

WPS Medicare
Ask-the-Contractor Teleconference (ACT) - MINUTES
Topic: DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program Training
June 5, 2008
Chairperson: John Wrynn

An ACT call was conducted by John Wrynn, from the Hartford, CT Field Office, at 11:30 AM Eastern Time. The topic was the new DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program Training. This training was requested to be conducted by CMS.

This teleconference began with an introduction of the WPS Medicare participants on the call, which included Janet Mateo, from our Chicago office and Medicare Provider Outreach and Education staff from our Omaha office.

Participants on the call were informed about our four toll-free ACT calls held quarterly. Providers may participate in any one of the calls as their schedule permits. Providers can obtain information about upcoming ACT calls by going to the WPS Medicare Website <http://www.wpsmedicare.com> and look under Education/Teleconferences. Scheduled teleconferences will be listed by date and topic. Providers who sign up for WPS Medicare's electronic e-News Listserv will be notified via e-mail of upcoming teleconference calls.

Providers attending the call were also made aware of additional education selections that can be found on the WPS Medicare Website, including Computer Based Training (CBTs), Provider Outreach and Education Advisory Group (POE AG) activities, Provider Self-Service area, and Fee Schedule area. Our WPS Medicare newsletter, the *Communiqué*, contains important Medicare information and is now published monthly on the Website at the beginning of each month. Providers who sign up for WPS Medicare's e-News Listserv will be notified via e-mail when we post the *Communiqué* to the Website.

Providers who registered for this ACT call were sent several documents via e-mail, including the PowerPoint presentation from CMS on the topic called "The New DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, What You Need To Know", and the three MLN Matters articles SE0805, SE0806, and SE0807 (revised) containing additional details on the new DMEPOS program.

This topic was chosen based on a request from CMS that all contractors conduct training for its providers on this new program, which begins on July 1, 2008.

The PowerPoint presentation consisted of 30 slides containing basic information about this new program and how it will impact beneficiaries and providers in the Competitive Bidding Areas (CBA) and beneficiaries who travel to CBA areas.

Open Question and Answer Session

After the presentation, the lines were open to participants for questions. There were only a few questions from the participants on the call. All the questions were basically about the same subject: how will this impact DME items currently supplied to patients after an ER visit such as a walker. Hospitals say they currently supply the items from their supply closet and then bill the DMERC. The same was true for SNFs who now furnish enteral feeding supplies to their patients. Sometimes the supplies are billed by a supplier to the DMERC and for others SNFs it's billed by the provider to the DMERC. Under the DMEPOS Competitive bidding program providers in a competitive bidding area, who refer or order DMEPOS products are described as

“referral agents”, and as such will have to do business with a contract supplier who will furnish the DMEPOS product and bill the Medicare DMERC directly.

Participants were asked to e-mail any additional topics they would like to see presented on future ACT calls.

The ACT teleconference ended at 12:15 PM (ET).

This program is presented for informational purposes only. The current Medicare Regulations will prevail.

There were seven (7) provider participants on seven (7) lines for the teleconference.