

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Special Open Door Forum:  
Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies  
Competitive Bidding Program Bidders' Conference - How to Register to Access the  
Bidding System

Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
2:00 pm-3:00 pm Eastern Time  
Conference Call Only

Please join us for the first in a series of eight Special Open Door Forum (ODF) bidders' conferences for the Round 1 Rebid of the Medicare durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) competitive bidding program. At this Special ODF, we will provide an overview of what to expect during the bidder education period and provide suppliers with a step-by-step explanation of the registration process. In addition, we will identify common registration issues from the original Round 1 of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program and discuss refinements to the bidding system.

Reminder: It's important for suppliers to register early to avoid delays in accessing the online bidding system when bidding opens.

**Background:**

The Medicare DMEPOS competitive bidding program was established by Congress in the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 and later amended by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008. These statutes require the implementation of a competitive bidding program that replaces Medicare's current fee schedule methodology for determining payment rates for certain DMEPOS items in competitive bidding areas (CBAs). These payment rates for DMEPOS competitively bid items are determined by using bids submitted by DMEPOS suppliers.

On August 3, 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) issued the bidding timeline for the Round 1 Rebid of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program and initiated a comprehensive bidder education campaign. CMS' Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) will be the focal point for bidder education. The CBIC's dedicated website, <http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com>, will include a comprehensive array of important information for suppliers, including bidding rules, user guides, frequently asked questions, policy fact sheets, checklists, and bidding information charts. The CBIC toll-free help desk, 1-877-577-5331, is now open to help bidders with all of their questions and concerns. All suppliers interested in bidding are urged to sign up for E-mail Updates on the home page of the CBIC website.

We look forward to your participation.

Special Open Door Participation Instructions:

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 23038688

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880. A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

An audio recording of this Special Forum will be posted to the Special Open Door Forum website at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05\\_ODF\\_SpecialODF.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp) and will be accessible for downloading beginning Thursday, August 27, 2009.

For Open Door Forum schedule updates, E-Mailing list subscriptions, and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoorforums> .  
Thank you for your interest in CMS Open Door Forums.