

Dear PMC Members:

At a special Open Door Forum (ODF), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that **as of September 30, 2009, all DMEPOS suppliers must be accredited by one of the ten nationally recognized accreditation bodies** if they wish to bill the Medicare program. If existing Medicare DMEPOS suppliers fail to show proof of accreditation to CMS by the September 30, 2009 date then the supplier billing privileges with Medicare would be revoked.

CMS has yet to set an accreditation deadline for new suppliers who have yet to secure a billing number from Medicare. CMS will be issuing this deadline through change in the Program Integrity Manual (also posted on the CMS website), new MedLearns articles and special ODFs that will focus on the DMEPOS quality standards (both the business standards and the product specific standards) and the accreditation process. The first of these special ODFs is scheduled for January 22, 2008 at 1 pm. Others special ODFs are tentatively scheduled for April, July and September. All presentations will cover mostly the same material and will run about an hour and a half in length.

In addition, CMS failed to announce the accreditation date for suppliers who are participating in the second round of competitive bidding. CMS explained that the timetable for the second round of bidding is still being formulated and that accreditation deadlines, along with the MSAs and products for the second round of bidding will be announced soon.

In determining the September 30, 2009 deadline CMS examined a number of factors in developing this accreditation roll-out plan including the workload on the accreditation bodies, the need to prioritize suppliers who are participating in the competitive bidding program and the number of suppliers and their geographical location. CMS stressed that the roll-out plan is contingent on existing suppliers not waiting until the last moment to start the accreditation process.

Suppliers can find out more about DMEPOS quality standards by visiting: www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/04_New_Quality_Standards.asp#TopOfPage. A list of the nationally recognized accreditation bodies can be found at: www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/03_DeemedAccreditationOrganizations.asp. Competitive bidding timelines can be found at: www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS/01a_Timeline.asp#TopOfPage.