

Dear PMC Members:

On Wednesday, November 28, 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 Highsmith of CMS' Office of External Affairs moderated the forum. A majority of the ODF was devoted to home health and hospice issues.

The following, however, were issues discussed that are of importance to power mobility device (PMD) suppliers:

#### DMEPOS Accreditation

CMS stated that Phase I of mandatory accreditation; requiring all DMEPOS suppliers who are participating in the first round of competitive bidding, was completed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. At this time, there is no timeline for Phase II of the mandatory accreditation process. CMS will soon determine the accreditation timeline for those suppliers who participating in the second round of competitive bidding.

#### Competitive Bidding

An updated timetable for competitive bidding is now listed on the DMEPOS competitive bidding website at:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/01a\\_Timeline.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/01a_Timeline.asp#TopOfPage).

According to CMS, they are currently evaluating the bids submitted in the first round and will “wrap up the evaluation process by the end of the year.” By January, all bids should be evaluated and contracts will then be proffered in March, 2008.

CMS will soon announce the MSAs and product categories being subjected to the second round of competitive bidding. Once this announcement is made, CMS will work to establish a timeline for accreditation, bid submission, etc. for the second round of competitive bidding.

#### NPI Update

CMS has established a National Provider Identifier (NPI) website at:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/nationalproviderstand/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nationalproviderstand/)

CMS has yet to establish a date when suppliers must submit a claim with only an NPI with no legacy identifier.

## Q&A

A question was raised regarding the DME MAC transition and supplier difficulties in getting payments made in a timely manner. There were also questions about the anti-fraud demonstration project in South Florida and Southern California. CMS stated that they are staggering the reenrollment requirement, sending out letters in October to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all DMEPOS suppliers in the targeted areas. By the end of November, an additional  $\frac{1}{4}$  will be notified, by the end of December, the next  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the final  $\frac{1}{4}$  by the end of January.

The next Home Health, Hospice and DME ODF is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2008.