



December 18, 2014

Announcement 848

DMEPOS Prior Authorizations in Emergency Situations or Expediting Movement to Lower Level of Care

DMEPOS Prior Authorizations in Emergency Situations:

1. In an emergency situation, when an order is received by the supplier after the QIO-like vendor's working hours or over weekends or on State holidays, dispensing of a 72-hour supply of those DMEPOS items that require prior authorization (PA) will be allowed only when:
 - A delay of 24 hours of treatment could result in very severe pain, loss of life or limb, loss of eyesight or hearing, injury to self, or bodily harm to others; and
 - The treating physician/practitioner indicates a diagnosis/ICD-9 code on the prescription that supports the use of the emergency policy.
2. The provider/supplier must submit the PA the next business day with all required supportive documentation. The documentation must include proof of the date and time the order was received by the supplier and documentation to support both 1303.4(a)(1.) and (2.).

Expediting DME PA to avoid delaying movement to lower level of care:

Call the Prior Authorization Customer Service unit at (800) 525-2395 and notify a representative of the need to expedite a PA. Information you will be required to present:

1. PA number
2. Rationale for need to expedite

Staff will review the information as soon as possible and expedite review if necessary to avoid delaying movement to a lower level of care, i.e., discharge from the acute setting to a lower level such as home or to a nursing facility.