

Power Mobility Device (PMD) Demonstration Operational Guide

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Chapter 1: *Power Mobility Device (PMD) Benefit*

For any item to be covered by Medicare it must:

- Be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category,
- Be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and
- Meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements.

The Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for each jurisdiction describes in further detail the circumstance under which a PMD will be covered by Medicare.

Medicare covers scooters and power wheelchairs (called PMDs) when:

- It is needed by the beneficiary to perform activities of daily living in the home
- Other devices (canes, walkers, manual wheelchairs) are not sufficient

Complete coverage and documentation requirements are outlined in the following policies:

- National Coverage Determination (NCD) for PMD
- LCDs for PMD
 - Jurisdiction A LCD (including NY)
 - Jurisdiction B LCD (including IL, MI)
 - Jurisdiction C LCD (including FL, NC, TX)
 - Jurisdiction D LCD (including CA)
 - CMS MLN Matters Article provides further guidance and clarification about documentation for physicians and treating practitioners when ordering PMDs

Chapter 2: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes Subject to the Prior Authorization Demonstration

A. PMD Base HCPCS Codes

The following PMD base HCPCS codes are subject to prior authorization under the demonstration:

- All power operated vehicles (K0800-K0802; K0809-K0812)
- All standard power wheelchairs (K0813-K0829)
- All Group 2 complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs (K0835-K0843)
- All group 3 complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs without power options (K0848-K0855)
- All pediatric power wheelchairs (K0890-K0891)
- Miscellaneous power wheelchairs (K0898)

Note: Group 3 complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs with power options (K0856 K0864) are excluded.

B. PMD Accessories

- *Under the demonstration, all documentation to support a prior authorization request must meet all applicable rules, policy, and NCD/LCD requirements. The LCD states that for certain bases, the coverage criteria for certain accessories/options must be met to meet coverage criteria for the base. Therefore, when requesting prior authorization for those chair bases with power options (detailed in the LCD) the appropriate supporting documentation as outlined in the LCD to supports the base should also be submitted as part of the prior authorization request.*
- *The DME MAC will make an affirmative or non-affirmative decision based on all the supporting documentation in the prior authorization request package for group 2 or 3 PMDs with power options when submitted by the physician/practitioner or supplier for the demonstration code.*

C. Prior Authorization request received for a code not listed in Section A

- *No prior authorization decisions will be made on any code NOT on this list. If a DME MAC receives a prior authorization request for a code not on this list, the DME MAC will not review the request and will not issue a decision letter.*

Chapter 3: Demonstration Overview

A. Who

The physician/ treating practitioner or suppliers may submit the Prior Authorization request.

B. Where

This 7 state demonstration is based on the beneficiary's state of residence as reported to the Social Security Administration. The 7 states are:

- California
- Florida
- Illinois
- Michigan
- New York
- North Carolina
- Texas

If a beneficiary needs to update the address on file at Social Security, the beneficiary can:

- Go online: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps6z/ICOA/coa001.jsp>
- Call at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Contact the local Social Security office
- What the beneficiary will need:
 - Complete new address, including zip code.
 - Provide a new phone number or a number to be contacted at.

C. When

Physicians and suppliers are encouraged to utilize the prior authorization process for all PMDs when the 7-element order is signed on or after September 1, 2012. Suppliers should place the unique tracking number on claims submitted for these PMDs. DME MACs will ramp up reviews of claim submitted without the unique tracking number based on date of service.

The demonstration will end for PMDs where the *7-element* order is signed on or after September 1, 2015.

Chapter 4: Documentation Requirements

A. The face-to-face examination documentation

1. Content that should be included in the progress note documenting the face-to-face examination.

See the [MLN Checklist](#) and LCD for PMDs for more details about what a provider needs to include in this documentation.

- [Jurisdiction A LCD \(for beneficiaries residing in NY\)](#)
- [Jurisdiction B LCD \(for beneficiaries residing in IL, MI\)](#)
- [Jurisdiction C LCD \(for beneficiaries residing in FL, NC, TX\)](#)
- [Jurisdiction D LCD \(for beneficiaries residing in CA\)](#)

2. Tools/interfaces that assist physicians/practitioners in documenting a progress note.

See [Appendix G](#) for definitions and guidelines about tools/interfaces that assist in documenting a progress note.

Physicians/practitioners may also wish to keep in mind that CMS is exploring the development of a Suggested Electronic Clinical Template that would allow electronic health record vendors to create prompts to assist physicians when documenting the Power Mobility Device (PMD) face-to-face encounter for Medicare purposes. The first draft is available in the Download section of go.cms.gov/eclinicaltemplate.

3. *Amendments, Corrections, Addenda and Late Entries to Progress Notes, Orders and Other Medical Documentation.*

See Appendix F for a description of how to review documents that contain amendments, corrections, addenda and late entries to progress notes, orders and other medical documentation and failure to comply with recordkeeping principles.

B. 7 element order

1. Beneficiary's name
2. Description of the item that is ordered. This may be general – e.g. “power operated vehicle”, “power wheelchair”, or “power mobility device” – or may be more specific
3. Date of face-to-face examination
4. Pertinent diagnoses/conditions that relate to the need for the POV or power wheelchair
5. Length of need
6. Physician's signature
7. Date of physician signature

C. Detailed product description

- Must be completed by the supplier, and reviewed and signed by the treating physician;

- Specific Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for base and all options and accessories that will be separately billed;
- Narrative description of the items or manufacturer name and model name/number;
- Physician signature and date signed; and
- Date stamp to document receipt date.

