



**** IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES ****

For over 40 years Care Medical Equipment has developed a reputation for providing quality medical products and services to our local communities and we would like to take this opportunity to inform you of potential changes to your Medicare benefits.

If you are not aware, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is implementing a program that will dramatically reduce your Durable Medical Equipment (DME) benefit.**

Also known as "Competitive Bidding", this program will severely reduce both your access to home medical equipment and the quality of your products. Essentially, **your products and services will be reduced to "lowest cost" alternatives** and will be provided by a limited number of suppliers who may not adequately service your community.

Medicare beneficiaries and their physicians may no longer have the right to choose their DME providers and will have fewer choices of quality products.

Care Medical Equipment encourages you to **contact your Members of Congress by dialing the toll-free U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (866) 220-0044 and ask them to protect your DME benefit by signing onto Congressman Meek's House Resolution 3790** and eliminate this fatally flawed program.

From all of us at Care Medical Equipment we thank you for entrusting us with your home medical equipment needs and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Care Medical Equipment's Health Policy Analyst at (800) 952-9566 ext. 241.

"COMPETITIVE" BIDDING PROGRAM FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) IS ANTI-COMPETITIVE AND WILL HURT SENIORS & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

"Competitive" bidding will hurt our senior and disabled communities as well as thousands of small businesses nationwide. The program's purpose is to selectively contract with a limited number of homecare providers based on lowest price bids - drastically reducing patients' and physicians' access to and choice of quality care. This program is scheduled to affect the services in your area as soon as January of 2011.

BIDDING PROGRAM IS BAD FOR PATIENTS

- **Eliminates smaller providers who supply high-quality medical equipment** and forces many patients to switch from providers they trust.
- Ignores providers' ability to serve a geographic market, resulting in **fewer home visits to patients** especially in rural areas.
- Forces small providers to "compete" against big box stores. **Patients and physicians will be limited to fewer options** regarding which providers they can utilize.
- Literally **reduces Medicare DME benefits. Patients will be forced to incur additional out-of-pocket costs** to offset many of these reductions.
- **Manufacturers will be forced to design and build inferior equipment** to meet newly reduced Medicare benefits.
- **Places "lowest cost alternatives" as a higher priority than patient safety.**

WILL ACTUALLY INCREASE COSTS TO MEDICARE

- Will increase Medicare costs by limiting the number of providers for specific services, which **will lead to longer and more expensive hospital stays.**
- Will increase Medicare costs in the long term by **eliminating competition and deliberately creating monopolies.**
- As quality products and services are further reduced, many **patients will be unable to remain at home and will be forced into institutionalized care.**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Contact YOUR Members of Congress at (866) 220-0044 and ask them to support HR3790 and eliminate the competitive bid program for durable medical equipment!** (Remember you have two Senators and one Representative).
- Should you have any further questions, please contact Care Medical Equipment's Health Policy Analyst at (800) 952-9566 ext. 241.