

ITEM Coalition *Virtual Fly-In* September 16!!

The Essential Benefit Package Should Cover DMEPOS!

After Labor Day, members of the House of Representatives return to Congress to finalize a healthcare reform bill. Currently there are three different versions of the bill that need to be consolidated into one piece of legislation. The final healthcare reform bill will stipulate the minimum benefits that private and public insurance plans must provide to participate in a Health Insurance Exchange.

Currently, the House Labor and Education Committee version mandates that insurance companies within the Exchange cover durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies (DMEPOS.) However, neither of the other two versions of the House bills specifically states that DMEPOS be covered.

DMEPOS items include wheelchairs and other mobility devices, artificial limbs and orthopedic braces, home oxygen therapy, vision aids, medical equipment and supplies used in the home, and augmentative communication devices (AACs) to assist individuals with speech impairment.

Take action! On Wednesday, September 16, join the ITEM Coalition for a *Virtual Fly-In* to request the House include a specific reference to DMEPOS in the final version of their healthcare reform bill! Call **1-877-210-5351 or **(202) 224-3121**, ask for your Representative and make sure the voices of individuals who need assistive devices and technologies are heard loud and clear!**

Tell your Members of Congress to pass healthcare reform this year that includes coverage for DMEPOS!

Click [here](#) to find contact information for your Representatives. (Search by zip code using tool at the upper left hand corner of the web site.)

Click [here](#) to find contact information for your Senator. (Search by state using the tool at the upper right side of the site.)

Please [e-mail us](#) after you make the call or attend a meeting. Let us know the name of the Senator or Representative you spoke with and his/her State/District.

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Thank You!

ITEM Steering Committee