

Published on *SeniorNavigator* (<https://seniornavigator.org>)

Durable Medical Equipment: What Does Medicare Cover?

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME) if your doctor prescribes it for use in your home.

DME that Medicare covers includes, but isn't limited to:

- [Blood sugar monitors](#)
- [Blood sugar test strips](#)
- [Canes](#)
- [Commode chairs](#)
- [Continuous passive motion devices](#)
- [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure \(CPAP\) devices](#)
- [Crutches](#)
- [Hospital beds](#)
- [Infusion pumps and supplies](#)
- [Lancet devices and lancets](#)
- [Nebulizers and nebulizer medications](#)
- [Oxygen equipment and accessories](#)
- [Patient lifts](#)
- [Pressure-reducing beds, mattresses, and mattress overlays](#)
- [Suction pumps](#)
- [Traction equipment](#)
- [Walkers](#)
- [Wheelchairs and scooters](#)

Your costs in Original Medicare

After you meet the Part D Deductible, you pay 20% of the Medicare-Approved Amount (if your supplier accepts assignment). Medicare pays for different kinds of DME in different ways Depending on the type of equipment:

- You may need to rent the equipment.
- You may need to buy the equipment.
- You may be able to choose whether to rent or buy the equipment.

Medicare will only cover your DME if your doctors and DME suppliers are enrolled in Medicare. Doctors and suppliers have to meet strict standards to enroll and stay enrolled in Medicare. If your doctors or suppliers aren't enrolled, Medicare won't pay the claims submitted by them.

Make sure your doctors and DME suppliers are enrolled in Medicare. It's also important to ask a supplier if they participate in Medicare before you get DME. If suppliers are participating in Medicare, they must accept assignment (which means, they can charge you only the coinsurance and Part B deductible for the Medicare-approved amount). If suppliers aren't participating and don't accept assignment, there's no limit on the amount they can charge you.

What it is

DME meets these criteria:

- Durable (can withstand repeated use)
- Used for a medical reason
- Not usually useful to someone who isn't sick or injured
- Used in your home
- Generally has an expected lifetime of at least 3 years

Things to know

If you [live in an area that's been declared a disaster or emergency](#), the usual rules for your medical care may change for a short time. Learn more about [how to replace lost or damaged equipment in a disaster or emergency](#)

Note: To find out how much your test, item, or service will cost, talk to your doctor or health care provider. The specific amount you'll owe may depend on several things, like:

- Other insurance you may have
- How much your doctor charges

- If your doctor accepts assignment
- The type of facility
- Where you get your test, item, or service

Related resources

- [Where to get covered DME items](#)
- [How can I file a complaint?](#)
- [How can I find a Medicare contract supplier?](#)

Article Source

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Source URL

<https://www.medicare.gov>

Last Reviewed

Monday, April 24, 2023