Medicare pays for many kinds of durable medical equipment (DME), prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS). These items help you move around in your home, help you when you are sick or injured.

Sometimes your doctor may prescribe, or you may want, an item that Medicare will not pay for. This is called a noncovered service. A sample of noncovered services follows. This is Not a complete list.

- insulin by injection*
- wigs (cranial prosthesis)
- grabbers
- adult diapers
- surgical stockings or hose
- air conditioners
- home modifications
- wheelchair lifts
- reading machines
- insulin syringes*
- stair lifts
- ramps
- hearing aids
- special TV for close caption
- most prescription drugs
- bath aids
- exercise equipment
- white cane for the blind

*May be covered under the Medicare Part D Drug Benefit

Medicare will never pay for these items. If you want one, or your doctor prescribes one, you or your other insurance will have to pick up the cost. Even with a prescription from your doctor, Medicare cannot pay for noncovered items.

If you are unsure if an item is covered by Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE to find out. No items or services can be approved over the phone.

Remember: An item that is denied as noncovered is different than an item that is denied as not medically necessary. If your claim for a piece of DME is denied, that may mean that the item does not meet the coverage criteria in a medical policy or that there is not enough information to prove why you need the DME. You can always appeal a medical necessity denial. You cannot appeal a noncovered item.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

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