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For Immediate Release

**PMC CALL ON CMS TO IMPLEMENT QUALITY STANDARDS AND  
ACCREDITATION PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

*PMC Makes Recommendations as Part of Comments to CMS*

(Washington, DC)- The Power Mobility Coalition (PMC), a nationwide association of manufacturers and suppliers of power wheelchairs and motorized scooters, submitted comments on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making entitled, *Medicare Program; Competitive Acquisition for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) and Other Issues* (herein referred to as the “NPRM”) that was published in the Federal Register on March 1, 2006. In essence, the NPRM seeks to establish and phase-in new quality standards and a competitive bidding reimbursement environment for Medicare DMEPOS suppliers.

In their comments the PMC questions the NPRM as being “too complex, overly restrictive and needlessly anti-competitive.” Moreover, the PMC calls on CMS to first implement quality standards and mandated accreditation before implementation of competitive bidding.

Under the NPRM, suppliers will be allowed to submit bid applications and be awarded contracts even if they are not accredited. In their comments, the PMC argues that, “[P]rogram integrity is paramount to ensure Medicare beneficiaries receive the highest quality of products and services from lawful suppliers. Stringent quality standards coupled with mandated accreditation of suppliers will rid the Medicare program of unscrupulous actors and reinforce the integrity of those suppliers who play by the rules.” As a result, the PMC believes that the NPRM, by allowing non-accredited suppliers to participate in the competitive bidding program, “is contrary to CMS’ priority to safeguard Medicare resources and beneficiaries.”

Other areas of concern identified by the PMC include (but are not limited to):

- Establishing a more Realistic Timeframe for Competitive Bidding Implementation
- Providing Non-Winning Suppliers with Expedited Appeal Rights
- Allowing any Willing Supplier to Provide DMEPOS in Competitive Bidding Areas
- Prohibiting CMS from Adjusting the DMEPOS Fee Schedule with Competitive Bidding Pricing
- Ensuring that Competitive Bidding will Have No Impact on Cash Sales of DMEPOS
- Ensuring that All Costs to Suppliers are Included in the Bid Price
- Allowing Suppliers to Bid Above the Fee Schedule
- Prohibiting the “Rebate Program” Established by the NPRM
- Ensuring Greater Participation by Small Suppliers in Competitive Bidding

As PMC Director Eric Sokol explains, “[M]andatory accreditation and competitive bidding mark major sea changes in the way DMEPOS suppliers conduct business. CMS must, therefore, take their time and do it right the first time. This means that accreditation must come first to ensure the integrity of the DMEPOS benefit, as well as ensuring that when competitive bidding is

implemented, only those suppliers who meet the quality standards are allowed to participate in the program.”

The NPRM can be found at:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/quarterlyproviderupdates/downloads/cms1270p.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quarterlyproviderupdates/downloads/cms1270p.pdf)

A complete copy of PMC’s Comments on the NPRM can be found at:

[www.pmcoalition.org](http://www.pmcoalition.org)

The PMC vows to continue to work with CMS and other DMEPOS stakeholders to ensure that accreditation is a priority in the final rule and that implementation of competitive bidding occurs only after DMEPOS suppliers have adequate opportunity to adhere to the new quality standards and become accredited.

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*The Power Mobility Coalition (PMC) is a nationwide association of manufacturers and suppliers of motorized wheelchairs and power operated vehicles based in Washington, DC.*