

NEW MEDICARE PROGRAM FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND DIABETIC TESTING SUPPLIES

Effective July 1, Medicare will have a new program for Durable Medical Equipment in our area. There will also be a new National Mail-Order Program for diabetic testing supplies. If you have Original Medicare (not a Medicare Advantage HMO or PPO plan), these changes will apply to you.

Some of the items covered under this new Durable Medical Equipment program are:

- Oxygen and oxygen equipment
- Standard (power and manual) wheelchairs and scooters
- Hospital beds
- Walkers

If you are already renting certain medical equipment or receiving oxygen, you may have to switch your supplier. In certain circumstances you may be able to keep your supplier. *Make sure Medicare will continue to pay for your item to avoid any disruption of service!*

To have Medicare pay for diabetic testing supplies delivered to your home, you will need to use a Medicare national mail-order supplier. If you don't want to use mail-order, you can go to a local pharmacy or storefront *that accepts Medicare assignment* and you will get the same low mail-order cost.

To find a Durable Medical Equipment or National Mail-Order Program supplier, you can go to www.medicare.gov/supplier or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Assistance is also available from the SHINE Program. Please call 1-800-987-2510. SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name and number. A volunteer will call you back, as soon as possible.