



Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies Competitive Bidding Program: Temporary Gap Period

DMEPOS CBP

- Congressional mandate through the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA)
 - Improve the effectiveness of the Medicare methodology for setting Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) payment amounts
- CMS issued a final rule requiring changes to the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program (CBP)
 - Simplify the DMEPOS CBP
 - Ensure the long term sustainability of the program

Temporary Gap Period in the DMEPOS CBP

- Beginning January 1, 2019, there is a temporary gap in the DMEPOS CBP
- During this period, people with Medicare can get DMEPOS items and services from any Medicare enrolled supplier
- In most cases, they won't need to switch suppliers



Impact for People With Medicare: Capped Rental Items and Oxygen

- Suppliers must continue to:
 - Provide Capped Rental items through the remainder of the 13-month rental period
 - Transfer title of the equipment to the person with Medicare after the end of the 13th month
 - Provide oxygen and oxygen equipment through the remainder of the 36-month rental period
 - After the 36th continuous month of Medicare payment, the supplier must continue providing the oxygen and oxygen equipment for the remainder of the equipment's reasonable useful lifetime as long as the person with Medicare has a medical need

Impact for People With Medicare: When They May Need to Switch Suppliers

- If people with Medicare travel or permanently move outside the supplier's normal service area, they may need to switch suppliers
 - However, if they have been getting oxygen and oxygen equipment for 36 months or more, the supplier must arrange for people with Medicare to get their oxygen and oxygen equipment in their new area
- For all other DMEPOS items, people with Medicare may have to switch to another supplier only if their current supplier isn't willing to continue providing the items on or after January 1, 2019

Reminders for People With Medicare

- Use the [Medicare Supplier Directory](#)
- Call 1-800-Medicare
 - Locate a supplier, ask a question, or file a complaint
- Ask if supplier accepts assignment
 - If not, people with Medicare could be responsible for paying higher coinsurance
- Beware of aggressive marketing as well as fraud and abuse

REMEMBER



Resources

- [DMEPOS Toolkit](#)
 - [DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program: Temporary Gap Period Fact Sheet](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Final Rule](#)

