

Update on Medicare DME Requirements December 20, 2013

Medicare continues to hold on implementing widespread DME Face to Face requirements. However, on December 20, 2013 CMS announced a change in physician orders for most Medicare DME items effective January 1, 2014. The requirements include additional information on DME orders before a provider can dispense.

The physician order requirements are:

1. It be a "detailed written order" (it could be a printed copy of an electronic order as long as all the elements are included). No more verbal orders.
2. The detailed written order be provided before the DME is dispensed to the patient. Common past practice has been to take a dispensing order with limited information to start care and then mail orders with the details to the physician for signature at a later date.
3. The detailed written order contains the following elements:
 - a) Beneficiary (patient) name
 - b) Description of DME ordered
 - c) Prescribing physician's NPI number
 - d) Prescribing physician's name
 - e) Prescribing physicians signature
 - f) Prescribing physician must personally date their signature
 - g) The order date
 - h) The order start date, if it is different from the order date
 - i) Specific Directions for DME use; including as applicable: frequencies, routes, flow rates, infusion rates, medicine dosages and/or concentrations
 - j) Quantity
 - k) Refills if applicable
4. The Order Date and Physician Signature Date are specific and separate requirements. Both must be on the detailed written order. If the Physician Signature Date is not immediately next to the Physician Signature, then the date must be on the order labeled specifically as 'Physician Signature Date'

Physician Signature immediately next to Date

Physician Signature

Date

OR

Physician Signature and Physician Signature Date separate

Physician Signature

Physician Signature Date

5. Someone other than the physician may complete the order, however, the physician must personally sign and date their signature before dispensing.
6. The physicians name should be printed on the order preferably below their signature, to clarify their identity. CMS will reject orders if they cannot read the physician's signature and cannot otherwise identify the prescriber.

Questions, call 1-800-564-2025