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Preface

Congress established the Medicare program, as a federally funded health insurance, in 1965 as Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in the Department of Health and Human Services, runs the Medicare program, and the Social Security Administration also helps by enrolling qualified participants into the program. The program was meant to reduce out-of-pocket medical expenses for those who qualify for the program. Medicare is for people 65 years of age and older, some disabled people under 65 years of age, and people with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure treated with dialysis or a transplant). Medicare offers **basic** protection against the cost of health care, but does **not** cover **all** expenses.

Medicare has two parts:

- **Part A (hospital insurance)** - most people do not have to pay for Part A
Helps pay for care in hospitals as an inpatient, critical access hospitals (small facilities that give limited outpatient and inpatient services to people in rural areas), skilled nursing facilities, hospice care, and some home health care.
- **Part B (medical insurance)** - most people pay monthly for Part B
Helps pay for doctors' services, outpatient hospital care, and some other medical services that Part A does not cover, such as the services of physical and occupational therapists, and some home health care. Part B helps pay for these covered services and supplies when they are **medically necessary**.

Welcome

Welcome to the Jurisdiction A Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC A) *Supplier Manual*. This manual contains a volume of useful information regarding the Medicare program, and it should be the first resource for Medicare billing questions. Throughout this document, specific Web sites have been provided for information that is updated on a frequent basis and as additional resources regarding the Medicare program. Providers can also obtain additional information by visiting the following CMS Web sites:

CMS Home Page	http://www.cms.hhs.gov
CMS Online Manual System	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals
Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Center	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/dme.asp
Medicare Learning Network	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/
Medicare Coverage	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CoverageGenInfo
Medicare Home Page	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicare.asp
Medicare Fee-For-Service Provider Resource Center ..	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/provider.asp
Quarterly Provider Update (QPU)	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/QuarterlyProviderUpdates