

Resources for Physicians that Order Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)



**Durable Medical Equipment Medicare
Administrative Contractor (DME MAC)
Documentation Requirements for Durable
Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics,
and Supplies (DMEPOS)**



DME MAC DMEPOS Documentation Requirements

- DMEPOS suppliers are your partners in caring for your patient. They will not receive payment from Medicare for the items that are ordered if you do not provide information from your medical records when it is requested.
 - Not providing this information may result in your patients having to pay for the item themselves.
 - The physician's cooperation is a legal requirement as outlined in the Social Security Act, the law governing Medicare. Section 1842(p)(4) of the Act mandates that:
 - [i]n case of an item or service...ordered by a physician or a practitioner...but furnished by another entity, if the Secretary requires the entity furnishing the item or service to provide diagnostic or other medical information in order for payment to be made to the entity, the physician or practitioner shall provide that information to the entity at the time that the item or service is ordered by the physician or practitioner.



DME MAC DMEPOS Documentation Requirements

- Orders for DMEPOS
 - All claims for items billed to Medicare require a prescription (order). “All claims” refers to all claims submitted for payment of purchases and initial rentals by Medicare Part B.
 - An order for each item billed must be signed and dated by the prescribing physician.
 - The term “treating physician” is defined as the one who is directly providing care to the beneficiary for the condition(s) related to the DMEPOS ordered.



DME MAC DMEPOS Documentation Requirements

The term “physician” is used throughout this document and except where specifically noted, refers to:

Doctor of Medicine (MD)	Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)
Doctor of Optometry (OD)	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)
Physician Assistants (PA)	Nurse Practitioner (NP)
Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)	

Prescribing of DMEPOS is limited by Medicare regulations and by the treating physician’s respective scope of practice as determined by the state wherein they practice.

Chiropractors are not permitted to prescribe DMEPOS items.



DME MAC DMEPOS

Documentation Requirements

- There are two categories of DMEPOS items that require a Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD):
 - Power Mobility Devices (PMDs) require a 7 Element Order (7EO)
 - A separate Detailed Product Description (DPD) is required for any associated options and accessories
 - Certain specified covered items of DME require a 5 Element Order (5EO)
 - 42 CFR 410.38(g) requires a specific written order prior to delivery for specified HCPCS codes.
 - CMS provides a list of the specified codes, which is periodically updated, and located at:
 - » https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Medical-Review/Downloads/DME_List_of_Specified_Covered_Items_updated_March_26_2015.pdf



DME MAC DMEPOS

Documentation Requirements

- Certificates of Medical Necessity (CMNs)
 - A CMN, which has been completed, signed, and dated by the treating physician, must be kept on file by the supplier that provided the medical equipment and made available upon request.
 - CMNs are required for:
 - Oxygen
 - Pneumatic Compression Devices
 - Osteogenesis stimulators
 - TENS (purchase only)
 - Seat lift mechanisms



DME MAC DMEPOS Documentation Requirements

- Documentation
 - For any DMEPOS item to be covered by Medicare, the patient's medical record must contain sufficient information about the patient's medical condition to substantiate the necessity for the type and quantity of items ordered and for the frequency of use or replacement (if applicable).
 - The information should include the patient's diagnosis and other pertinent information, as applicable, such as:
 - Duration of the patient's condition
 - Clinical course (worsening or improvement)
 - Prognosis, nature, and extent of functional limitation
 - Other therapeutic interventions, and results
 - Past experience with related items, etc.



DME MAC DMEPOS Documentation Requirements

- Documentation
 - The Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) or other auditing contractors may request that the supplier obtain this information from you in order to verify that Medicare coverage criteria have been met.



Physician Documentation Resources



Resources

Physician's Corner

- The Physician's Corner is specifically designed for the benefit of physicians and practitioners who prescribe DMEPOS items for Medicare beneficiaries. Included in this section is important physician-based information pertinent to both the physician and the supplier that provides the items and services to your patient.
 - JB: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/phys_corner.html
 - JC: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/phys_corner.html



Resources

Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)

- These documents review the DME MAC coverage requirements including medical necessity, documentation, and additional information for the DMEPOS items ordered.
 - JB: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/coverage/lcdinfo.html>
 - JC: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/coverage/lcdinfo.html>



Resources

Dear Physician Letters

- The Dear Physician letters were created by the DME MAC Medical Directors to provide detailed information and resources for physicians and practitioners to assist the DMEPOS suppliers with obtaining required documentation.
 - JB: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/phys_corner.html
 - JC: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/phys_corner.html



Resources

Physicians! Are you ordering... articles

- A series of joint educational articles between the DME and A/B MACs to assist the physician with documentation requirements needed for specific DMEPOS items.
 - JB: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/education/video/index.html>
 - JC: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/education/video/index.html>



Resources

Medicare Minute MD™

- The Medicare Minute MD™ is a series of brief videos on a variety of DMEPOS topics created by Dr. Robert Hoover, the Jurisdiction C Medical Director and Dr. Stacey Brennan, the Jurisdiction B Medical Director, to provide information on the coverage and documentation requirement for specific DMEPOS items.
 - JB: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/education/video/index.html>
 - JC: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/education/video/index.html>



Resources

Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS)

- For any DMEPOS item to qualify for coverage by Medicare it must be ordered by a physician or practitioner who is eligible to order DMEPOS items and must be enrolled in PECOS.
 - MLN Booklet PECOS for PHYSICIANS and NPPS
 - https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MEEnroll_PECOS_PhysNonPhys_FactSheet_ICN_903764.pdf
 - PECOS Dear Physician letters
 - JB: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/forms/pdf/dear_physician_pecos.pdf
 - JC: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/forms/pdf/dear_physician_pecos.pdf