

The DMEPOS Enrollment Process

v.

The Accreditation Process

Is there a difference?

YES! There has been some confusion regarding this issue and it is important for suppliers to understand the differences between the two processes.

The National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) is responsible for ensuring suppliers are in compliance with the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) supplier standards and the Accrediting Organizations, appointed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), are responsible for ensuring suppliers meet the Quality Standards.

When a supplier is accredited that does not automatically mean the supplier has met the requirements to bill Medicare as a DMEPOS supplier.

The NSC and the Accrediting Organizations are responsible for enforcing two separate sets of standards. Each set of standards relate to different aspects of a supplier's business. Therefore, the two processes are not interchangeable.

Being in compliance with one set of standards does not mean being in compliance with the other. A supplier may be accredited, which means the supplier is qualified to provide certain products and services, but the accreditation does not mean the supplier has met the requirements to bill Medicare. The supplier must show compliance with the DMEPOS supplier standards in order to obtain and retain billing privileges.

Another issue regarding accreditation that suppliers seem to be concerned about is site visits. Both the NSC and the Accrediting Organizations will conduct site visits or surveys to determine a supplier's compliance with the set of standards each entity is responsible for enforcing. Therefore, suppliers can expect to receive a site visit or survey from both the NSC and the Accrediting Organizations to verify compliance with the respective set of standards.

With regards to the accreditation process, the NSC's involvement will be limited to ensuring suppliers are properly accredited to provide the products and services listed on the supplier file and for collecting and maintaining information regarding supplier accreditation.

Please note the CMS has yet to establish a date when all suppliers must be accredited. Therefore, suppliers are not currently required to provide the NSC with accreditation information or complete Section 2F of the CMS 855S application form. The NSC will inform suppliers when this information is required.

Below is a breakdown of each entity's responsibilities, which should help in understanding the differences between the two processes.

The NSC is responsible for:

- The DMEPOS Enrollment Process
- Ensuring suppliers are in compliance with the DMEPOS supplier standards
- Maintaining information regarding supplier accreditation
- Performing site visits to ensure a supplier's compliance with the DMEPOS supplier standards

The Accrediting Organizations are responsible for:

- Accrediting suppliers based on the Quality Standards for specific products and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries
- Ensuring suppliers remain in compliance with the Quality Standards
- Conducting site surveys to ensure suppliers are in compliance with the Quality Standards

Again, the NSC and the Accrediting Organizations are enforcing two different sets of standards and being in compliance with one set does not mean the supplier is in compliance with the other.

For information regarding the DMEPOS enrollment process, please contact the NSC Customer Service Line at (866) 238-9652 or visit the NSC Web site (www.PalmettoGBA.com/NSC).

For information regarding the accreditation process and the Quality Standards, please visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcqforDMEPOS> on the CMS Web site.