



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program Final Regulation is now on display at the Office of the Federal Register. CMS has also announced the first 10 metropolitan areas in which competition will occur as well as the first items to be competitively bid. Visit the CMS Website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/competitiveacqfordmepos/> to view the rule and obtain additional information.

MLN Matters Number: SE0717 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5574

Related CR Release Date: N/A

Effective Date: N/A

Related CR Transmittal #: N/A

Implementation Date: N/A

Note: This article is 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. This article will be further revised and/or replaced as more details of the modified program are available.

Initial Supplier Registration for Competitive Bidding Program for DMEPOS is Now Open

Provider Types Affected

All suppliers of durable medical equipment (DME) that wish to participate in the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS).

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

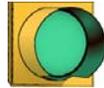
Suppliers wishing to participate in the program must register and obtain a user identification (USER ID) number and password in order to submit their bids electronically to Medicare.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

**CAUTION – What You Need to Know**

Without the USER ID and password, suppliers will not be able to submit electronic, on-line bids. Further, incorrect information could delay issuance of your USER ID and password.

**GO – What You Need to Do**

Register for the USER ID early in order to confirm that correct information is on file with Medicare and the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) so you can avoid any delays in submitting bids. The background and additional information sections of this article provide important information about the registration process.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be using an on-line system to accept bids for the Medicare DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program. . To take advantage of this opportunity, bidders must first complete an on-line registration process. The name of the on-line registration program is the Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) system. To complete the initial registration and obtain a USER ID and password, please go to <https://applications.cms.hhs.gov> on the CMS website. The on-line registration will be available up to 14 days prior to the close of the bidding window.

The process will require the supplier to have its authorizing official, the person identified in Section 15 on the CMS-855S application form, register and receive a USER ID and password. The authorized official's information must match the information on file at the NSC.

If an organization has one authorizing official but many NSC numbers, the organization needs to submit only one (1) registration request to obtain access to the IACS system. During the registration process, the bidding organization will have to report one of its NSC numbers—the correspondence address associated with that NSC number will be used for mailing the IACS system USER ID and Password.

If an organization has multiple authorizing officials for the same NSC number, only one authorizing official needs to obtain access to the IACS system.

An authorizing official only needs one USER ID and password in order to submit bids for every company for which he/she was listed as such on the CMS-855S.

Potential registrants should first read the CMS document entitled, "Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS): Competitive Bid Submission System/Durable Medical Equipment (CBSS/DME) User Guide." You may view this guide at

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MMAHelp/downloads/IACS_User_Guide_Attachment_E_v1.0_Final.pdf on the CMS website. If you have any questions about the initial registration process, please contact the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor's helpdesk at 1-877-577-5331. The helpdesk will be available Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Standard Time and on Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Standard Time.

Suppliers are required to register through IACS and get USER IDs and passwords before access to the CBSS/DME will be granted. The bidding window is not scheduled to open until late April 2007; however, suppliers planning to bid are strongly urged to register now, so any issues with USER IDs and passwords can be resolved before the bidding window opens. The issues could include:

- Incorrect authorized official information maintained by the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) as identified in Section 15 of your CMS-855S.
- Incorrect authorized official Date of Birth or Social Security number.
- NSC number does not match the Authorizing Official information.
- Incorrect correspondence address maintained by the NSC as listed on your CMS-855S in Section 2A.2.

The USER ID and password will be mailed to the authorized official if his/her submitted information matches exactly the data on file for last name, date of birth, Social Security number and supplier number. The USER ID and password will be delivered in 2 separate mailings to the authorized official at the correspondence address (Section 2A.2) listed on the CMS 855S.

It can take up to 15 days for the NSC to correct authorized official information. Correcting a correspondence address can take up to 45 days. These timeframes for correcting NSC data may be longer depending on the number of requests received by the NSC. This underscores the need to start early.

Important Note: For added security, when suppliers use their USER IDs and passwords to access the Competitive Bid Submission System for the first time, they will need to complete a brief authentication process. The information required for this process must also match the information in the National Supplier Clearinghouse file. If you successfully completed the initial registration and received your USER ID and password, please enter your information exactly as you did for initial registration when completing the Competitive Bid Submission System authentication process. Failure to do so may delay your ability to use the system.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Additional Information

Detailed instructions on how to register for CMS Application Access can be found in the Guide at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MMAHelp/downloads/IACS_Request_Access_to_CMS_Application_ORG%2011-16-07.pdf on the CMS website.

Remember that **this first step is the registration to gain access** to on-line bidding materials—it is not the actual bidding process.

The Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) Help Desk can help you with any problems or questions you have regarding the IACS registration process. The Help Desk number is 1-877-577-5331.

You may also want to review a related *MLN Matters* article that covers accreditation requirements for suppliers wishing to participate in the Competitive Bidding Program. That article, SE0713, is available at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0713.pdf> on the CMS website.

Periodically, you may also want to visit

http://cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/01_overview.asp to stay abreast of developments for this program.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.