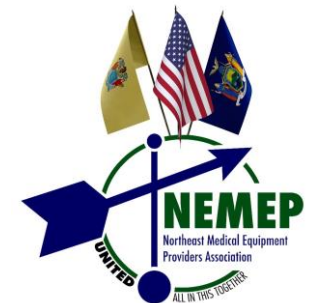


Support Patient Access to Durable Medical Equipment (DME): Pass S. 5118-A (Rivera)/A. 5368-A (McDonald)

S. 5118-A (Rivera)/A.5368-A (McDonald) would:

- **Ensure Medicaid Members have access to DME in order to remain in the community.** If DME access continues to decline, members will utilize more costly services, such as ER, nursing home, and inpatient hospitalizations.
- **Preserve access to DME providers throughout the State.** Over the past 11 years, DME providers have decreased by 45%. This has reduced the number of providers from 641 in 2010 to 354 in 2021.
- **Be cost neutral to the Medicaid program.** On average, DME represents 1% of Plan premium. This change would not require the State's actuary to increase plan premiums, resulting in a cost neutral change to the Medicaid program.



What you need to know about Durable Medical Equipment (DME)



Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers have long gone under the radar providing necessary products and services to the homebound and patients recently discharge from a hospital. Overshadowed by hospital and physician care, DME is often overlooked when it comes to distribution of funds and other needs. Once a patient is discharged from the hospital, necessary DME is provided but goes unnoticed. As we have seen recently with the COVID-19 pandemic, healing at home is becoming more important allowing other critical patients a bed in a hospital and saving the Medicaid program millions of dollars.



Commonly Prescribed DME

- Wheelchairs/Custom Wheelchairs
- Oxygen (stationary and portable)
- Ventilators
- Walkers
- BiLevel Positive Airway Pressure
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
- Tracheostomy Care
- Enteral Nutrition
- Nebulizers
- Hospital Beds
- Ambulatory Aids



DME Suppliers in New York



2010 supplier count: 641

2021 supplier count: 354

Percentage decrease:

-45%



DME Providers Enduring COVID-19

- When the hospitals were too full, DME providers continued delivering to at risk and COVID positive patients.
- Scrambled/Struggled to find appropriate PPE for their employees to continue servicing their patients in need.
- Worked with manufacturers to get equipment as expeditiously as possible.
- Donated ventilators to local hospitals.
- Helped nursing homes stock high levels of concentrators in preparation for the role they played.
- Quickly engaged respiratory therapists to help staff hospitals and educate hospital employees across the country on how to use the various kinds of ventilators.
- Partnered with area hospitals to discharge patients who were able to be taken care of at home as quickly as possible to create room for COVID-19 patients.



We are here!



DME - A Neglected Industry

These DME services have always been necessary, and the services that come with it are essential. This is what patients, and their insurance carriers were paying for.

While the DME industry tends to go unnoticed, the services and care that come with it are imperative in assisting patients live their lives to the fullest and make the world around them more accessible. It is our hope that the more awareness is generated for the DME industry and the needs that come with it, the easier it will be for the DME providers to continue providing these essential services to those who rely on them in order to live their lives without limitations.



New York's DME industry needs your help

We need your support to help protect access to medically necessary Durable Medical Equipment (DME) products and services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

This will not only assist DME suppliers to remain in business but allow Medicaid beneficiaries to obtain the quality products and services they need.

Pass S. 5118-A (Rivera)/A. 5368-A (McDonald)

