

Dear PMC Members:

With just hours before the bidding window was set to close, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that they will extend the deadline for suppliers to submit bids for the initial rounds of competitive bidding. The announcement comes on the heels of a letter to CMS from Senate Finance Chair, Max Baucus (D-MT) and Senate Finance Ranking Member Charles Grassley (R-IA), calling for a 60-day extension of the bid submission process. In addition, CMS has extended the timeframe for suppliers who bid in competitive bidding areas from August 31st to October 31st and has delayed the start of the competitive bidding contracts from April 1, 2008 to June 1, 2008.

Specifically, the CMS announcement reads:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is extending the bid submission, registration, and accreditation deadlines for the first round of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program.

Please note: All bids are now due by 9:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time on September 25, 2007. Suppliers that have already submitted their bids may revise and resubmit their bids until the new deadline. Suppliers that resubmit bids must submit a new certification statement.

- On May 15, 2007, CMS issued a request for bids for the first round of the Medicare DMEPOS competitive bidding program. The original due date was 9:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time on July 13, 2007. ***All bids are now due by 9:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time on September 25, 2007.***
- Suppliers interested in bidding must first register and receive a User ID and Password before they can access the internet-based bid submission system. Registration opened on April 9, 2007. The original registration deadline was June 30, 2007. CMS has reopened registration. ***The registration deadline is now August 27, 2007.***
- Suppliers must be accredited or be pending accreditation to submit a bid and will need to be accredited to be awarded a contract. The accreditation deadline for the first round of competitive bidding was originally August 31, 2007. ***The accreditation deadline is now October 31, 2007.***
- CMS is revising the contract periods. The original contract period for mail order diabetic supplies was April 1, 2008 – December 31, 2009. The contract period for all other first round product categories was April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2011. ***The contract period for mail order diabetic supplies is now July 1, 2008 – March 31, 2010. The contract period for all other first round product categories is now July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.***
- CMS is providing a targeted period to address suppliers' remaining questions on the competitive bidding program. To help ensure that answers are available as soon as possible, please e-mail your questions to the Competitive Bidding

Implementation Contractor (CBIC) no later than August 10, 2007. The e-mail address is cbic.admin@palmettogba.com .

- There are revised customer service hours at the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC). Effective immediately, the CBIC help desk will be available to assist you from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. You may call the help desk at 877-577-5331.

For more information on the program, please visit <http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com> .