

Completion of Medicare Certificates of Medical Necessity

Dear Physician:

Certificates of Medical Necessity, commonly known as CMNs, are documents used by the Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) to assist in gathering information about the medical necessity of an item that you have ordered. It is your responsibility to determine both the medical need for, and the utilization of, all healthcare services.

Suppliers are your partners in caring for your patient. They will not receive payment for their services until you return the completed, signed and dated CMN. If you have ordered equipment or supplies as part of your patient's treatment plan, completing the CMN accurately and in a timely manner helps insure that your treatment plan will be carried out. Moreover, your cooperation is a legal requirement as outlined in the Social Security Act, the law governing Medicare. Section 1842(p)(4) of the Act provides that:

[i]n case of an item or service...ordered by a physician or a practitioner...but furnished by another entity, if the Secretary (or fiscal agent of the Secretary) requires the entity furnishing the item or service to provide diagnostic or other medical information in order for payment to be made to the entity, the physician or practitioner shall provide that information to the entity at the time that the item or service is ordered by the physician or practitioner.

You cannot charge the supplier or the beneficiary for completion of the form.

Remember that the supplier must have completed Sections A and C of the CMN before sending it to you. The supplier may not enter anything in Sections B or D. You or your employee must complete Section B and then you must personally sign and date the CMN in Section D. If any change is made to the CMN after you have completed and signed it, you must draw a line through the correction and initial and date the change – or the supplier may ask that you complete a new CMN.

Help your DMEPOS supplier continue to provide good service to your patients by prompt completion and return of the CMN.

Sincerely,

Adrian M. Oleck, M.D.
Medical Director
Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier