

# 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%.**

## 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

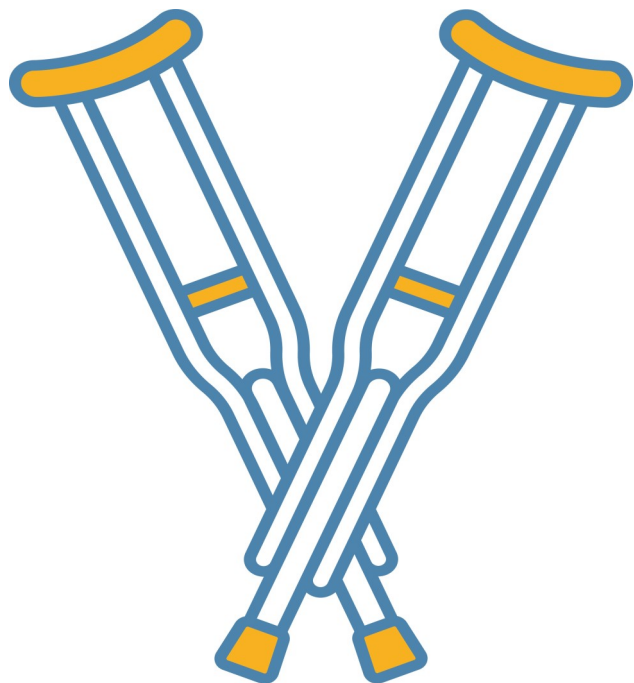
If you find **billing errors** or have **DME coverage concerns**,  
call your **NYS Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-333-4374.**

**STATE WIDE**  
New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.  
275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 • 800-333-4374 • Fax 518-436-7642  
[www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)

New York State  
**SMP**  
Empowering Seniors To  
Prevent Healthcare Fraud

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U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

# 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**.

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## 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.

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