D. Other Relevant Documentation if necessary

Chapter 5: Submitting a Request

A. *Submitters are encouraged to include* the following data elements in a Prior Authorization (PA) request package:

Beneficiary Information

- Beneficiary Name,
- Beneficiary Medicare Number (also known as HICN), and
- Beneficiary Date of Birth

Physician/Practitioner Information

- Physician/Practitioner Name,
- Physician/Practitioner National Provider Identifier (NPI), and
- Physician/Practitioner Address

Supplier Information

- Supplier Name,
- *Supplier NSC Number,*
- Supplier NPI, and
- Supplier Address

Other Information

- HCPCS Code,
- Submission Date, *and*
- *Indicate if the request is an initial or subsequent review*

*Submitters should note that the **beneficiary and supplier** addresses listed in the PA Request **will not** be used by the DME MACs when sending review decision letters. The decision letters for suppliers and beneficiary will be mailed to the address files within VMS. However, the **physician/practitioner** address listed in the PA Request **will** be used by the DME MACs when sending review decision letters.*

Submitters should also note that CMS has not mandated a fax cover sheet for submitters to use. However, the following DME MACs have created OPTIONAL fax cover sheets for submitters who wish to use them:

- *Jurisdiction A fax cover sheet (for beneficiaries residing in NY)*
- *Jurisdiction B fax cover sheet (for beneficiaries residing in IL, MI)*
- *Jurisdiction C fax cover sheet (for beneficiaries residing in FL, NC, TX)*
- *Jurisdiction D fax cover sheet (for beneficiaries residing in CA)*

B. Include the following documentation in a PA request package

1. Face-to-face documentation
2. 7-element order
3. Detailed Product Description
4. Any other necessary clinical information

C. *Methods for sending a PA request package*

Beginning September 1, 2012, submitters have two options for submitting PA requests to the DME MACs: 1) mail or 2) fax.

Beginning in the fall of 2012, submitters will have three options for submitting PA requests to the DME MACs: 1) mail, 2) fax, or 3) electronic submission of medical documentation (esMD).

See below for addresses and fax numbers of the DME MACs.

For more information about esMD, see www.cms.gov/esMD

- For beneficiaries residing in CA, send requests to DME MAC D at:
 - Fax Number: 701-277-7891
 - Street Address: NAS
PO Box 6742
Fargo, ND 58108-6742
 - esMD: (indicate document type “8”)

- For beneficiaries residing in IL send requests to DME MAC B at:
 - Fax Number: 317-841-4414
 - Street Address: Medical Review-PMD Prior Authorization Request
P.O. Box 7018
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7018
 - esMD: (indicate document type “8”)

- For beneficiaries residing in MI send requests to DME MAC B at:
 - Fax Number: 317-841-4414
 - Street Address: Medical Review-PMD Prior Authorization Request
P.O. Box 7018
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7018
 - esMD: (indicate document type “8”)

- For beneficiaries residing in NY send requests to DME MAC A at:
 - Fax Number: 781-383-4519
 - Street Address: NHIC
75 Sgt. William B. Terry Drive
Hingham, MA 02043
 - esMD: (indicate document type “8”)

- For beneficiaries residing in FL send requests to DME MAC C at:
 - Fax Number: 615-664-5960
 - Street Address: **CGS-DME Medical Review-Prior Authorization**
P.O. Box 24890
Nashville, TN 37202-4890

- esMD: (indicate document type “8”)
- For beneficiaries residing in NC: DME MAC C:
 - Fax Number: 615-664-5960
 - Street Address: **CGS-DME Medical Review-Prior Authorization
P.O. Box 24890
Nashville, TN 37202-4890**
 - esMD: (indicate document type “8”)
- For beneficiaries residing in TX: DME MAC C:
 - Fax Number: 615-664-5960
 - Street Address: **CGS-DME Medical Review-Prior Authorization
P.O. Box 24890
Nashville, TN 37202-4890**
 - esMD: (indicate document type “8”)

D. General Process

1. *Possible Outcomes of Review.*

The DME MAC will review the request and either:

- Affirm the request (Chapter 6) *or*
- Non-affirm the request (Chapter 7)
 - **Incomplete request**

2. *Cases where Medicare is primary and another insurance company is secondary.*

If a claim denial is necessary for secondary insurance payment for the PMD, the following process is to be followed:

- The submitter is to submit the **prior authorization request** with complete documentation as appropriate. If all relevant Medicare coverage requirements are **not** met for the PMD, then a non-affirmative prior authorization decision will be sent to the physician and treating practitioner, supplier and Medicare beneficiary advising them that Medicare will not pay for the item.
- After receiving a non-affirmative decision for the prior authorization request, and a **claim** is submitted by the supplier to the DME MAC for payment it will be denied.
- The submitter or Medicare beneficiary may forward the denied claim to his/her secondary insurance payee as appropriate to determine payment for the PMD.

3. *Cases where another insurance company is primary and Medicare is secondary.*

If a supplier plans to bill another insurance first and bill Medicare second, the submitter and beneficiary have 2 options:

a. *Seek Prior Authorization*

- *The submitter submits the **prior authorization request** with complete documentation as appropriate. If all relevant Medicare coverage requirements **are** met for the PMD, then an affirmative prior authorization*

*decision will be sent to the physician/practitioner, supplier and Medicare beneficiary advising them that Medicare **will** pay for the item.*

- *The supplier delivers the item and submits a **claim** to the **other insurance company**.*
- *If the other insurance company denies the claim, the supplier can submit a claim to the DME MAC (listing the PA tracking number on the claim). The DME MAC will pay the claim.*

b. Skip Prior Authorization

- *Deliver the item. Submit a claim.*
- *DME MAC will stop claim for review. DME MAC will send an ADR letter. Supplier should*
- *The submitter or Medicare beneficiary may forward the denied claim to his/her secondary insurance payee as appropriate to determine payment for the PMD.*

4. Timeframe for Decisions.

The DME MAC will postmark notification of the decision to the practitioner, supplier and beneficiary within 10 business days for an initial request. For resubmitted requests the DME MAC will postmark notification of the decision to the practitioner, supplier and beneficiary within 20 business days.

