

Major Changes Coming July 1, 2013 For Medicare Recipients

Dear Valued Customer,

June 24, 2013

Starting on July 1st, 2013 Medicare's new "Competitive Bidding" program begins in New York State and could affect how you receive your medical equipment. Under this program people with traditional Medicare will be required to obtain basic medical equipment and supplies from a Medicare contracted supplier. As always Monroe Wheelchair is here to support our customer's and we remain committed to helping you work your way through this confusing new program.

Does this affect me? The 3 factors below will determine if this new program affects you.

1. MEDICARE: Determine which insurance coverage you currently have. If you have Medicare and are unsure if it's a Traditional Medicare plan or maybe a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO), we urge you to call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 or your plan provider. This new program applies to Traditional Medicare ONLY. It does not apply to Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicaid, or any other private health insurance.

2. ZIP CODE: If you have determined you are a Traditional Medicare beneficiary then we need to establish if you reside in a deemed Competitive Bid Area (CBA) determined by zip code. [Click here](#) and find your general area (Albany, Rochester, or Syracuse, NY) and then see if your zip code is on the list.

3. PRODUCT: If these two above factors apply to you then beginning on July 1st, 2013, you will need to use a contracted medical equipment supplier to buy these categories of products:

- Standard Manual Wheelchairs, Scooters, and Basic Power Wheelchairs
- Hospital Beds
- Walkers & Accessories
- Support Surfaces (Group 2 Specialty Mattresses)
- Oxygen and Supplies
- Enteral Nutrition & Supplies
- CPAP & Supplies
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

How do I find a Medicare contracted supplier if I am in need of one of these products (i.e. Hospital bed)?

Although Monroe Wheelchair was not awarded a contract, and can no longer supply certain products to traditional Medicare customers, we urge you to continue to call us for your medical equipment needs. We have developed software to help us determine if you fall into the Competitive Bid parameters and our staff will help you find a local contracted company that can provide you the product you need.

To assist you in finding a provider we have created a [shortened list of local contracted suppliers](#) in each area we serve. You can also visit [Medicare's Supplier Directory](#) or call Medicare directly at 1-800-633-4227 to find a contracted supplier.

Even with these new Medicare guidelines in place Monroe Wheelchair will still be able to provide 96% of the products and services you are accustomed to ordering from us. We remain New York's largest Complex Rehab Technology (mobility and seating) provider.

Please continue to contact Monroe Wheelchair for your medical equipment needs. We are dedicated as ever in helping you or your loved one achieve a life of independence and mobility. Our customers are the very reason we are actively working with lawmakers to amend this new policy. If a change or cancellation does in fact go through we will notify you immediately.

For more information you can visit the official [Medicare website](#) or by calling Medicare at 1-800-633-4227. We also invite you to contact us with any questions about competitive bidding by emailing independence@monroewheelchair.com or direct those questions to Mary Shutes at 585-385-3920 (Ext. 324) or Melanie Kelsey at 585-385-3920 (Ext 306).

Best Regards,

Doug Westerdahl (President)

