

Deadlines Approach For Part B Suppliers

The Sept. 30, 2009, deadline for providers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) to obtain accreditation under the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) new quality standards is fast approaching.

All DMEPOS suppliers, which include any nursing facilities that act as suppliers to their own residents and bill Medicare Part B directly for products, are required to meet the CMS quality standards by this deadline or risk losing their Medicare Part B billing privileges on Oct. 1, 2009.

In another move to weed out undesirables, CMS also is requiring all DMEPOS suppliers to submit a \$50,000 surety bond for each National Provider Identifier by Oct. 2, 2009.

Accreditation and surety bonds are

also required for DMEPOS suppliers that wish to enter CMS' competitive bidding program, which will begin this fall.

The American Health Care Association (AHCA) has repeatedly called on CMS to waive the competitive bid requirement for nursing facilities that serve as their own DMEPOS suppliers and provide mostly parenteral and enteral nutrition therapy to their patients. The organization argues that because competitive bidding was created for beneficiaries who are mobile and not institutionalized, it fails to address the numerous challenges that competitive bidding creates for facilities.

In comments to CMS on the interim final rule, AHCA cited CMS' own acknowledgment, in its final report on competitive bidding demonstrations,

that "enteral nutrition was not well-suited for the program, specifically because of the complex issues involving nursing facilities."

In arguments against the surety bond requirement for nursing facility DMEPOS suppliers, AHCA notes that the bond requirement actually amounts to \$65,000 when adjusted for inflation from the \$50,000 bond amount proposed in the 1997 law.

"The impact of this requirement, when added to the demands of the competitive bidding and the increasing cost of the many layered regulatory long term care environment, will be a wholly unnecessary burden to nursing facilities that obtain a supplier number and provide and bill for DMEPOS services directly," AHCA said.

—Meg LaPorte

Do you have questions about Medicare Part B supplier accreditation?

WE CAN HELP

Call the McKesson Supplier Accreditation Hotline:

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or you can email us at
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