5. Physicians/treating practitioners Telephone Inquires

- *Physicians/treating practitioners and suppliers who have questions about the PMD prior authorization process should call the appropriate DME MAC. The numbers for Customer Service Representatives at the DME MACs are as follows*
 - *For beneficiaries residing in CA, call 1-877-320-0390; TTY/TDD 1-866-879-2704.*
 - *For beneficiaries residing in IL or MI, call 1-866-590-6727; TTY/TDD 1-888-897-7534.*
 - *For beneficiaries residing in NY, call 1-866-590-6731; TTY/TDD 1-888-897-7539.*
 - *For beneficiaries residing in FL, NC, TX, call 1-866-270-4909; TTY/TDD 1-888-204-3771.*

See Appendices A-E

Chapter 6: An Affirmative Request

A. *Transferability of an affirmative PA Decision*

An affirmative PA decision follows the beneficiary. It is the beneficiary's choice as to which supplier will deliver the PMD and bill Medicare. The billing supplier must comply with all Medicare documentation and claim submission requirements (e.g., number of days between the order and the delivery, etc.).

B. **Supplier's Actions**

- Ensure that home assessment is complete.
- Deliver the item to beneficiary.
- Document proof of delivery.
- Get patient authorization.
- Have all documentation available on request.
- Submit the claim with the tracking number on the claim.
 - The submission of the prior authorized PMD claim is to have the 14 byte unique tracking number that is located on the decision letter. For submission of a claim, the unique tracking number is submitted in Item 23 of the 1500 Claim Form. For electronic claims the unique tracking number is submitted at either loop 2300 REF02 (REF01 = G1) or loop 2400 REF02 (REF01 = G1).
 - If all requirements are met the claim will be paid.
 - The prior authorization demonstration has specific parameters for pre-payment review; however other contractors (CERT, ZPICs, RACs, etc) may have parameters outside of the PA demonstration that will suspend the same claim for another type of review. If your claim is selected for review, guidance and directions will be provided on the Additional Documentation Request Letter from the requesting contractor.

See Appendix B: Request Process for PMD (Supplier Submits)

Chapter 7: A *Non-Affirmative Request*

An incomplete request is considered non-affirmed. When an incomplete request is submitted:

- The DME MAC will provide notification of what is missing through a detailed decision letter postmarked within 10 business days for initial request and 20 business days for resubmitted request of the review to all parties affected.
- The submitter may resubmit another complete package with all documentation required as noted in the detailed decision letter. *See Chapter 8 for instructions on resubmitting a PA request.* If the PA was non-affirmed because a data element was missing from the progress note documenting the face-to-face evaluation, physicians should be mindful of CMS' guidance on *Amendments, Corrections, Addenda and Late Entries in Medical Documentation in Appendix F.*
- If the claim is submitted by the supplier to the DME MAC for payment with a non-affirmative prior authorization decision, it will be denied.
 - All appeal rights are then engaged.
 - This claim could then be submitted to secondary insurance.

Physicians/treating practitioner's actions:

- Monitor the beneficiary for a future submission.
 - If the clinical condition of the beneficiary changes, complete and submit a new prior authorization request.
- Use the detailed decision letter to ensure that the request package complies with all requirements.
 - Resubmit a prior authorization request, if appropriate.

Suppliers Action:

- Use the detailed decision letter to ensure that the request package complies with all requirements.
 - Resubmit a prior authorization request, if appropriate.
- Submit the claim (with the tracking number) for a denial.
 - All appeal rights are then engaged.
 - This claim could then be submitted to secondary insurance.

Chapter 8: Resubmitting a Prior Authorization Request

- The submitter should review the detailed decision letter that was provided.
- The submitter should make whatever modifications are needed to the prior authorization package and follow the submission procedures.
- The DME MAC will provide notification of the decision through a detailed decision letter postmarked within 20 business days of the review(s) to all parties affected.

Chapter 9: Claim Submission *Where PA was Sought*

A. Cases Where a PA Request was Submitted and Affirmed.

- The submission of the prior authorized PMD claim is to have the 14 byte unique tracking number that is located on the decision letter. For submission of a claim, the unique tracking number is submitted in Item 23 of the 1500 Claim Form. For electronic claims the unique tracking number is submitted at either loop 2300 REF02 (REF01 = G1) or loop 2400 REF02 (REF01 = G1).
- Series of claims:
 - Should be submitted with the prior authorization tracking number on the claim.
 - Should be submitted to the applicable DME MAC for adjudication.

B. Cases Where a PA Request was submitted and Non-Affirmed.

- *The submission of the prior authorized PMD claim is to have the 14 byte unique tracking number that is located on the decision letter. For submission of a claim, the unique tracking number is submitted in Item 23 of the 1500 Claim Form. For electronic claims the unique tracking number is submitted at either loop 2300 REF02 (REF01 = G1) or loop 2400 REF02 (REF01 = G1).*
- *Series of claims:*
 - *Should be submitted with the prior authorization tracking number on the claim.*
 - *Should be submitted to the applicable DME MAC for adjudication.*

See Appendix D-PMD Base Claim Line Process (if PA was sought)

Chapter 10: Claim Submission Where PA was NOT Sought: The Prepayment Review and Payment Reduction Process

- If an **applicable** claim is submitted without a prior authorization decision, it will be stopped for review *and a payment reduction may apply*. Claims with orders written before September 1, 2012 are not applicable for the prior authorization demonstration. *DME MACs will ramp up reviews of claim submitted without the unique tracking number based on date of service. Once fully ramped up, all initial claims submitted without a unique tracking number will be stopped for review and a payment reduction may apply.*
- *At this time, suppliers do not need to do anything differently when submitting a claim without a unique tracking number. They do not need to put any information in the remarks field. They do not need to submit any unsolicited documentation.*

A. Stopping a Claim for Review.

- *The DME MAC will stop the claim and send an Additional Documentation Request (ADR) through the US Postal Service.*
 - The supplier will have 45 days to respond to the ADR with all requested documentation.
 - The supplier can send the documentation via:
 - Fax
 - Mail
 - Effective __/__/2012, esMD (for more information see: www.cms.gov/esMD)
- The DME MAC will review the claim.

