

How does this 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'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. You can also call the Fraud Hotline of the HHS Office of Inspector General 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 live in 1 of the 9 competitive bidding areas where new contracts are starting and are renting certain medical or oxygen equipment as of January 1, 2014, you may have the choice to stay with your current supplier. Suppliers that don't get Medicare contracts can decide to become "grandfathered" suppliers. A "grandfathered" supplier may continue to rent equipment to you if the supplier is renting the equipment to you as of January 1, 2014. **This rule applies only to certain equipment that can be rented, such as CPAP devices, oxygen, and oxygen supplies.** If you're renting equipment that's eligible for grandfathering, your supplier will let you know in writing at least 30 business days before the program begins whether it will or won't 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 Medicare can help pay. 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, 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



How does Medicare's competitive bidding program affect me?

On January 1, 2011, Medicare started a competitive bidding program for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) in 9 areas of the country. (Round 1 includes certain areas in these states: California, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas.) In July 2013, Medicare expanded the competitive bidding program to more areas of the country. This program changes the amount Medicare pays for certain DMEPOS and makes changes to which suppliers Medicare will pay to supply these items to you.

The competitive bidding supplier contracts in the first 9 areas will end on December 31, 2013. On January 1, 2014, Medicare will start new contracts with suppliers and make changes to the specific DMEPOS items that are part of the program in these areas. If you have Original Medicare and you live in (or travel to) 1 of these 9 areas and need equipment or supplies included in the program (like a walker or a wheelchair), it's important to know if you're affected by these changes 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 used to pay with lower, more accurate prices. Under this program, suppliers submit bids to furnish certain medical equipment and supplies. 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.



What do I need to do now?

1. Find out if you live in 1 of the 9 areas where new contracts will be starting on January 1, 2014.
2. Find out which suppliers are new Medicare contract suppliers to make sure Medicare will help pay for your medical products and services. To do this:
 - Visit Medicare.gov/supplier.
 - Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

For more information, read the fact sheet "What You Should Know if You Need Medicare-covered Equipment or Supplies" by visiting Medicare.gov/publications.

What do I need to do when Medicare starts new contracts?

If you have Original Medicare and need equipment or supplies under the program in 1 of the 9 areas where new contracts are starting, you generally must use a Medicare contract supplier if you want Medicare to help you pay for the item. If you're renting an item as of January 1, 2014, you'll be able to continue renting your equipment from your current supplier if that supplier received a new contract or becomes a "grandfathered" supplier. This program doesn't affect which doctors or hospitals you can use.



What kinds of items are included?

Starting January 1, 2014, these items are included in the 9 areas where new contracts are starting:

- Respiratory Equipment and Related Supplies and Accessories
 - Includes oxygen, oxygen equipment and supplies, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices and respiratory assist devices (RADs) and related supplies and accessories, and standard nebulizers
- Standard Mobility Equipment and Related Accessories
 - Includes walkers, standard power and manual wheelchairs, scooters, and related accessories
- General Home Equipment and Related Accessories
 - Includes hospital beds and related accessories, group 1 and 2 support surfaces, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) devices, commode chairs, patient lifts, and seat lifts
- Enteral Nutrients, Equipment and Supplies
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Pumps and Related Supplies and Accessories
- External Infusion Pumps and Supplies

Important: If you live in 1 of the 9 competitive bidding areas and use a non-contract supplier that isn't a "grandfathered" supplier for equipment or supplies that are part of the program after January 1, 2014, the supplier is required to give you an "Advance Beneficiary Notice" (ABN) stating that Medicare won't pay for the item or service. A non-contract supplier is a supplier who doesn't have a contract to furnish equipment or supplies that are part of the program. It means Medicare usually won't pay for the item or service, and you may be responsible for paying the entire cost.