

**OXYGEN PATIENTS NEED TO WATCH FOR THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS
WITH THE NEW CMS GUIDELINES**

THE NEW CMS 36-MONTH REIMBURSEMENT CAP LIMITS BENEFICIARIES ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES: SUPPLIERS ARE FORCED TO IMPOSE RENTAL FEES FOR PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS, WHICH ALLOW GREATER MOBILITY; SUPPLIERS ARE LESS DIVERSIFIED IN EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET; MANY SUPPLIERS STOP OFFERING LIQUID OXYGEN (TOO EXPENSIVE);

COMPETITIVE BIDDING FORCED ON SUPPLIERS BY CMS HAS REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY THE NUMBER OF OXYGEN SUPPLIERS AND MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR BENEFICIARIES TO FIND SUPPLIERS AND COMPETENT SERVICE;

THE NEW REIMBURSEMENT CUTS MAY FORCE SUPPLIERS TO CURTAIL 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE, WHICH IS VITAL TO BENEFICIARIES (THEIR LIFE MAY BE IN JEOPARDY WITH MALFUNCTIONING EQUIPMENT);

THE NEW REIMBURSEMENT CUTS WILL CURTAIL SUPPLIERS' MAINTENANCE SERVICE (THE NEW CMS GUIDELINES ALLOW ONLY 30 MINUTES IN 6 MONTHS, FOR NOW!);

THE NEW REIMBURSEMENT CUTS FORCE BENEFICIARIES TO PAY FOR SOME DISPOSABLES SUCH AS CANNULAS, HOSES, HUMIDITY BOTTLES, FILTERS, ETC.;

THE NEW REIMBURSEMENT CUTS FORCE SUPPLIERS TO DELIVER OXYGEN ON EXTENDED SCHEDULE, WHICH IS LESS CONVENIENT TO BENEFICIARIES (I.E. LESS FREQUENT DELIVERIES AND BEING SUPPLIED WITH MUCH BIGGER TANKS/CYLINDERS, WHICH IS VERY INCONVENIENT AND RISKY);

THE NEW REIMBURSEMENT CUTS CURTAIL REQUIRED SUPPLIERS' CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS (I.E. TESTING BENEFICIARIES ON THE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED) AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES;

THE NEW REIMBURSEMENT CUTS FORCE MANY SUPPLIERS OUT OF BUSINESS AND THUS CAUSE BENEFICIARIES MORE PROBLEMS WITH FINDING NEW SUPPLIERS AND WITH OXYGEN DELIVERIES.

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