

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Nursing Facilities (NFs)

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Nursing Facilities (NFs) are subject to the Medicare DMEPOS (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies) Competitive Bidding Program to the extent that competitively bid items and services are furnished to their residents under Medicare Part B. The items in the enteral nutrients, equipment, and supplies product category are the only Round 1 Rebid items that can be covered under Medicare Part B when furnished to SNF or NF residents. A SNF or NF must submit a bid and be awarded a contract to continue to furnish competitively bid enteral nutrients, equipment, and supplies under Part B when the Round 1 Rebid contracts become effective.

SNFs and NFs that decide to bid have two options when bidding: they can submit bids to become “specialty suppliers” that only furnish competitively bid items to their own residents, or they can submit bids to become regular contract suppliers to furnish competitively bid items to beneficiaries throughout the entire competitive bidding area (CBA). If a SNF or NF does not submit a bid or is not awarded a contract as a specialty supplier or as a regular contract supplier, it must use a contract supplier for the CBA to furnish competitively bid items to its residents.

SNFs and NFs that elect to bid as “specialty suppliers” must check “Yes” to the question, “Are you a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or a Nursing Facility (NF) that is bidding as a specialty supplier that will provide competitively bid items only to its own residents?” in Form A in the DMEPOS Bidding System (DBidS). SNFs and NFs that become specialty suppliers may not furnish competitively bid items and services to Medicare beneficiaries outside their facilities.

It is important to know that SNFs and NFs are the only entities that can bid to become “specialty suppliers” that only furnish competitively bid items only to their own residents. Suppliers that are affiliated with SNFs or NFs but are not themselves SNFs or NFs do not qualify for this option. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will verify with the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) the status of each bidder that indicates it is a SNF or a NF that is bidding to become a “specialty supplier.” If the information on file at the NSC does not indicate such a bidder is in fact a SNF or a NF, the bidder will not be offered a contract.