

## How will this new program save me money?

The competitive bidding program helps save you money because when Medicare pays less, your 20% coinsurance payment will be less too. It's important to know that for any equipment or supplies that are included in the competitive bidding program, the Medicare contract supplier can only charge you the 20% coinsurance and any unmet yearly deductible. If you suspect that you're paying more coinsurance than the Medicare-allowed amount, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. You can also call the HHS Office of Inspector General Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477. TTY users should call 1-800-377-4950.

## What if I'm currently renting or own medical equipment?

If you're renting certain medical equipment or receiving oxygen or oxygen equipment that's paid on a monthly basis, you may be able to stay with your current supplier even if that supplier isn't a contract supplier. Suppliers that aren't Medicare contract suppliers can choose to become "grandfathered" suppliers. A "grandfathered" supplier may continue to rent equipment to you if you were renting it when the program starts. This rule applies only to oxygen, oxygen equipment, and certain rented equipment. If you're renting equipment that's eligible for grandfathering, your supplier will let you know in writing 30 business days before the program begins if it'll become a grandfathered supplier.

If you already own medical equipment, you can use any Medicare-approved supplier for repairs. Before your equipment is serviced, make sure the supplier is Medicare-approved so the service may be covered. If your equipment needs to be replaced and is listed in this brochure, you must use a Medicare contract supplier for Medicare to pay.

## Need Help?

- Talk to your doctor, other health care provider, or supplier for questions about equipment and supplies.
- For free health insurance counseling and personalized help with these changes, call your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Visit [Medicare.gov/contacts](http://Medicare.gov/contacts), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for their phone number. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.



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# Durable Medical Equipment & Supplies

A program to save you money  
and ensure quality services



### What's Medicare's Competitive Bidding Program?

Starting in July 2013, Medicare is scheduled to expand the competitive bidding program to more areas of the country. This program changes the way Medicare pays for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS). It also changes which suppliers Medicare will pay to supply these items to you.

If you have Original Medicare and you live in (or travel to) one of the competitive bidding areas and need equipment or supplies included under the program (like a walker or a wheelchair), it's important to know about this program to make sure Medicare will help pay for your item and to avoid any disruption of service.

The program replaces the outdated, inflated prices Medicare is currently paying with more accurate, lower prices. Under this program, suppliers submit bids to provide certain medical equipment and supplies at a lower price than what Medicare now pays for these items. Medicare uses these bids to set the amount it will pay for those equipment and supplies under the new program. Qualified, accredited suppliers with winning bids are chosen as Medicare contract suppliers. As a result, your payment for these equipment and supplies should be lower than what you pay now.



### What do I need to do now?

1. Find out if you live in a ZIP code that's part of the competitive bidding program.
2. Find out which suppliers are Medicare contract suppliers to make sure Medicare will help pay for your medical products and services.
3. To get this information:
  - Visit [Medicare.gov/supplier](http://Medicare.gov/supplier).
  - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information, visit [Medicare.gov/publications](http://Medicare.gov/publications) and read the fact sheet "What You Should Know if You Need Medicare-covered Equipment or Supplies."

### What do I need to do when the program starts?

If you have Original Medicare and live in or plan to visit an area that's part of the competitive bidding program, you generally must use a Medicare contract supplier (or, if you're renting an item when the program starts, a grandfathered supplier) when you buy or rent certain durable medical equipment or supplies if you want Medicare to help you pay for the item. This program doesn't affect which doctors or hospitals you can use.



### What kinds of items are included?

These items are included in the areas where the program is scheduled to expand:

- Oxygen, oxygen equipment, and supplies
- Standard (power and manual) wheelchairs, scooters, and related accessories
- Enteral nutrients, equipment, and supplies
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices, respiratory assist devices (RADs) and related supplies and accessories
- Hospital beds and related accessories
- Walkers and related accessories
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy pumps and related supplies and accessories
- Support surfaces (Group 2 mattresses and overlays)

**Important:** If you continue to use a non-contract supplier that isn't a grandfathered supplier for equipment or supplies that are part of the competitive bidding program, the supplier must give you an "Advance Beneficiary Notice" (ABN). This notice tells you that Medicare usually won't pay for the item or service, and you may be responsible for paying the entire cost. A non-contract supplier is a supplier who isn't participating in this program.