

# Understanding Competitive Bidding Impact on Urological Supplies

## What is Competitive Bidding?

Medicare wants to restart a flawed program called “Competitive Bidding” that sets rates for home medical equipment (HME) & supplies by awarding a few contracts to the HME suppliers who bid the lowest – regardless of the true costs of providing quality care. In the past, this excluded 75% of suppliers from being able to provide care for end users & resulted in 37% HME locations closing across the country, leaving end users with fewer choices, longer wait times, or no access at all. After pausing the program due to problems, Medicare wants to restart it with changes that would make access even worse. Since many Medicaid programs & other insurers follow Medicare’s lead, this could impact everyone who needs home medical equipment nationwide. **If you or a loved one use HME & supplies, submit comments via the QR code below to voice concerns on the proposed rule for the new round of the bid program by the 8/29/25 deadline.**

## How Does This Affect Access to Urological Supplies?

***Choice matters – limited products & HME companies can reduce access to care while jeopardizing infection control & kidney health.***

Despite previous failures in a pilot project, Medicare is trying once again to include urological supplies in the Competitive Bidding Program – a move that could restrict access, limit choice in HME companies, & ignore the complex needs of end users. Under this proposal, only 7 companies nationwide would be allowed to serve all Medicare beneficiaries who need these supplies, down from thousands today. This ignores the complex, individualized needs of people who use urological supplies & could result in avoidable, disruptive, expensive, & potentially life-threatening health complications like catheter-associated UTIs and kidney infections. Clinicians, end users, & family caregivers should choose the product & supplier best suited for the person with the proper support and responsiveness – all critical factors in long term health & independence.

### How this Affects You:

*Reduced access to the variety of products needed to find what works for your unique medical & lifestyle needs*

*Risk of inappropriate or poor-fitting products creating CAUTIs, kidney infections, & ER visits*

*Reduced ongoing support to maximize your health outcomes*

*Loss of supplier choice undermining your independence & long-term well being*

### SUBMIT COMMENTS - DUE 8/29

**Scan QR Code for Medicare comment page**  
**Follow Prompts to “Submit a Public Comment”**

*Share what access to urological supplies & support from your trusted supplier mean to you. Explain your concerns with expanding Competitive Bidding to urological supplies.*

**SCAN HERE**

