Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Medicare Part B covers medically necessary DME, that is:
- Prescribed by YOUR doctor
- Can withstand repeated use
- Serves a medical purpose, and can be used in the home.

Medicare only covers DME if you get it from a supplier enrolled in the Medicare program.

Medicare Part B pays 80% of the approved amount, you pay the other 20%.

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**DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

- Blood sugar monitors
- Canes, crutches, hospital beds
- Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices
- Infusion pumps & supplies
- Oxygen equipment
- Patient lifts, walkers, wheelchairs, & scooters

**PROSTHETICS**

- Breast prostheses
- One pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses provided after a cataract operation
- Ostomy bags
- Surgically implanted prosthetic devices (cochlear implants), and urological supplies

**MEDICARE CODES**

- On your MSN, codes that start with an “L” indicate an orthotic
- Ex: L0625-LO651 - Back brace
  L1810-L1860 - Knee brace

**PREFABRICATED ORTHOTICS**

- Braces include:
  Shoulder, knee, back, wrist, and ankle braces

If you find billing errors or have DME coverage concerns, call your NYS Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-333-4374.
Durable Medical Equipment Scams

Fraudulent companies are charging Medicare beneficiaries for durable medical equipment (DME) without showing the medical necessity and sometimes without sending the equipment to the beneficiaries.

Here is a list of the latest DME Fraud Schemes:

- Suppliers offer “free” equipment but bill Medicare.
- Suppliers use their doctors (not yours), who prescribe unnecessary medical equipment.
- Suppliers or doctors provide medical equipment you never requested.
- Suppliers or doctors charge for items you never received.
- Suppliers request your Medicare number at a presentation or in an unsolicited phone call.
- Beneficiaries willingly allow their Medicare number to be used in exchange for money, gifts, or unnecessary equipment and supplies.
- Suppliers deliver an off-the-shelf product but bill Medicare for a more costly product.

Report It

- Your NYS Senior Medicare Patrol can help you with questions, concerns or complaints about potential DME fraud, call us at 800-333-4374.
Durable Medical Equipment Scams

What Can You Do to Stop Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Fraud?

- Be sure YOUR doctor has assessed your condition and orders the equipment or supplies.
- Never sign a blank form from your health care provider or equipment supplier.
- Always review your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB).

- Look for charges for equipment you don’t need, never requested, or did not receive.
- When returning DME that your doctor did not order for you, do not sign any forms from the sender and keep a dated receipt.
- Do not accept products or services from strangers who call or knock on your door.

- Protect your Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security cards like credit cards.
- Do not give out your Medicare number at a presentation or during a sales pitch.
- Do not accept money, gifts, or unnecessary equipment from a supplier in exchange for your Medicare number.

Report It
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