

Traveling? A New Medicare Program May Affect You

Starting July 1, 2013, Medicare is scheduled to expand a successful competitive bidding program to more areas of the country. This program changes the amount Medicare pays for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) and makes changes to which suppliers Medicare will pay to supply these items. The program is designed to help you save money and make sure that you have access to quality medical equipment, supplies, and services from suppliers you can trust.

If you have Original Medicare and travel to (or live in) one of the areas where the program is expanding and need equipment or supplies included in the program, you'll almost always need to use a supplier that contracts with Medicare to make sure Medicare will help pay for your item.

Visit Medicare.gov/supplier to find out if you're traveling to a ZIP code where the program is expanding.



What if I travel to one of the areas included in this program and need to get medical equipment or supplies?

If you permanently live in...	And travel to...	You may go to...
An area participating in the program	A different area participating in the program	A Medicare-contract supplier located in the area you traveled to for items included in the program*
An area participating in the program	An area NOT participating in the program	Any Medicare-approved supplier
An area NOT participating in the program	An area participating in the program	A Medicare-contract supplier located in the area you traveled to for items included in the program*
An area NOT participating in the program	An area NOT participating in the program	Any Medicare-approved supplier

For more information, visit Medicare.gov/supplier, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free health insurance counseling and personalized help understanding these changes. For the phone number of the SHIP office near you, visit Medicare.gov/contacts, or call 1-800-MEDICARE.

* If you don't use a Medicare contract supplier, the supplier may ask you to sign an "Advance Beneficiary Notice." This notice tells you that Medicare probably won't pay for the item or service. The supplier will probably require you to pay for the full cost of the item.