WHAT IS THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROGRAM?

- Bids are evaluated based on supplier eligibility, financial stability and bid price.
- Each DMEPOS product is assigned on all claims for bid items.
- Today’s beneficiaries can expect a lower cost for durable medical supplies.
- Suppliers must compete to provide Medicare beneficiaries with quality supplies.
- The WOCN Society is concerned that seeing with diabetic test strips.
- The CB program's emphasis on price competition could result in unsustainable price reductions, and shrinking supplier.
- THE WOCN Society is concerned that implementing CB for ostomy supplies will have significant consequences within the CB program can be seen in a study published in the journal *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology*.

PATIENT STORIES

**Loretta B.**

Loretta is a female patient 78 years old who is diabetic. She sustained a perforated colon due to a diverticulitis and had a colon resection. The ostomy supplies were sent to the hospital per Medicare policies. However, the hospital sent the supplies out to a different vendor. This was the first time she received supplies from a vendor she didn’t know.

**PATIENT STORY**

Inpatient hospital costs were compared with patients who were tested with frequent testing compared with limited testing due to high out of pocket costs.

**CONSEQUENCES OF ON DIA BETICamoto 2010.**

Costs Incurred for the Initial Admission to the Hospital:

- 16% more inpatient hospital admissions.
- 23% higher rates.
- Patients who are on Medicare with supplemental coverage are not covered.

**POTENTIAL IMPACT ON BENEFICIARIES**

- As durable medical equipment (DME) prices fall, suppliers may substitute non-customizable, non-orthotics; and non-prosthetic and orthotics; and prosthetic products for the donations.
- A provider must maintain a high quality product. The Medicare program requires that suppliers are reimbursed.
- Quality是不是一个重要的因素。供应商必须提供优质的产品。在Medicare支付制度下，供应商需要提供高质量的产品。供应商还必须提供。

**GET INVOLVED**

- Visit wocn.org/bidding and wocn.org/cop/bidding.
- Contact your members of Congress and tell them to ask questions about the impact.
- Take action alerts. The WOCN Society will contact you when it is time to take next steps, including reaching out to legislators.

**IMPLICATIONS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

- Suppliers may not be able to provide the same products or services. Medicare beneficiaries will need to use other products.
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