



The Georgia Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers (GAMES) is a proactive, state-wide association providing leadership, resources and support to companies that provide home medical equipment. Our mission is to facilitate business success, influence public policy, and improve patient care in the home, an increasingly important care setting.

Home Medical Equipment, also known as Durable Medical Equipment (DME) is used outside an acute care facility for patient's functionality and independence and is prescribed by physicians to treat a patient's medical condition.

DME includes:

- Basic Healthcare Products
- Life Sustaining Equipment
- Technology-Sophisticated Equipment

Suppliers of this vital, life-sustaining equipment in Georgia are currently not required to be licensed or registered with the state. Much of this equipment requires delivery to the patient's home as well as patient education. These unlicensed suppliers have full-access to the homes of elderly and medically fragile Georgians. State Licensure for DME is required in many states, including states that immediately surround GA – NC, AL, TN, and FL.

Georgia DME Suppliers and the members of GAMES are currently seeking licensure for DME suppliers. Minimum requirements would include compliance with the 30 Quality Standards as outlined by the National Supplier Clearinghouse (<http://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7GLS7Z1267?open>) and a physical location within the boundaries of the state. A small licensing fee would be assessed, enough to cover any costs of the program.

We believe licensing providers of this medically vital equipment and supplies will afford a greater level of health, safety, and well-being for the elderly and medically fragile in Georgia, as well as peace of mind for their family and loved ones. **Without board oversight, private pay patients have nothing to protect them from providers who do not follow best practices, do not follow universal infection control, and ignore patient privacy laws.**

In addition:

- DME Licensure ensures that providers are competent, knowledgeable in the services they are providing and providing quality medical equipment to their patients.
- DME Licensure keeps healthcare local; ensuring timely delivery while meeting the needs of seniors and people with disabilities.
- DME licensure saves money – When people receive the equipment they need they are able to stay in their homes versus a nursing home or hospital.
- DME licensure keeps communities intact – Aging in place allows seniors and the medically fragile to actively participate in the life of their community.
- DME licensure fights fraud – Licensure allows the authorities to track fraud, waste, and abuse more readily.
- DME licensure makes sure there is a better quality of care across the health care continuum.

DME licensure also allows:

- People to live with dignity in their own homes.
- Alleviates medical equipment access issues.
- Provides a local tax base for your community.

For more information about the Georgia Association of Medical Equipment Suppliers (GAMES), please visit www.gameshme.org.