li>• Clinical Psychologist</li> <li>• Clinical Social Worker</li> <li>• Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>• Nutrition Professional</li> <li>• Occupational Therapist</li> <li>• Physical Therapist</li> <li>• Physician</li> <li>• Physician Assistant</li> <li>• Qualified Audiologist</li> <li>• Qualified Speech-Language Pathologist</li> <li>• Registered Dietitian</li> </ul>
<b>“Other Persons”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optician</li> <li>• Orthotist</li> <li>• Prosthetist</li> </ul>

## ACCREDITATION PROCESS

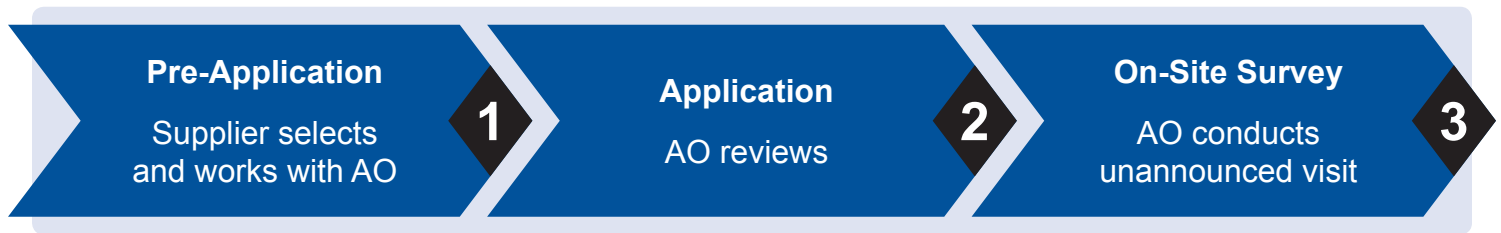
Except for the exempted suppliers listed in Table 1, you must have DMEPOS Supplier accredited status prior to submitting a Medicare enrollment application Form CMS-855S to the NSC.

The NSC processes enrollment applications and verifies information. The NSC will not process any enrollment application unless the applicant is either accredited or exempt. CMS-approved AOs accredit DMEPOS suppliers as compliant with Medicare Part B DMEPOS Quality Standards.

### AOs

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

The accreditation process has three stages:



## 1. Pre-Application Process

- You contact the AOs and get information about each organization's accreditation process
- You review the information and apply to your AO of choice
- Your 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 your enrollment application

**Remember:** AOs will conduct unannounced on-site surveys at least every 3 years.

## Accreditation Timeline

If your on-site survey results show no deficiency requiring correction, the accreditation process may take up to 9 months from the time you submit your completed application to the AO.

## Merger, Acquisition, or Sale

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 2. DMEPOS Resources**

Resource	Website and Description
<b>CMS Resources</b>	<p><b>DME Center</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Durable-Medical-Equipment-DME-Center.html">CMS.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Durable-Medical-Equipment-DME-Center.html</a></p> <p><b>DMEPOS Accreditation</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/DMEPOSAccreditation.html">CMS.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/DMEPOSAccreditation.html</a></p> <p><b>DMEPOS Quality Standards</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905709.html">CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905709.html</a></p> <p><b>DMEPOS Information for Pharmacies</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246766.html">CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246766.html</a></p> <p><b>DMEPOS Competitive Bidding</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid">CMS.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid</a></p> <p><b>DMEPOS Supplier Enrollment</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/DMEPOSEnrollment.html">CMS.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/DMEPOSEnrollment.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243483.html">CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243483.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/cms855s.pdf">CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/cms855s.pdf</a></p> <p><b>DMEPOS Supplier Standards</b>  <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/DMEPOSSupplierStandards.pdf">CMS.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/DMEPOSSupplierStandards.pdf</a></p>

Table 2. DMEPOS Resources (cont.)

Resource	Website and Description
<b>U.S. Department of Health &amp; Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG)</b>	<a href="http://OIG.hhs.gov">OIG.hhs.gov</a>
<b>DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) Contact Information</b>	<a href="http://CMS.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map">CMS.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map</a>
<b>National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC)</b>	<a href="http://PalmettoGBA.com/nsc">PalmettoGBA.com/nsc</a>
<b>Physician Self-Referral Law (Stark Law) Considerations for DMEPOS Suppliers</b>	<p><b>Title 42 “Code of Federal Regulations” (CFR) 411.355</b>  <a href="http://GPO.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title42-vol2/pdf/CFR-2016-title42-vol2-sec411-355.pdf">GPO.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title42-vol2/pdf/CFR-2016-title42-vol2-sec411-355.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Physician Self-Referral</b>  <a href="http://CMS.gov/Medicare/Fraud-and-Abuse/PhysicianSelfReferral">CMS.gov/Medicare/Fraud-and-Abuse/PhysicianSelfReferral</a>  <a href="http://YouTube.com/watch?v=hmWG4o5zrvQ">YouTube.com/watch?v=hmWG4o5zrvQ</a></p>

Table 3. Hyperlink Table

Embedded Hyperlink	Complete URL
<b>42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 424.57(c)</b>	<a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title42-vol3/pdf/CFR-2016-title42-vol3-sec424-57.pdf">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title42-vol3/pdf/CFR-2016-title42-vol3-sec424-57.pdf</a>
<b>DMEPOS Quality Standards</b>	<a href="https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905709.html">https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905709.html</a>
<b>Form CMS-855S</b>	<a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/cms855s.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/cms855s.pdf</a>
<b>List of Approved AOs With Contact Information</b>	<a href="https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/DeemedAccreditationOrganizationsCMB.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/DeemedAccreditationOrganizationsCMB.pdf</a>
<b>Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA)</b>	<a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ275/pdf/PLAW-110publ275.pdf">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ275/pdf/PLAW-110publ275.pdf</a>
<b>National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC)</b>	<a href="https://www.palmettogba.com/nsc">https://www.palmettogba.com/nsc</a>
<b>Pharmacies May Apply for an AO Accreditation Exemption</b>	<a href="https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246766.html">https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246766.html</a>
<b>Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System</b>	<a href="https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243483.html">https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243483.html</a>

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