



Medicare's Durable Medical Equipment Program

What You Need to Know if You Need Medical Equipment While Traveling

If you have Original Medicare and need certain durable medical equipment and supplies while traveling, you should know about Medicare's competitive bidding program. This program is currently in effect in nine areas of the country and is scheduled to expand to more areas of the country on July 1, 2013. If you live in or travel to one of the areas where the program is in effect and need equipment or supplies included in the program, you will likely need to use a Medicare contract supplier to make sure Medicare will help pay for your item.

The program sets fair prices and ensures that you have access to quality medical equipment and supplies from suppliers you can trust. It also helps limit fraud and abuse in the Medicare Program. Even if you don't live in an affected area, it's important to know about the program if you plan to visit any of the competitive bidding areas and need equipment or supplies included under the program.

Here are three simple steps you should follow if you need medical equipment or supplies while traveling:

- 1) Visit Medicare.gov/supplier to determine if the ZIP code where you are traveling is affected or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. If the ZIP code isn't in a competitive bidding area, you can use any Medicare enrolled supplier for your item. If the ZIP code is in a competitive bidding area, go to step 2.
- 2) Check Medicare.gov/supplier or call 1-800-MEDICARE to find out if the item you need is included in the program. If your item isn't included in the program, you can use any Medicare enrolled supplier. If your item is included in the program, go to step 3.
- 3) You will likely need to use a contract supplier to make sure Medicare will help pay for your item. Consult the list of contract suppliers on Medicare.gov/supplier or call 1-800-MEDICARE and a customer service representative can help you find a Medicare contract supplier.

Make sure to let your friends and loved ones know about the program as well so they can check to see if the program affects them when they travel. Please visit Medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

This information is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.