B. Payment Reduction May Apply.

- If the claim is payable the DME MAC will determine if the supplier is a competitive bid supplier.
 - If yes, the claim (and the remainder of the series) will be paid at the single payment amount.
 - If no, the claim (and the rest of the series) will automatically be assessed a 25 percent reduction of the Medicare payment after co-insurance and deductible. There will be a 3-month grace period before the payment reduction rule applies. Thus, the payment reduction begins for orders written on or after December 1, 2012.
- This payment reduction is not transferable to the beneficiary.

- This payment reduction is not appealable.
- *The payment reduction applies only to the base HCPCS codes (e.g., the codes listed in Chapter 2 Section A). The payment reduction does NOT apply to accessories, even if billed on the same claim.*

Suppliers should keep in mind that they can avoid the prepayment review and the possible payment reduction by submitting a PA request in cases where the physician has not already done so.

See Appendix E-PMD Base Claim Line Process (if PA was not sought)

Chapter *11*: The G-Code

- Physician/Practitioner can bill G9156 after he/she submits an initial Prior Authorization Request.
 - G-code is billed to the A/B MAC contractors with the Prior Authorization tracking number.
 - Only one G-code may be billed per beneficiary per PMD even if the physician/practitioners must resubmit the request.
 - Code is not subject to co-insurance and deductible.
 - Physicians may not bill the G-code in instances where the supplier submits the Prior Authorization Request
 - Suppliers may not bill the G-code.

- *The new G9156 code can be billed IN ADDITION TO:*
 - *the existing G0372 code that physicians/practitioners can bill to provide additional reimbursement to recognize the additional time and effort that are required to provide documentation to the supplier,*
 - *the E&M visit code*

Chapter 12: Upgrades

The PMD that meets the medical necessity outlined in the medical policy is what is reported on the Prior Authorization request. The medical records documentation must justify the PMD for which the beneficiary qualifies, not the item that is considered for the upgrade. For example, if a beneficiary meets the coverage criteria for a K0823, the Prior Authorization submitted should be for the K0823 and the medical records documentation would support the K0823. After approval is established, the process to provide a requested upgrade may be started.

Suppliers may refer to the “Upgrade Billing for Power Mobility Devices” articles published on the four DME MAC web pages.

- [DME MAC JA](#)
- [DME MAC JB](#)
- [DME MAC JC](#)
- [DME MAC JD](#)

