

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

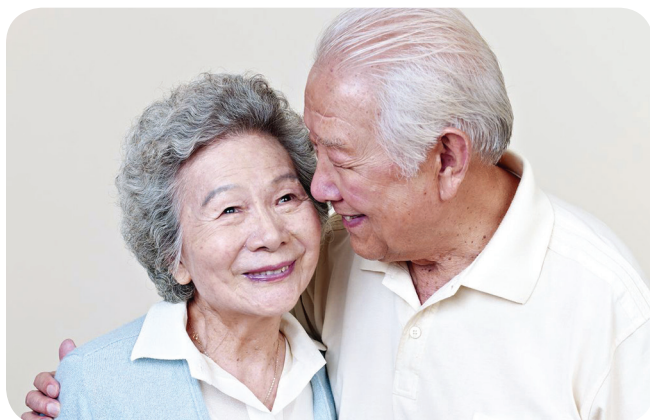


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The Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program

Enteral Nutrition

Under the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program (the Program), beneficiaries with Original Medicare who obtain competitive bidding items in designated competitive bidding areas (CBAs) are required to obtain these items from a contract supplier, unless an exception applies. When a new round of the Program goes into effect in a CBA, beneficiaries need to use a contract supplier for that round. Enteral nutrition, equipment, and related supplies is a product category included in the Program.



Medicare covers enteral nutrition therapy, commonly called tube feeding, under the Medicare Part B prosthetic device benefit for beneficiaries residing at home or in a facility, such as a skilled nursing facility (SNF) or nursing facility (NF), when the stay is not covered by Medicare Part A. Enteral equipment and supplies are used to provide enteral nutrients through a tube into the stomach or small intestine.

With the exception of SNFs and NFs that become specialty suppliers, suppliers that are contract suppliers for the enteral nutrition product category must furnish services to beneficiaries throughout the CBA, regardless of whether a beneficiary lives in a private residence or institutional setting.

What are the rules for enteral nutrition payment under the Program?

Medicare will pay the single payment amount for a month's supply only to contract suppliers.

Maintenance and servicing (MS) payments for the enteral pumps will be paid to the contract supplier using the existing guidelines found in CMS Manual System Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 20, Section 40.3.

Under the Program laws and regulations, enteral nutrition items cannot be grandfathered. A Medicare beneficiary must obtain related enteral accessories, nutrition, and supplies from a contract supplier. Only oxygen and oxygen equipment and rented durable medical equipment (DME) can be grandfathered. Below are some scenarios that discuss supplier responsibilities for enteral nutrition equipment or supplies that were rented prior to the implementation of the Program (i.e., when contracts for a given round of bidding take effect).

Scenario 1

The enteral nutrition pump has been rented for less than 15 continuous months upon implementation of a round of competition.

If the enteral nutrition pump was rented for less than 15 continuous months upon implementation of a round of competition, the rental of the pump must transition to a contract supplier. The contract supplier will be paid the remainder of the rental months and subsequent MS until a determination is made by the beneficiary's physician that the equipment is no longer medically necessary.

For example, for Round 2 Recompete, the pick-up of the existing pump and delivery of the new pump should occur on the first anniversary date after July 1, 2016. The anniversary date is the date of the month on which the item was first delivered to the beneficiary by the previous supplier.

For example, if the equipment was rented on August 15, the anniversaries would be September 15, October 15, and on the 15th of each following month. The equipment in this example should not be picked up before July 15. A contract supplier may not refuse to furnish items to a beneficiary based on the number of rental months remaining in the 15-month rental period.

Scenario 2

The enteral nutrition pump has been rented for at least 15 continuous months upon implementation of a round of competition.

If the enteral nutrition pump was rented for at least 15 continuous months upon implementation of a round of competition, the previous supplier (whether a contract supplier or not for the current round of competition) that provided the item in the 15th month of the rental period is responsible for furnishing, maintaining, and servicing the enteral equipment as long as it is medically necessary. However, the beneficiary must obtain related enteral accessories, nutrients, and supplies from a contract supplier.

Additional Information

For more information about the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid> on the CMS website.

Beneficiary-related information can be found at <https://www.medicare.gov> on the Internet.



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