



November 29, 2018

The Honorable Seema Verma, MPH
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

RE: Public Comments on New Product Categories to be Phased-In for the Next Round of the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program

Submitted Electronically at DMEPOS@cms.hhs.gov.

Dear Administrator Verma,

On behalf of the Athletic Trainers in Physician Practice Society (ATPPS), we are pleased to provide comments on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposal to add off-the-shelf back and knee braces to the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program.

Comment Timeline

While we appreciate CMS requesting public comment on the proposal to add HCPCS codes L0450, L0455, L0457, L0467, L0469, L0621, L0623, L0625, L0628, L0641, L0642, L0643, L0648, L0649, L0650, L0651, L1812, L1830, L1833, L1836, L1848, L1850, L1851, and L1852 to the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, we are concerned that the one month of public comment is not adequate enough to fully analyze and respond to CMS' proposal. We ask that CMS extend the deadline for public comments on this proposal to February 5, 2019. The current deadline for public comments is unrealistic for our members, their physicians, and patients to provide meaningful comment on CMS' proposal.

We believe that extending the deadline to February 5, 2019 puts this comment period more in line with other comment periods on proposed rulemaking and gives our members longer than one month to respond to CMS' solicitation of comments. Feedback from our members, their physicians, patients, and durable medical equipment suppliers are critical to ensuring that patient care is not compromised and we do not believe that CMS' comment timeline allows for a thorough analysis of, and comment on, the proposal.

Concern of Transparency on Seeking Public Comments

We also have concerns about the manner in which CMS' submitted these codes for public comment. CMS released this proposal outside of its normal rulemaking processes, by posting the proposal not in a prominent place but in a buried section of the CMS website, it appears CMS was trying to limit public comment.

We appreciate CMS solicitation of comments on this proposal and we plan to provide our comments but more time is needed for ATPPS to review this proposal and its possible ramifications. The current timeline does not allow ATPPS to give a full comment of this rule change.

Should you have any questions concerning ATPPS comments, please do not hesitate to contact ATPPS President Forrest Pecha at pechaf@slhs.org or 208.908.1236

Sincerely,



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*Commission on Accreditation of Athletic
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Committee and Site Visitor

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