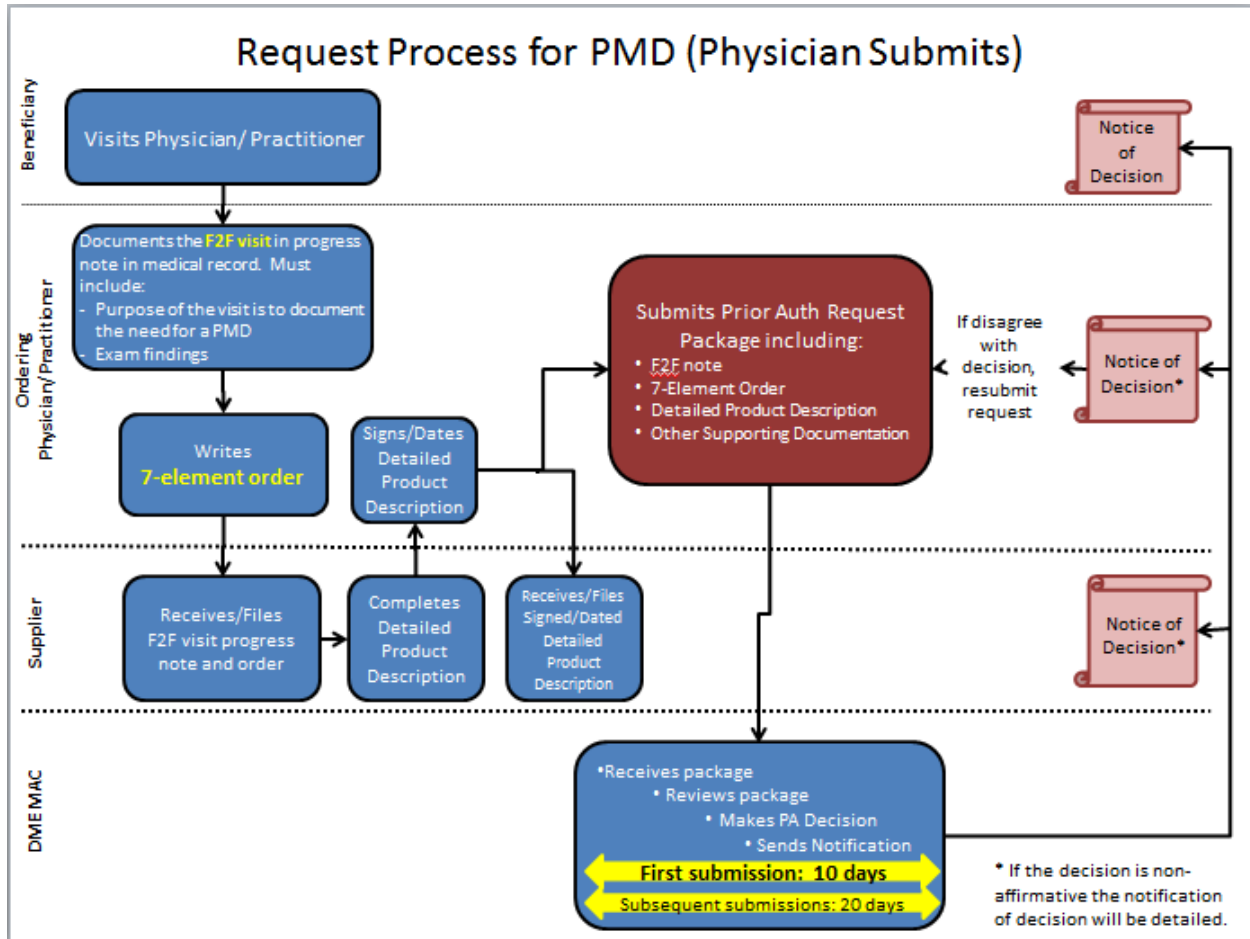
Chapter **13**: Claim Appeals

Appeals follow all current procedures. For further information consult the Medicare Claims Processing Manual publication 100-04, chapter 29 Appeals of Claims Decision.

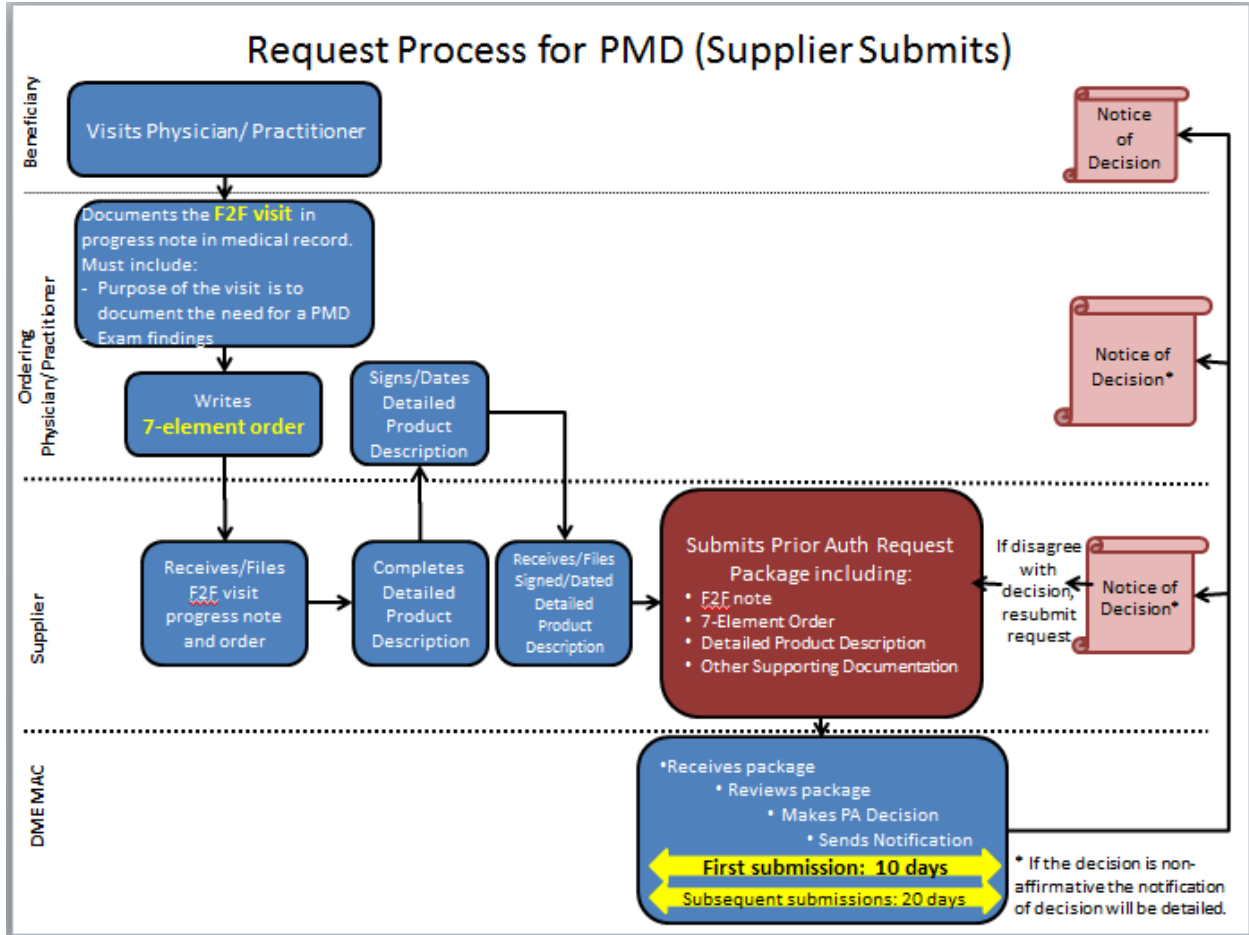
This demonstration does not include a separate appeal process for a non-affirmative prior authorization request decision. However, a non-affirmative prior authorization request decision does not prevent the supplier from submitting a claim. Such a submission of a claim and resulting denial by the DME MAC would constitute an initial determination what would make the appeals process available for Medicare beneficiaries and suppliers disputes.

