

THE MYSTERY BEHIND DMEPOS ACCREDITATION EXEMPTION

Are you still scratching your head wondering if your pharmacy is exempt from DMEPOS accreditation? Continue reading for the simplistic answers to this complex maze...



Many of you are under the assumption that in order to bill for DMEPOS (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies) that you must abide by CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) requirements for completing DMEPOS accreditation. That is no longer completely true...

Effective January 1, 2011, pharmacies that want to be considered exempt from accreditation must have met the following criteria in order to continue billing Medicare for DMEPOS (including diabetic strips).

1. The pharmacy's total billings for DMEPOS are less than five-percent (5%) of the pharmacy's TOTAL sales for the previous three (3) calendar years. The exception scenarios are as follows—this list is not all inclusive:
Scenario 1: If a pharmacy is part of a larger location, such as contained within a grocery store, then the DMEPOS sales would be less than 5 percent (5%) of the PHARMACY sales, not that of the total grocery/store receipts.
Scenario 2: If a pharmacy sells other non-pharmacy related products, then the DMEPOS sales would be less than 5 percent (5%) of the PHARMACY sales, not inclusive of the non-pharmacy related products.
2. The pharmacy has been enrolled as a supplier of DMEPOS and has been issued a provider number for the last five (5) years
3. No final adverse action has been imposed on the pharmacy in the past five (5) years
4. The pharmacy submits an attestation that the pharmacy meets criterion 1-3 listed above
5. The pharmacy agrees to participate in an unannounced audit (random sample of pharmacies are chosen annually) and submit materials upon request

*What about new pharmacies?
Can they also be exempt?*

Newly opened locations are **REQUIRED** to become accredited because they do not meet the 5-year exemption requirement. Hence, newly opened locations, within chain stores or stand-alone locations, must become accredited in order to bill Medicare for DMEPOS.