

COMPLEXITY

COMPETITIVELY BIDDING SPECIALIZED WHEELCHAIR SEATING CREATES FOUR SEPARATE PAYMENT AMOUNTS AND THREE DISTINCT GROUPS OF AUTHORIZED PROVIDERS FOR THE SAME ITEMS BASED ON THE TYPE OF WHEELCHAIR THE BENEFICIARY USES

- The total annual Medicare expenditures for all wheelchair seat cushions amounts to approximately \$20 million (0.17% of total Medicare expenditures). Expenditures for specialized adjustable wheelchair cushions amount to approximately \$5 million (0.04% of total Medicare expenditures).
- As a result of the original round one of competitive bidding and MIPPA, specialized adjustable wheelchair seating (HCPCS Codes K0734 – K0737) currently has 2 separate fee schedule amounts:
 1. Manual wheelchairs
 2. Power wheelchairs
- By including specialized adjustable wheelchair seating in the rebid of round one they will have 4 separate fee schedule amounts within any one CBA based on the type of wheelchair the beneficiary has:
 1. Manual wheelchairs
 2. Group 3 power wheelchairs (excluded from competitive bidding by MIPPA)
 3. Group 2 power wheelchairs (in complex power competitive bidding category)
 4. Standard power wheelchairs (in standard power competitive bidding category)
- By including these items in the rebid of round one of competitive bidding specialized adjustable wheelchair seating (K0734 – K0737) will have 3 different groups of providers that can deliver these items to Medicare beneficiaries:
 1. Manual wheelchairs and group 3 power wheelchairs users will be able to obtain their cushion from any accredited Medicare provider.
 2. Group 2 power wheelchair users will have to go to the winning bidders for group 2 power wheelchairs to obtain a cushion.
 3. Standard power wheelchair users they will have to go to the winning bidders for standard power wheelchairs to obtain a cushion.
- By contrast, products such as oxygen and hospital beds that comprise sizable portions of DMEPOS expenditures will have one payment amount and one set of provider rules.

DOES THE MEDICARE EXPENDITURE FOR SPECIALIZED ADJUSTABLE WHEELCHAIR SEATING JUSTIFY THE COMPLEXITY THAT COMPETITIVELY BIDDING THEM WILL CAUSE?