The 25 percent payment reduction, which applies for failure to receive a prior authorization decision before submission of a claim, is non-transferrable to the beneficiary. This payment reduction, which will begin December 1, 2012 in each state, is not subject to appeal.

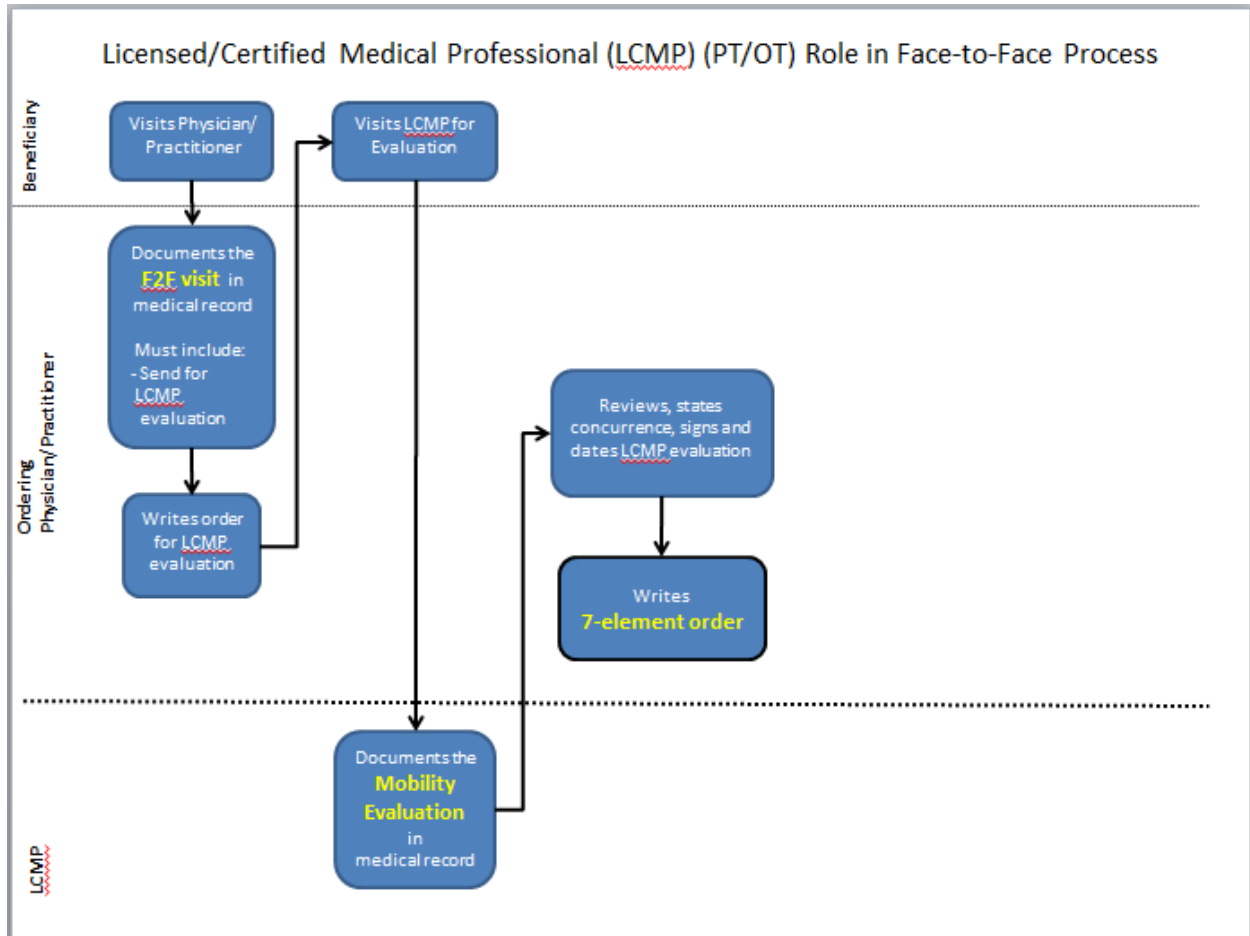
Appendix A: Request Process for PMD (Physician Submits)



