

Ensuring Access to Quality Health Care Programs for CMS Beneficiaries Durable Medical Equipment (DME) in Emergencies and Disasters

Durable medical equipment is equipment which can withstand repeated use; is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; generally is not useful to a person in the absence of an illness or injury; and is appropriate for use in the home. This can be items such as walkers, wheelchairs, or hospital beds.

Currently states define DME for Medicaid purposes, so variation across states exists. In emergencies, CMS would support state flexibility in ensuring individuals continue to receive DME to meet existing needs or newly emerged conditions. This could include reimbursement to out of state providers, etc.

For specific information on DME in Emergencies please visit:

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/mc86c04.pdf>

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