



DMEPOS COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS OF OFF-THE-SHELF BACK AND KNEE BRACES



Under the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program (CBP), beneficiaries with Original Medicare who obtain competitive bidding items in designated competitive bidding areas (CBAs) must obtain these items from a competitive bidding contract supplier, unless an exception applies. This fact sheet contains important information about repairs and replacements of beneficiary-owned off-the-shelf (OTS) back and knee braces under the DMEPOS CBP.

From January 1, 2021, thru December 31, 2023, the CBP will only be in effect for OTS back and knee braces, so the guidance in this fact sheet only applies to these items during this time.

Medicare allows for the repair of beneficiary-owned, medically-necessary braces or orthotics by any Medicare-enrolled supplier. Labor to repair braces is not subject to competitive bidding and will be paid according to Medicare's general payment rules.

Beneficiary-owned competitively bid items that are replaced, rather than repaired, must be furnished by contract suppliers when beneficiaries obtain these items in a CBA.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR REPAIRS OF BENEFICIARY-OWNED BRACES?

- A beneficiary who permanently resides in a CBA and owns a competitively bid brace that needs to be repaired may have it repaired by any Medicare-enrolled supplier.
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code L4205 is used to bill for the labor component of repair of a beneficiary-owned brace.
- HCPCS code L4210 is used to bill for replacement of minor parts associated with the repair of a beneficiary-owned brace.

RESOURCES

Table 1. DMEPOS CBP Resources

Resource	Website
DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program	CMS.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid
Beneficiary-Related Information	Medicare.gov
Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor	DMEcompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic2021.nsf

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