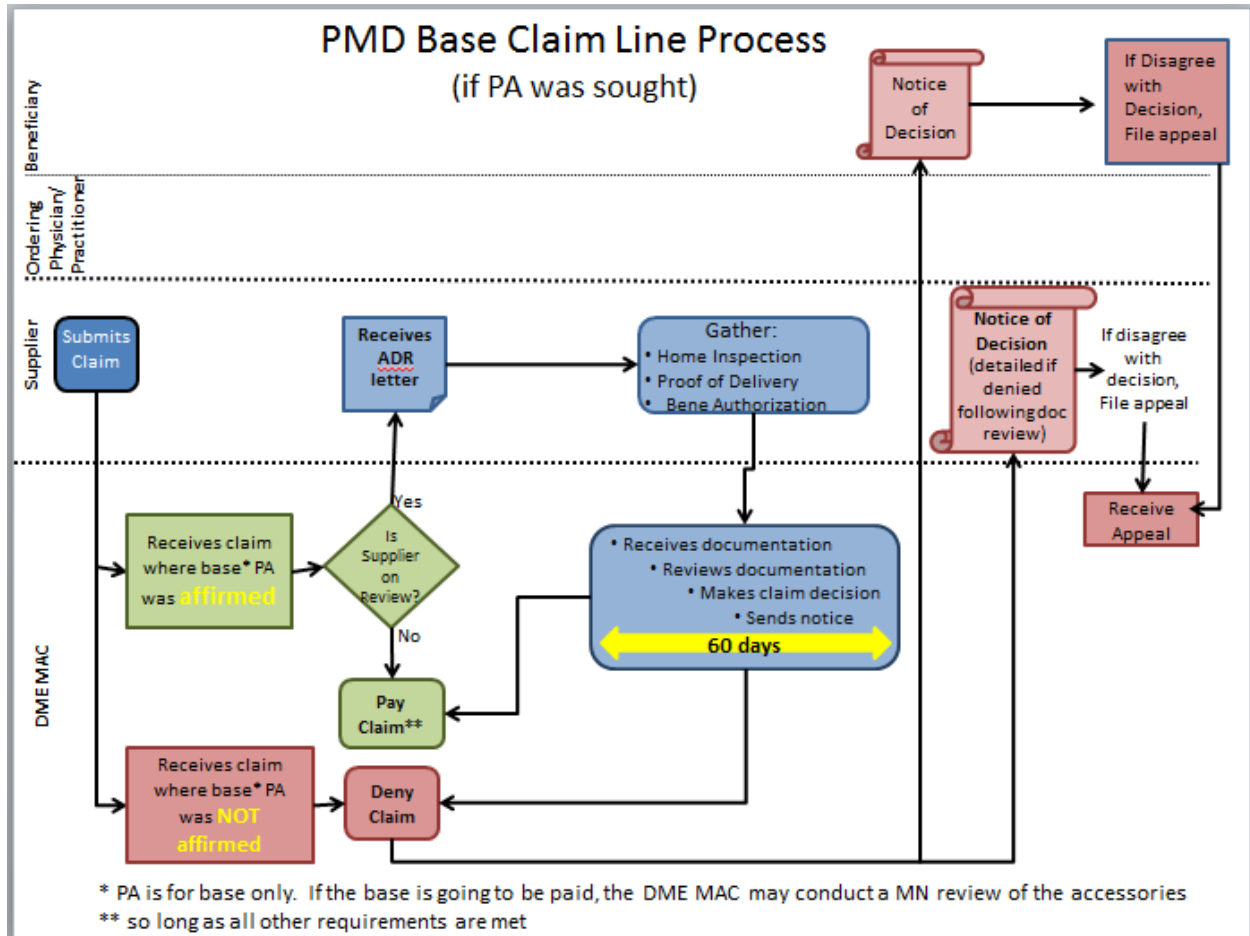
Appendix B: Request Process for PMD (Supplier Submits)



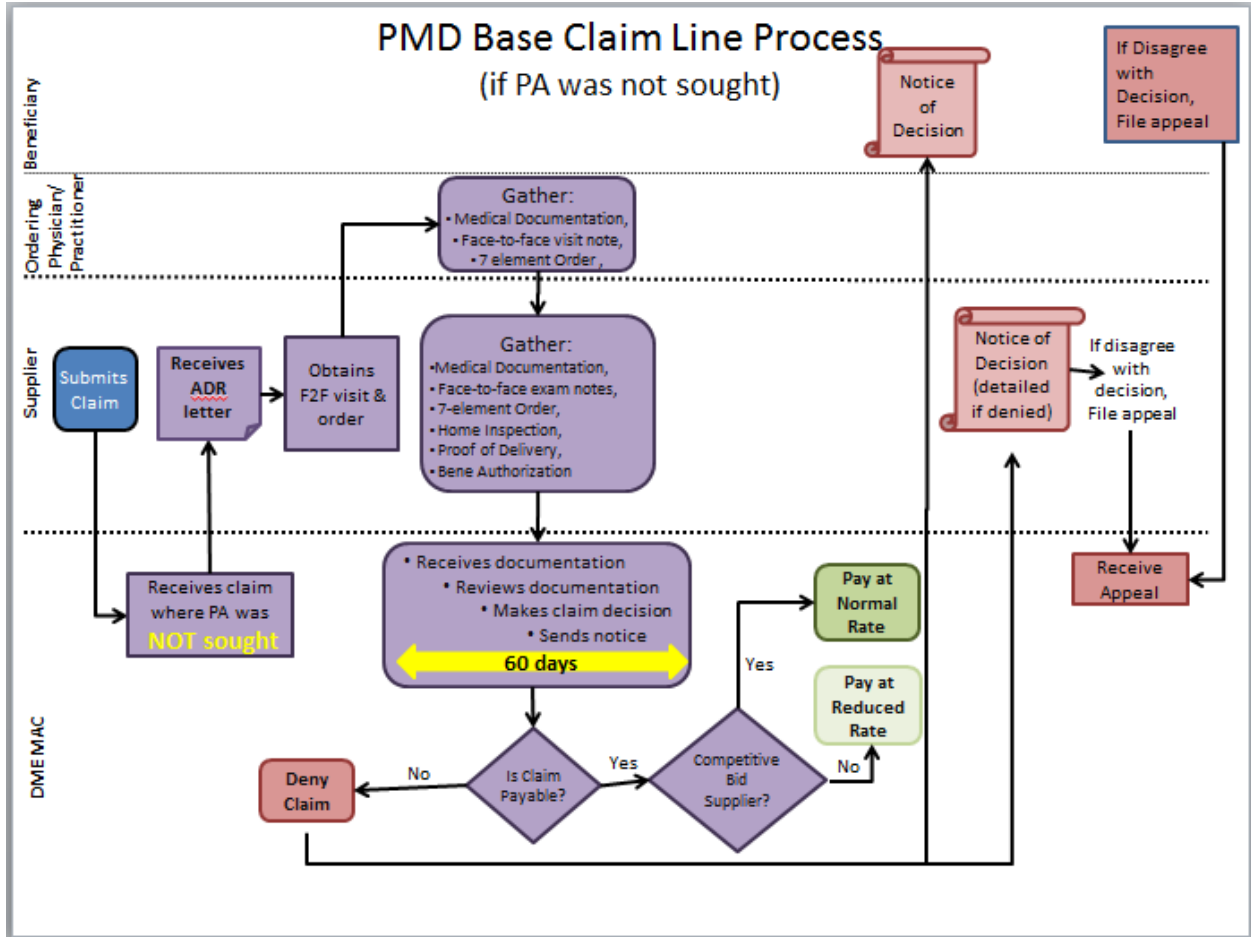
**Appendix C: Licensed/Certified Medical Professional (LCMP)
(PT/OT) Role in Face-to-Face Process**



