

OHCA GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING AN EXEMPTION FROM DME ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Providers may request exemption by submitting a letter explaining the reasons supporting an exemption with their enrollment or renewal. These letters must be signed by the individual provider or by a person authorized to execute a contract on behalf of an institutional provider. OHCA guidelines for accreditation exemptions generally follow those of Medicare.

Individuals with a DME contract

Individual providers in the categories below who provide DME items in the normal course of their therapy to their own patients are generally exempt from accreditation. If these individuals operate a separate entity that sells DME items to the general public, they are NOT exempt from accreditation. Providers are reminded that self-referrals are not acceptable.

Physicians	Physical Therapists	Occupational Therapist
Physician Assistants	Qualified Speech-Language Pathologists	Certified Nurse-Midwives
Nurse Practitioners	Clinical Nurse Specialists	Clinical Social Workers
Clinical Psychologists	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists	Audiologists
Registered Dieticians	Nutritional Professionals	Orthotists
Prosthetists		

Government-owned providers with DME contracts

Entities that are owned and operated by a unit of government are generally exempt from accreditation. These include:

- Indian Health Service facilities
- Tribal facilities
- Public Schools
- State and county hospitals, clinics, and health departments

DME Providers Who are Also Pharmacies

Some businesses that are pharmacies, but also are contracted with OHCA for DME are generally exempt if they meet all of the following criteria:

1. The total billings by the pharmacy for DME items and services are less than 5 percent of total pharmacy sales for the previous 3 calendar years, 3 fiscal years, or other yearly period specified by OHCA;
2. The pharmacy has been contracted with OHCA for DME for at least 3 years;
3. No final adverse action (as defined in Section 424.579a) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations) has been imposed in the past 5 years;
4. The pharmacy agrees to submit materials as requested during the course of an audit conducted on a random sample of pharmacies selected annually.

DME Providers who Provide Limited Products

OHCA will consider exemptions for providers who offer only a limited number of DME products. These include:

- Architectural Modifications
- Personal Emergency Response Systems
- Vehicle Adaptations

Critical Access

If the DME provider is the only source of particular items or products in a specific area or to a specific population, the provider may request an exemption based on access. Access exemptions are at the sole discretion of OHCA and may be addressed by the agency in some other way, such as offering mail order supplies, recruiting new providers, etc.