



October 2018

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

Starting January 1, 2019, there will be a temporary gap in the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, & Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program (CBP). Medicare expects this gap will last until December 31, 2020.

During this period, you can get DMEPOS items and services from any Medicare enrolled DMEPOS supplier. In most cases, you won't need to switch suppliers. Suppliers must continue to provide:

- Capped Rental items (like wheelchairs, hospital beds, and continuous positive airway pressure devices) through the remainder of the 13-month rental period. The supplier must transfer title of the equipment to you after the end of the 13th month.
- 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 lifetime as long as you have a medical need. The reasonable useful lifetime of oxygen equipment is 5 years.

If you travel or permanently move outside the supplier's normal service area, you may need to switch suppliers. However, if you have been getting oxygen and oxygen equipment for 36 months or more, the supplier who provides oxygen and oxygen equipment to you in your 36th month of continuous use must arrange for you to get your oxygen and oxygen equipment in your new area.

For all other DMEPOS items (for example, diabetes testing supplies, enteral nutrients/supplies, or IV poles), you may have to switch to another supplier if your current supplier isn't willing to continue to provide items to you on or after January 1, 2019.

If you need DMEPOS:

- Use the Medicare Supplier Directory at [Medicare.gov/supplier](https://www.medicare.gov/supplier) to find a supplier.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to find a supplier, ask a question, or file a complaint.
- Ask if your supplier accepts Medicare's payment as payment in full, known as accepting Medicare assignment. If the supplier doesn't accept Medicare assignment, you could be responsible for paying higher coinsurance.
- Beware of aggressive marketing by suppliers:
  - Don't let anyone persuade you to switch suppliers. Talk to your supplier first because you may not need to make a change.
  - Remember that Medicare and Medicaid don't send representatives to your home to sell products or services.
  - Don't be influenced by certain media advertising. Many television and radio ads don't have your best interest at heart.
  - Report fraud using the HHS Office of Inspector General's "<https://forms.oig.hhs.gov/hotlineoperations/report-fraud-form.aspx>" online form, or
  - Call the Fraud Hotline of the HHS Office of Inspector General at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477).

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, Braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit [Medicare.gov/about-us/nondiscrimination/accessibility-nondiscrimination.html](https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/nondiscrimination/accessibility-nondiscrimination.html), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

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