

Traveling? A New Medicare Program May Affect You

Starting January 1, 2011, Medicare is phasing in a new Competitive Bidding Program in some areas of the country. This program will change the way Medicare pays suppliers for certain durable medical equipment and make changes to who can supply these items. The program is designed to save you money and ensure you are getting the high quality equipment and supplies that you are paying for.

If you have Original Medicare and travel to (or live in) certain ZIP codes in the areas listed below, you will almost always need to use a supplier that contracts with Medicare when you buy or rent certain equipment or supplies for Medicare to help pay.

- Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord (North Carolina and South Carolina)
- Cincinnati-Middletown (Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana)
- Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor (Ohio)
- Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (Texas)
- Kansas City (Missouri and Kansas)
- Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach (Florida)
- Orlando - Kissimmee (Florida)
- Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania)
- Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (California)



What if I travel to one of the areas included in this program and need to get medical equipment or supplies?

If you permanently live in...	And travel to...	You may go to...
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	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

For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Or, visit www.medicare.gov/supplier for a list of Medicare-approved suppliers. You can also call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free health insurance counseling and personalized help understanding these changes. For the telephone number of the SHIP office near you, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

* 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 will probably require you to pay for the full cost of the item.