

What You Should Know if You Need Medicare-covered Equipment or Supplies

Information about the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) 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 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 to you.

The program replaces the outdated, inflated fee-schedule prices Medicare is currently paying with lower, more accurate prices.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 competitive bidding program. Qualified, accredited suppliers with winning bids are chosen as Medicare contract suppliers. The program:

- Helps you and Medicare save money
- Ensures that you have access to quality medical equipment, supplies, and services from suppliers you can trust
- Helps limit fraud and abuse in the Medicare Program

If you have Original Medicare, live in one of the competitive bidding areas, and use equipment or supplies included under the program (or get the items while visiting a competitive bidding area), you generally must use Medicare contract suppliers if you want Medicare to help pay for the item. If you live in one of the areas where the program is expanding and you're renting oxygen or certain other durable medical equipment at the time the program starts, you'll be able to continue renting these items from your current supplier if that supplier becomes a contract supplier or decides to participate in the program as a "grandfathered" supplier. If you live in (or get these items while visiting) these areas and don't use a Medicare contract or a grandfathered supplier, Medicare won't pay for the item, and you may have to pay full price. **It's important to know if you're affected by this program to make sure Medicare will help pay for your item and to avoid any disruption of service.**

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS PROGRAM, AND IN WHAT AREAS?

Round 1 of this program is already in effect in certain ZIP codes in these states: California, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas. The **items** included in the Round 1 areas are:

- Oxygen, oxygen equipment, and supplies
- Standard power wheelchairs, scooters, and related accessories
- Complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs and related accessories (Group 2 only)
- 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
- Support surfaces (Group 2 mattresses and overlays in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach only)

Round 2 is scheduled to start in July 2013. You may be affected by this program if you live in (or get competitive bid items while visiting) certain ZIP codes in the areas below and on page 3.

MIDWEST

- Akron, OH
- Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI
- Columbus, OH
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI
- Flint, MI
- Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI
- Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH
- Indianapolis-Carmel, IN
- Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI
- Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI
- Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA
- St. Louis, MO-IL
- Toledo, OH
- Wichita, KS
- Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA

NORTHEAST

- Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY
- Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ
- Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH
- Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT
- Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY
- Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT
- New Haven-Milford, CT
- New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA
- Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
- Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY
- Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA
- Rochester, NY
- Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Springfield, MA
- Syracuse, NY
- Worcester, MA

Check www.medicare.gov/supplier in Spring 2013 to find out if your ZIP code is affected. Or, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

SOUTH

- Asheville, NC
- Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA
- Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC
- Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX
- Baltimore-Towson, MD
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX
- Birmingham-Hoover, AL
- Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL
- Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC
- Chattanooga, TN-GA
- Columbia, SC
- Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL
- El Paso, TX
- Greensboro-High Point, NC
- Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC
- Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX
- Jackson, MS
- Jacksonville, FL
- Knoxville, TN
- Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL
- Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR
- Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN
- McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX
- Memphis, TN-MS-AR
- Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN
- New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA
- North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota, FL
- Ocala, FL
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL
- Raleigh-Cary, NC
- Richmond, VA
- San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX
- Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL
- Tulsa, OK
- Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC
- Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV

WEST

- Albuquerque, NM
- Bakersfield-Delano, CA
- Boise City-Nampa, ID
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO
- Fresno, CA
- Honolulu, HI
- Las Vegas-Paradise, NV
- Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA
- Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA
- Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ
- Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA
- Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville, CA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA
- San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA
- San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA
- Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA
- Stockton, CA
- Tucson, AZ
- Visalia-Porterville, CA

The **items** included in the **Round 2 program** are below:

- 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)

WHEN WILL MEDICARE ANNOUNCE THE ROUND 2 CONTRACT SUPPLIERS?

Medicare plans to announce the Round 2 contract suppliers in the Spring of 2013. Medicare will list the contract suppliers on www.medicare.gov/supplier. You'll also be able to call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for help finding a contract supplier. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

WHEN ROUND 2 STARTS, DO I HAVE TO GET ANY NEW SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT THAT I NEED FROM A MEDICARE CONTRACT SUPPLIER?

