

Dear PMC Members:

On Wednesday, October 10, 2007 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted an Open Door Forum (ODF) on Home Health, Hospice and Durable Medical Equipment (DME). Natalie Johnson Highsmith of CMS' Office of External Affairs moderated the forum. Also representing CMS was Carol Blackburn, Director of the Division of Home Health, Hospice and HCPCs. A majority of the ODF was devoted to home health issues and the recent technical corrections to the recently promulgated rule regarding Medicare home health payments.

The following were items discussed that are of interest to power mobility device (PMD) suppliers:

DMEPOS Accreditation

Suppliers who have submitted bids in the initial round of competitive bidding have until October 31st to become accredited. If a supplier has yet to complete an application for accreditation, CMS will assume that the supplier does not wish to become a bidder.

CMS is also hearing from accreditation bodies that some suppliers are refusing to allow surveyor access to their business for an onsite survey. Surveys are a major component of the accreditation process. If a supplier refuses a survey, they are saying “no” to accreditation. Suppliers must be prepared for an onsite visit once they file an application with an accreditation body since these surveys could occur at anytime.

CMS also refuted a rumor that all DMEPOS need to be accredited by April 2009. This information was not provided through an official CMS channel and, at the present time, there is no drop dead deadline for all DMPOS to be accredited. When such a date is released, CMS will publish the date on their official website and relay the date to members of the Home Health, Hospice and DME listserv.

DMEPOS Competitive Bidding

The bidding window for the first round is now closed and all hard copy documents in support of the bid needed to be received by the Competitive Bidding Implementing Contractor (CBIC) by September 25th. Suppliers can check their competitive bidding homepage at the CBIC website to see whether their package was received by the CBIC ([www.dmecompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic.nsf/\(pages\)/home](http://www.dmecompetitivebid.com/cbic/cbic.nsf/(pages)/home)). There is no information, however, on whether the bid is complete or whether further documentation is necessary.

The Program Advisory and Oversight Committee (PAOC) will be holding a public meeting tomorrow, October 11th, in Pikesville, MD. The meeting will focus on competitive bidding and is open to the public. More information on the PAOC meeting can be found at: www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/PAOCMI/list.asp#TopOfPage

“Revised” Quality Standards

CMS has not released any revised version of the quality standards released last year. The official CMS quality standards are listed on the CMS website and dated “August 2006” not “August 2007.” The existing quality standards can be found at:
www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/downloads/CMS_DMEPOS_Quality_Standards_081406.pdf

The next CMS ODF for Home Health, Hospice and DME is scheduled for November 28th. The PMC will forward to you details on how to participate when they become available.