Appendix D: PMD Base Claim Line Process (if PA was sought)



Appendix E: PMD Base Claim Line Process (if PA was not sought)



Appendix F: Amendments, Corrections, Addenda and Late Entries to Progress Notes, Orders and Other Medical Documentation

A. Recordkeeping Principles

Regardless of whether a documentation submission originates from a paper record or an electronic health record, documents submitted to a DME MAC containing amendments, corrections or addenda must:

1. Clearly and permanently identify any alteration or addition
2. Clearly indicate the date and author of any alteration or addition
3. Not delete but instead clearly identify all original content

Please note: It is always best to completely re-write an order so that there is no question about the intended order.

Paper Medical Records: When correcting a paper medical record, these principles are generally accomplished by using a single line strike through so that the original content is still readable. Further, the author of the alteration must sign and date the revision. Similarly, additions or amendments to paper records must be clearly signed and date upon entry into the record.

Electronic Health Records (EHR): Medical record keeping within an EHR deserves special consideration; however, the principles noted above remain fundamental and necessary for documents submitted to a DME MAC. Records sourced from electronic systems, when amended, corrected, or otherwise altered must:

- a. Be distinctly identifiable as an amended, corrected, or otherwise altered record, and
- b. Provide a reliable means to clearly identify the original content, the modified content, and the date and authorship of each modification of the record.

B. Failure to Comply With Recordkeeping Principles

When making a prior authorization determination, the DME MACs will NOT consider any documents (or portions thereof) that do not comply with the principles listed in section A. For example, they will not consider undated and uninitialed entries handwritten in the margin of a document. Instead, they will exclude these entries from consideration.

C. Reviewing Documents That Contain Amendments, Corrections, Addenda and Late Entries

A provider may discover that certain documents were misfiled or needed to be filed during review of a record or during the process of responding to a non-affirmative prior authorization request determination. Providers are encouraged to enter all relevant documents into the medical record at the time they are rendering the service. When reviewing submitted documents, as long as a late entry (such as an amended order, or an addition /correction to a progress note) complies section A, the DME MACs shall consider all submitted entries when making prior authorization determinations.

If a DME MAC identifies a pattern of provider entries with questionable credibility, the reviewers will refer the case to ZPIC and may consider referring to the RO and State Agency.

Appendix G: Progress Notes and Templates

A. Definitions

1. **"Progress Notes"** -- visit notes, encounter notes, Evaluation and Management documentation, office notes, face-to-face evaluation notes or any other type of record of the services provided by a physician or other licensed/certified medical professional (LCMP) in the medical record. Progress notes may be in any form or format, hardcopy or electronic.

2. **"Template"** -- a tool/instrument/interface that assists in documenting a progress note. Templates may be paper or electronic.

3. **"Electronic records"** may involve any type of interface including but not limited to:

- simple electronic documents,
- sophisticated graphical user interfaces (GUIs) with clinical decision and documentation support prompts, or
- electronic pen capture devices.

4. **"Licensed/Certified Medical Professional (LCMP)"** – medical professional licensed or certified to practice in the state in which services are rendered. For the purpose of the documenting DMEPOS items, the physician or LCMP must not have a financial relationship with the DMEPOS supplier.

B. Guidelines Regarding Which Documents DME MAC Will Consider

The DME MAC shall consider all medical record entries made by physicians and LCMPs. See PIM 3.3.2.5 regarding consideration of late entries in medical records.

The amount of necessary clinical information needed to demonstrate that all coverage and coding requirements are met will vary depending on the item/service. See the Local Coverage Determination for further details.

CMS does not prohibit the use of templates to facilitate record-keeping. CMS also does not endorse or approve any particular templates. A physician/LCMP may choose any template to assist in documenting medical information.

Some templates provide limited options and/or space for the collection of information such as by using "check boxes," predefined answers, limited space to enter information, etc. CMS discourages the use of such templates. Claim review experience shows that that limited space templates often fail to capture sufficient detailed clinical information to demonstrate that all coverage and coding requirements are met.

Physician/LCMPs should be aware that templates designed to gather selected information focused primarily for reimbursement purposes are often insufficient to demonstrate that all coverage and coding requirements are met. This is often because these documents do not provide

sufficient comprehensive and information to adequately show that the medical necessity criteria for the item/service are met.

*If a physician/LCMP chooses to use a template during the patient visit, CMS encourages them to **select one that allows for a full and complete collection of information** to demonstrate that the applicable coverage and coding criteria are met.*

CMS recommends that the physician/LCMP document in their usual medical record keeping format.

Supplier-prepared statements and records, even if signed by the ordering physician, and physician attestation letters (e.g. Letters of Medical Necessity), are deemed not to be part of a medical record for Medicare payment purposes. Review contractors shall NOT consider this type of documentation when making a coverage/coding determination.

C. Financial Liability

The physician/LCMP should be aware that inadequate medical record documentation can lead to a financial liability for the Beneficiary and/or Supplier, should the reviewer determine that the claim is not supported.

In addition, the physician/LCMP should be aware that physicians/LCMPs who fail to submit documentation upon a supplier's request may trigger increased DME MAC review of the physician/LCMP's evaluation and management services.