If the equipment or supplies ordered by your doctor or treating health care provider are included in the competitive bidding program where you live or visit, you generally must get your equipment or supplies from a Medicare contract supplier for Medicare to pay for the item. However, in certain cases, your doctor or treating health care provider can sometimes supply these:

- A walker or folding manual wheelchair to you when you're getting other medical care even if he or she isn't a Medicare contract supplier.
- If you're hospitalized and need a walker or folding manual wheelchair, the hospital can supply you these items while you're admitted or on the day you're discharged from the hospital.

You may also be able to continue to rent some types of medical equipment from your current supplier, if that supplier chooses to be a "grandfathered" supplier. In these situations, Medicare will still help you pay for these items.

I LIVE IN A ZIP CODE THAT WILL BE PART OF THIS PROGRAM WHEN IT STARTS. DO I HAVE TO CHANGE SUPPLIERS IF I'M ALREADY RENTING EQUIPMENT FROM A SUPPLIER THAT ISN'T A MEDICARE CONTRACT SUPPLIER?

If you're already renting certain medical equipment or receiving oxygen or oxygen equipment that's paid on a monthly basis when the program starts, you may be able to stay with your current supplier. Suppliers that aren't Medicare contract suppliers can elect to become "grandfathered" suppliers. This means a supplier may continue to rent equipment to you if you were renting the equipment when the program starts. This rule applies only to oxygen, oxygen equipment and certain rented equipment. You may continue using the "grandfathered" supplier until the rental period for your equipment ends. If you start renting additional equipment from a "grandfathered" supplier after the program starts, Medicare won't pay for the new 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 whether it will or won't become a "grandfathered" supplier.

WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES I GET FROM MY DOCTOR OR HOSPITAL?

Medicare will pay for certain items, like a walker or folding manual wheelchair furnished by your doctor or treating health care provider (including physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners), even if he or she isn't a Medicare contract supplier, as long as the item is supplied in the office during a visit for medical care and is medically necessary. If you're hospitalized and need a walker or folding manual wheelchair, Medicare will also pay for these items furnished by the hospital while you're admitted or on the day you're discharged from the hospital.

AM I AFFECTED IF I'M IN A MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN?

The competitive bidding program applies to Original Medicare only. If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), your plan will let you know if your supplier is changing. If you're not sure, contact your plan.

DO I HAVE TO CHANGE DOCTORS?

No. The program doesn't affect which doctors you can use.

WHAT IF I NEED A SPECIFIC BRAND OF ITEM OR SUPPLY?

The competitive bidding program has special protections to make sure you get the specific types of medical equipment you need to protect your health. If you need a specific brand of equipment or supplies, or you need an item in a specific form, your doctor must prescribe the specific brand or form in writing. Your doctor must also document in your medical record that you need this specific item or supply for medical reasons. In these situations, a Medicare contract supplier is required to furnish the exact brand or form of item you need, help you find another contract supplier that offers that brand or form, or work with your doctor to find an alternate brand or form that's safe and effective for you.

WHAT IF I TRAVEL TO ONE OF THE AREAS INCLUDED IN THIS PROGRAM AND NEED TO GET MEDICAL EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES?

If you travel to an area included in the program, you must get any medical equipment or supplies included in the program from a Medicare contract supplier.

<i>If you permanently live in...</i>	<i>And travel to...</i>	<i>You may go to...</i>
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

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

IF I TRAVEL TO ONE OF THE AREAS IN THIS PROGRAM, WILL I PAY THE SAME AMOUNT I PAY AT HOME?

Your out-of-pocket costs will be the same as when you're at your permanent home. You'll still be responsible for paying the 20% coinsurance after meeting your yearly Part B deductible. It's important to know that for any equipment or supplies that are included in the competitive bidding program, the Medicare contract supplier can't charge you more than 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.

HOW DOES MEDICARE PAY FOR EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES IF I HAVE OTHER INSURANCE?

If your primary insurance policy requires you to use a supplier that doesn't participate in the program, Medicare may make a secondary payment to that supplier. The supplier must meet Medicare enrollment standards and be eligible to get secondary payments. For more information, check with your benefits administrator, insurer, or plan provider.

WHAT'S THE NATIONAL MAIL-ORDER PROGRAM FOR DIABETIC TESTING SUPPLIES?

Starting July 2013, Medicare will also implement a national mail-order program for diabetic testing supplies. The national mail-order program will include all parts of the U.S., including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DMEPOS COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM?

For more information, visit www.medicare.gov/supplier, or call 1-800-MEDICARE.