



Medicare Competitive Bidding Program Effective July 1, 2013

Medicare has implemented the Competitive Bidding program in the **Omaha-Council Bluffs** area. In order for patients to receive the item(s) and file the claim with Medicare, you'll need to purchase from a contracted provider. You can call 1-800-MEDICARE or go online at www.medicare.gov to find a supplier for the item you need.

We have compiled a list of local providers that may be able to help you.

Company Name	Phone Number	CPAP Devices	Enteral Nutrients	Hospital Beds	Negative Pressure Wound Therapy	Oxygen Supplies & Equipment	Power and Manual Wheelchairs	Support Surfaces	Walkers
AHP	800-682-9878	x	x	x		x			x
Focus Respiratory	866-362-8778	x		x		x			x
Apria	800-900-0305	x	x			x			
Heartland Health Therapy	402-926-4900					x			
Helget	402-339-1056		x	x		x	x	x	x
Kohlls	877-733-7100		x	x			x	x	x
Lincare	800-284-2006	x	x	x	x	x	x		
PSI	402-727-8687			x		x			x
USM	888-815-9997						x		
Walmart	402-292-0463								x

If you are unable to get the service you need, there are other providers available. The Medicare phone number and web site listed above have a full and complete listing of all contracted suppliers for the Omaha-Council Bluffs area.

Due to the numerous complaints by beneficiaries, there is a hotline available for you to call. In addition to calling 1-800-MEDICARE, we encourage you to call the "People for Quality Care" hotline at **1-800-404-8702**. They are instrumental in collecting the data necessary to present to congress in order to stop this program.

Important information regarding the Competitive Bidding Program

This program, first implemented in 2011, was unsuccessful in 10 cities prior to being implemented in the **Omaha-Council Bluffs area** this year. The severe delay in getting equipment, substandard equipment and suppliers going out of business were not taken into consideration or identified by Medicare as a problem during this first round by Medicare and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) has forced it to continue in 90 additional cities and at a rapid pace. The idea behind the program was to lower reimbursement rates paid to suppliers and, therefore, save money for Medicare and the beneficiary. Unfortunately, what started as a good idea became the problem we have now. The reimbursement rates are lower than the cost of providing these items in many cases. The providers that have accepted this contract with Medicare are now faced with having to provide this equipment without profit or at a loss.

Things to know when working with a contracted provider for these items:

The providers listed above have signed a binding contract with Medicare that requires them to furnish the prescribed item to Medicare beneficiaries. There is no requirement that the beneficiary must get oxygen from that provider or any other equipment.

They must provide the same quality item that they offer to their other insurance/self paying customers. 1-800-MEDICARE can tell you what brands that provider is contracted to supply.

You must take the item that the provider supplies, without the option of upgrading to a different item. Contracted suppliers are required to accept the reimbursement rate in their contract for that item and are not allowed to offer options/accessories/upgrades unless they do so free of charge.

You will be required to have a face to face exam with your physician in order to file a claim with Medicare for these items.

Your physician will need to document the medical justification for the item, other things that have been trialed and ruled out and how this item will allow you to complete your activities of daily living in your home.

You may be required to pick up your equipment at the provider's facility. You will be instructed on its use, maintenance and care.

You can help expedite the process by going to your doctor, having the required exam documented in your chart and being prepared with your information when calling a contracted supplier.

If you are dissatisfied with the process or service at any time, please call **1-800-MEDICARE and 1-800-404-8702**. The only way we can defeat this bad policy is for congress to hear about it. Home Medical Equipment is the pathway to keeping people in their homes, safely and successfully.