

News Flash – PQRI Information Available



A new CMS webpage dedicated to providing information on the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) is now available.

On December 20, 2006, the President signed the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA). Section 101 under Title I authorizes the establishment of a physician quality reporting system by CMS. CMS has titled the statutory program the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative. For more information, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5372

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5372

Related CR Release Date: February 23, 2007

Effective Date: July 27, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R65NCD

Implementation Date: April 2, 2007

INDEPENDENCE iBOT 4000 Mobility System

Provider Types Affected

Suppliers Providers and suppliers who bill Medicare durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs) or durable medical equipment Medicare administrative contractors (DME MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- Effective for services performed on and after July 27, 2006, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that **only the Standard Function** of the INDEPENDENCE iBOT 4000 Mobility System meets the definition of DME under section 1861(n) of the Medicare program and is reasonable and necessary for beneficiaries who have a personal mobility deficit sufficient to impair their participation in mobility-related activities of daily living. (e.g., toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, bathing, in customary locations in the home.)

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- Effective for services performed on or after July 27, 2006, the **4-wheel, Balance, Stair, and Remote Functions** of the INDEPENDENCE iBOT 4000 Mobility System **do not meet the definition of DME** under section 1861(n) of the Medicare program.

Background

This article and related change request (CR) 5372 alerts providers that a new Section 280.15 was added to the *Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual* as a result of the July 27, 2006, NCD decision memo for the INDEPENDENCE iBOT 4000 Mobility System.

The change clarifies the coverage policy for this particular power mobility device. The addition to the coverage manual will indicate that CMS will provide coverage for the Standard Function of the INDEPENDENCE iBOT 4000 Mobility System, which meets the definition of DME under section 1861(n) of the Social Security Act, as a wheelchair used in the patient's home that is reasonable and necessary for beneficiaries who have a personal mobility deficit sufficient to impair their participation in mobility-related activities of daily living, e.g., toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, bathing, in customary locations in the home.

Medicare uses an algorithmic process in determining the presence of a mobility deficit in Chapter 1, Part 4, Section 280.3 of the *Medicare NCD Manual*, which is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS site. This approach is also outlined in the *MLN Matters* article, MM3791, which is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3791.pdf> on the CMS site.

Implementation

Medicare DMERCs and DME MACs will implement CR5372 on April 2, 2007.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your DMERC or DME MAC, at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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For complete details regarding this Change Request (CR), please see the official instruction issued to your DMERC or DME MAC. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R65NCD.pdf> on the CMS website.

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