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CMS Medicare FFS Provider e-News

CMS Information for the Medicare Fee-For-Service Provider Community

CMS asks that you share the following important information with all of your association members and state and local chapters. Thank you!

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A standalone issue of the e-News for Mon Jan 30...

Bidding is Now Open for the Round 2 and National Mail-Order Competitions of the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program

CMS is now soliciting bids for the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program.

All bids must be submitted in DBidS, the online bidding system, by 8:59:59pm (prevailing Eastern Time) on Fri Mar 30, 2012. All required hardcopy documents that must be included as part of the bid package must be RECEIVED by the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) on or before Fri Mar 30, 2012. The contract period for the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions is Mon July 1, 2013 – Thu June 30, 2016.

All bidders must submit certain required hardcopy documents as specified in the [Request for Bids \(RFB\) Instructions](#). CMS urges all bidders to take advantage of the covered document review process. Under this process, we will notify suppliers that submit their hardcopy financial documents by the covered document review date (CDRD) of any missing financial documents. *The CDRD for the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions is Wed Feb 29, 2012 – financial documents must be RECEIVED on or before Wed Feb 29, 2012 to qualify for the covered document review process.* This process only determines if there are any missing financial documents. It does not indicate if the documents are acceptable, accurate, or meet applicable requirements. Suppliers that submit financial documents by the CDRD will be notified of any missing financial documents within 90 days of the CDRD. Suppliers will be required to submit the missing financial document(s) within 10 business days of the notification.

Competitive bidding areas and product categories for the Round 2 and national mail order competitions, DBidS information, bid preparation worksheets, educational materials, and complete RFB instructions can be found on the CBIC website. Suppliers should review this information prior to submitting their bids. CMS will send important bidding updates via email, so all suppliers interested in bidding are urged to sign up for email updates on the CBIC website (at www.DMECompetitiveBid.com). If you have any questions about the bidding process, please contact the CBIC Customer Service Center at 877-577-5331.

The target registration dates for authorized officials (AOs) and backup authorized officials (BAOs) to register for a user ID and password in the CMS “Individuals Authorized Access to the CMS Computer Services (IACS)” system have passed. End users (EUs), as well as any AOs and BAOs who have not yet registered, should now be registering. Only suppliers that have registered in IACS and received a user ID and password will be able to access the online bidding system and submit bids. If the AO for your company has not already registered, we cannot guarantee that he or she will be able to complete the registration process before registration closes. If your AO does not register, you cannot bid and will not be eligible for a contract. In addition, suppliers whose AOs have not registered are at risk of experiencing delays in accessing the online bidding system to get a bidder number and thereby missing the opportunity to submit financial documents by the CDRD.

Registration will close on Thu Feb 9, 2012 at 9pm (prevailing Eastern Time) – no AOs, BAOs, or EUs can register after registration closes. Suppliers that do not register cannot bid and are not eligible for contracts.

Registration is typically a quick and easy process if you follow the step-by-step instructions in the “IACS Reference Guide” posted on the CBIC website. To register, visit the [CBIC website](#) and click on “REGISTRATION IS OPEN” above the Registration Clock on the homepage. You will also find a registration checklist and Quick Step guides on the [CBIC website](#). Please note that suppliers with multiple locations typically must register only one Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN) that will submit the bid for all locations. If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact the CBIC Customer Service Center.

To bid, visit the [CBIC website](#) and click on “BIDDING IS OPEN” above the clocks on the homepage.

Please note that the RFB instructions initially posted on the CBIC website contained target bid submission deadlines. CMS is in the process of updating these instructions to reflect the actual bid submission deadlines, which are shown in this announcement.

Credit Report/Score Requirements for DMEPOS Competitive Bidding

CMS has issued the following clarification to assist suppliers bidding in the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. This information will also be posted on the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) website. If you have any questions, please contact the CBIC customer service center at 877-577-5331 between 9am and 9pm (Eastern Time) during the registration and bidding periods.

Q. The Request for Bids instructions say that suppliers must submit a copy of a credit report with numerical score that was prepared within 90 days prior to the opening of the bid window. Does this mean I can't submit a credit report and score that is dated after bidding opens but before bidding closes?

A. No. Credit reports and scores must not be prepared earlier than 90 days prior to the opening of the bid window, but they can be prepared after bidding opens as long as they are received by the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) by the close of the bid window. When bidding opens, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will post the specific date that is 90 days prior to the opening of the bid window on the CBIC website. Credit reports and scores that are older than this date will not be accepted.

Now Available: New Webcast for Round 2 and National Mail-Order Bidders

A new educational webcast for the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program is now available on the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) website at www.DMECompetitiveBid.com. This webcast, titled *Financial Documentation Requirements*, goes over the rules and requirements for the financial documents that you must submit in addition to your online bid.

This webcast is available on demand to view at your convenience – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no charge to view this webcast, and a transcript is also posted on the website. To view the webcast, please visit the [CBIC website](#), select *Bidding Suppliers: Round 2 & National Mail-Order*, and choose [Education Events](#).

We will be issuing one more webcast that will address how to submit a bid in the online bidding system, DBidS. We will announce its availability with an email update. If you have not already done so, please register on the [CBIC website](#) to receive this announcement and other updates about the competitive bidding program.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the CBIC customer service center toll-free at 877-577-5331 from 9am to 9pm (prevailing Eastern Time), Monday through Friday, throughout the registration and bidding periods.

Now Available: New Education Materials for Round 2 and National Mail-Order Bidders

New educational materials for the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program are now available on the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) website at www.DMECompetitiveBid.com. CMS urges all bidders to take advantage of these new materials as well as the many other helpful tools and resources on the CBIC website.

First, the [DBidS Reference Guide](#) has been issued. This guide provides step-by-step instructions for using the DMEPOS Bidding System (DBidS), the online bidding system.

Second, the final in a series of webcasts is now available. This webcast, titled *How to Submit a Bid*, explains how to submit a bid using the online bidding system, DBidS. All webcasts are available on demand to view at your convenience – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no charge to view the webcasts, and a transcript for each webcast is also posted on the website. To view the webcasts, please visit the [CBIC website](#), select *Bidding Suppliers: Round 2 & National Mail-Order*, and choose [Education Events](#).

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the CBIC customer service center toll-free at 877-577-5331 from 9am to 9pm (prevailing Eastern Time), Monday through Friday, throughout the registration and bidding periods.

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The Medicare Learning Network

www.CMS.gov/MLNGenInfo

Archive of Provider e-News Messages

www.CMS.gov/FFSProvPartProg/EmailArchive

