



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0714 **Revised**

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Pre-Bidding Activities for the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program

Note: MLN Matters article SE0714 was impacted by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, which was enacted on July 15, 2008. That legislation delays the implementation of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program until 2009 and makes other changes to the program. SE0714 will be further revised and/or replaced as more details of the modified program are available.

Key Words

SE0714, DMEPOS, Competitive, Bidding, Program

Provider Types Affected

All suppliers of durable medical equipment (DME) that wish to participate in the Medicare DMEPOS competitive bidding program

Key Points

- Suppliers that furnish certain DMEPOS to Medicare beneficiaries under Medicare Part B will have an opportunity to participate in a competitive acquisition program, the "Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program."
- This program will improve the accuracy of Medicare's payments for certain DMEPOS, reduce beneficiary out-of-pocket expenses, and save the Medicare program money, while ensuring beneficiary access to quality DMEPOS items and services.
- To assist with the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded a contract to Palmetto GBA to serve as the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) for program implementation and monitoring.
- As the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program progresses, suppliers may want to view the final rule governing the program, which is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quarterlyproviderupdates/downloads/cms1270f.pdf> on the CMS website.
- In addition, suppliers may visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/competitiveacqfordmepos> for more complete information on the program and the process whereby suppliers can bid and participate.

- **All suppliers submitting a bid must:**
 - Be in good standing and have an active National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) number;
 - Be accredited or be pending accreditation.
 - CMS cannot accept a bid from any supplier that is not accredited or that has not applied for accreditation.
 - The accreditation deadline for the first round of competitive bidding is August 31, 2007.
 - Suppliers should apply for accreditation immediately to allow adequate time to process their applications;
 - Complete an online initial registration process (Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services) to obtain a USER ID and password.
 - Suppliers need to complete this initial registration process early to avoid delays in being able to submit bids.
 - The initial registration process requires the **authorized official**, as identified in Section 15 of the CMS 855S, to complete the information required in the internet application. The authorized official's information must match the information on file at the NSC.
 - To complete this initial registration and obtain a USER ID and password, please go to <https://applications.cms.hhs.gov> on the CMS website; and
 - Meet local or state licensure requirements, if any, for the item being bid.
- **All suppliers submitting a bid should:**
 - Review MLN Matters article SE0717 ("Initial Supplier Registration for Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS is Now Open"), which provides important information about the registration process;
 - Review the information in the Bid Application Tool Kit to facilitate a better understanding of the bidding process and rules. This information is located at [http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic.nsf/\(subpages\)/CBICSuppliersBid%20Application%20Tool%20Kit](http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic.nsf/(subpages)/CBICSuppliersBid%20Application%20Tool%20Kit) on the CBIC website;
 - View the educational web cast to learn more about the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program and detailed information on the bid application process. This information is located at [http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic.nsf/\(subpages\)/CBICSuppliersEducational%20Tools](http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic.nsf/(subpages)/CBICSuppliersEducational%20Tools) on the CBIC website; and
 - Register to receive updates on the Competitive Bidding Program. They may do so by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/maillinglists/> on the CMS website.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0714.PDF> on the CMS website.

For a listing of CMS-approved accrediting organizations, providers may visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/downloads/DMEPOS_Accreditation_Organizations.pdf on the CMS website.

The CMS complete listing of all DME resources is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/dme.asp> on the CMS website. A background review of the rationale for this program can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/downloads/DME_sum.pdf on the CMS website.

Below are related MLN Matters articles that provide additional information regarding the Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS:

- SE0717 ("Initial Supplier Registration for Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS is Now Open") provides more overview on completing the required initial registration for the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program and is located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0717.pdf> on the CMS website.
- SE0713 ("Accreditation Information for Suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)") provides additional information on accreditation and is located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0713.pdf> on the CMS website. It also outlines the quality standards for suppliers, describes the status of accreditation, and provides the web addresses of the ten accrediting organizations.
- MM5574 ("Program Instructions Designating the Competitive Bidding Areas and Product Categories Included in the CY 2007 DMEPOS Competitive Bid Program") provides more overview information regarding the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program and that article is at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5574.pdf> on the CMS website.