



Medicare Success Through Education

Resources for Practitioners that Order 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 practitioner'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 by the prescribing practitioner.
 - The term “treating practitioner” 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 “practitioner” 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 practitioner’s respective scope of practice as determined by the state wherein they practice.
- Chiropractors are not permitted to prescribe DMEPOS items.

Standard Written Order (SWO)

- For dates of service on and after January 01, 2020
- A SWO must be communicated to the supplier prior to claim submission
- A SWO must contain all of the following elements:
 - Beneficiary's name or Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)
 - Order date
 - General description of the item
 - The description can be either a general description (e.g., wheelchair or hospital bed), a HCPCS code, a HCPCS code narrative, or a brand name/model number
 - For equipment - In addition to the description of the base item, the SWO may include all concurrently ordered options, accessories or additional features that are separately billed or require an upgraded code (List each separately)
 - For supplies – In addition to the description of the base item, the DMEPOS order/prescription may include all concurrently ordered supplies that are separately billed (List each separately)
- Quantity to be dispensed, if applicable
- Treating practitioner name or NPI
- Treating practitioner's signature

Written Order Prior to Delivery and Face-to-Face Evaluation

- CMS Final Rule 1713 created Master List of codes potentially subject to:
 - Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD) and Face-To-Face Evaluation and/or Prior Authorization
- The Required List will be comprised of:
 - Statutorily required DMEPOS items such as Power Mobility Devices (PMDs); and
 - Additional DMEPOS items selected by CMS appearing on the Required List.
- The Required List will be published in the Federal Register
 - Required List items will be subject to Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD) and Face-To-Face Evaluation
 - Required List will be posted on CMS and DME MAC sites

Written Orders Prior To Delivery (WOPD)

- A WOPD is a completed SWO that is communicated to the DMEPOS supplier before delivery of the item(s).
- A WOPD is required for:
 - Items that will appear on the Required List
 - CMS and the DME MACs will post on their websites the Required List of the selected HCPCS codes, once published through the Federal Register Notice, the Required List will be periodically updated
 - Power Mobility Devices (PMDs)
 - The face-to-face encounter and WOPD requirements are statutorily required for PMDs, and in accordance with this statutory obligation, both will continue to be required, and will be included in any future publications of the Required List
 - The date of the WOPD shall be on or before the date of delivery
 - A WOPD must be completed within six (6) months after the required face-to-face encounter
 - For PMDs, following the face-to-face encounter, the treating practitioner must complete the WOPD of the item pursuant to 1834(a)(1)(E)(iv)

DME MAC DMEPOS

Documentation Requirements

Certificates of Medical Necessity (CMNs)

- A CMN, which has been completed, signed, and dated by the treating practitioner, 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

- 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.
- 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.

Practitioner 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 practitioner-based information pertinent to both the practitioner 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) and Policy Articles

- 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 practitioners to assist the DMEPOS suppliers with obtaining required documentation.
 - JB: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/doc_req.html
 - JC: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/doc_req.html

Resources

Physicians! Are you ordering... articles

- A series of joint educational articles between the DME and A/B MACs to assist the practitioner with documentation requirements needed for specific DMEPOS items.
 - JB: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jb/mr/ordering_articles.html
 - JC: https://www.cgsmedicare.com/jc/mr/ordering_articles.html

Resources

Medicare Minute MDSM

- The Medicare Minute MDSM is a series of brief videos on a variety of DMEPOS topics created by Dr. Stacey Brennan, the Jurisdiction B Medical Director and Dr. Robert Hoover, the Jurisdiction C 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>