



# Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) Medicare Competitive Bidding Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Palmetto GBA to operate as the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor (CBIC) to administer the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. Palmetto GBA is responsible for conducting certain functions including performing bid evaluations, selecting qualified suppliers, setting payments for all competitive bidding areas, and supporting CMS education efforts. Palmetto GBA also assists CMS and its contractors in monitoring the program's effectiveness, access and quality.

## MEDICARE PART B COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Orthotics/Braces – the background

- In 2003, Congress originally authorized CMS to implement a Competitive Bidding Program (CBP) for DMEPOS. Multiple rounds of bidding have been conducted for many different DMEPOS categories over the past decade.
- On November 3, 2018, CMS requested feedback on a proposal to include certain off-the-shelf (OTS) knee and back orthotics/braces in the next round of competitive bidding (known as Round 2021, since contracts will become effective on January 1, 2021).
- In early 2019, CMS announced that OTS knee and back braces would be included in Round 2021.
- OTS orthotics are defined as products that require minimal self-adjustment, and do not require expertise in trimming, bending, molding, assembling, or customizing to fit to the individual.
- The product manufacturer and vendor selection is not impacted by Competitive Bidding when the competitively bid DME item is provided and billed by the physician/treating practitioner.
  - DJO® products may still be dispensed to patients in these situations.

### • There can be multiple winning suppliers in a competitive bidding area (CBA)

## CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY PHYSICIANS AND TREATING PRACTITIONERS WHO FURNISH COMPETITIVELY BID ITEMS TO THEIR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES/PATIENTS

- Physicians and treating practitioners **MAY** furnish certain competitively bid items without submitting a bid and being awarded a contract.
- Items must be furnished by the physician or treating practitioner to his or her own patients as part of his or her own professional services to those patients.
- The billing physician/treating practitioner must be enrolled with Medicare as a DMEPOS supplier and must submit his/her claims to the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) using the DMEPOS supplier/billing number assigned to that physician/treating practitioner.
- **Same Date of Service**
  - The physician's/treating practitioner's own professional service must be furnished on the same date (calendar day) as the date that the DME item is furnished.
- **Use KV Modifier**
  - Physicians and treating practitioners that are located in a CBA must submit the **"KV" modifier** on claims for competitively bid items and related accessories that are furnished in accordance with this exception to receive payment for these items for the CBA where the beneficiary maintains a permanent residence.
  - Physicians and treating practitioners located outside a CBA who furnish DME competitively bid items and/or related accessories as part of a professional service to traveling beneficiaries who maintain a permanent residence in a CBA must also affix the **"KV" modifier** to claims submitted for these items.
  - Physical therapists and occupational therapists should use the J5 modifier. (See CMS DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program Fact Sheet on page 2).
- **DME Claim must be Accompanied by a Claim for the Office Visit**
  - Physician and treating practitioner submitted competitive bidding claims that do not have an accompanying office visit submitted to the Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor will be denied.

## HCPCS CODES IMPACTED BY ROUND 2021 OF THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM – BACK ORTHOSES

HCPCS Code	HCPCS Code Description
L0650	Lumbar-Sacral Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0450	TLSO, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0455	TLSO, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0457	TLSO , Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0467	TLSO , Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0469	TLSO, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0621	Sacroiliac Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0623	Sacroiliac Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0625	Lumbar Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0628	Lumbar-Sacral Orthosis, , Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0641	Lumbar Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0642	Lumbar Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0643	Lumbar-Sacral Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0648	Lumbar-Sacral Orthosis, , Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0649	Lumbar-Sacral Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L0651	Lumbar-Sacral Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf

## HCPCS CODES IMPACTED BY ROUND 2021 OF THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM – KNEE ORTHOSES

HCPCS Code	HCPCS Code Description
L1833	Knee Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The Shelf
L1812	Knee Orthosis, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L1830	Knee Orthosis, Immobilizer, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L1836	Knee Orthosis, Rigid, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L1850	Knee Orthosis, Swedish Type, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L1851	Knee Orthosis (Ko), Single Upright, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf
L1852	Knee Orthosis (Ko), Double Upright, Prefabricated, Off-The-Shelf

### IMPORTANT LINKS

[Single Payment Amounts](#)

[CMS Claims Processing Manual](#)

[DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Home Site](#)

[CMS DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program](#)

[CMS DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program Fact Sheet](#)

### MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THESE LINKS

[Official CMS Website](#)

[DMECBP Education](#)

[Timeline](#)

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