



MEDICARE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PROSTHETICS, ORTHOTICS, AND SUPPLIES (DMEPOS) COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM

Tip Sheet for Physicians and Other Treating Practitioners Who Are Enrolled Medicare DMEPOS Suppliers

MAY 2008



Under the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program, beneficiaries who permanently reside in designated competitive bidding areas (CBAs) are required to obtain competitive bidding items from a contract supplier, unless an exception applies. For the first phase of competitive bidding, which is effective July 1, 2008, one of these exceptions pertains to physicians and other treating practitioners who are enrolled Medicare DMEPOS suppliers. Under the program, these

physicians and other treating practitioners can provide certain types of competitively bid items in a CBA to their own patients without submitting a bid and being selected as a contract supplier.

Who can be considered under this exception?

Medicare physicians and treating practitioners who have also enrolled as Medicare DMEPOS suppliers via the 855S enrollment form can be considered under this exception. This includes podiatric physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists.

What requirements must be met to qualify for this exception?

Medicare physicians and treating practitioners who have also enrolled as Medicare DMEPOS suppliers via the 855S enrollment form have the option to furnish certain types of competitively bid items **to their own patients** without submitting a bid or being awarded a competitive bid contract, if the following requirements are met:

- The items are limited to crutches, canes, walkers, folding manual wheelchairs, blood glucose monitors, and infusion pumps that are DME. For the first phase of competitive bidding which is effective on July 1, 2008, a walker is the only one of these items for which we have done competitive bidding;
- The items must be furnished by the physician or treating practitioner DMEPOS supplier **to his or her own patients as part of his or her professional service**; and
- The items must be billed to a DME Medicare Administrative Contractor using the DMEPOS billing number that is assigned to the physician, the treating practitioner (if possible), or a group practice to which the physician or treating practitioner has reassigned the right to receive Medicare payment.

This exception does not affect the applicability of the physician self-referral (Stark law) provisions in section 1877 of the Social Security Act. All provisions of the physician self-referral law remain fully in effect.

What payment rules apply under this exception?

Where the furnished item is a bid item, such as a walker for the first phase of competitive bidding, and the beneficiary resides in a CBA, the physician or treating practitioner must accept assignment and will be paid the single payment amount established by the program for the item. Single payment amounts can be found at <http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/SPA> on the Web.

How does the physician or treating practitioner determine if a Medicare beneficiary permanently resides in a CBA?

This information can be determined by comparing the beneficiary's ZIP code to the list of ZIP codes for the CBAs, which is available at <http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/Palmetto/Cbic.nsf/docsCat/DMEPOS%20Competitive%20Bidding%20Areas%20Zip%20Codes?opendocument> on the Web.

Additional Information

For more information about the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid/> on the CMS website.