

ADDITIONAL:

Notice of Potential Medically Dependent Consumer Status (Notice of Potential MDC Status)

The Notice of Potential MDC Status has 2 parts:

Part A – to be completed by the patient/caregiver.

The DHBs, private hospitals and GPs can assist retailers by checking that the patient/caregiver:

- has filled in as much of the form as possible as this will assist his/her retailer to identify the correct account. Specifically, providing a residential address (not a PO Box or RD number), and recording the names of any of the household members who may be the account holder, will be particularly useful;
- understands and has signed the consent portion of the form; and
- understands the importance of:
 - completing the Notice of Potential MDC Status; and
 - giving the Notice of Potential MDC Status to the patient's retailer.

Part B – to be completed by a representative of the DHB, private hospital or GP, and signed by the health practitioner treating the patient (or by another health practitioner signing on behalf of the health practitioner treating the patient).

DHBs, private hospitals and GPs should check that the patient/caregiver has been informed of all relevant aspects of using the CEME including:

- what to do in the case of planned or unplanned electricity outages;
- information on the likely costs associated with operating the CEME and, if appropriate, advising the patient/caregiver that financial assistance may be available from Work and Income;
- advising that if electricity loss occurs, there may be loss of power to the telephone if the only phone in the home requires electricity (relevant if the telephone is needed to call an ambulance in the event of a power outage); and
- discussing whether critical mobility aids (for example wheelchair hoists), may require battery backup.

DHBs, private hospitals and GPs should also ensure that patients are well enough or with sufficient support to effectively communicate with their retailer when discharged from the hospital with CEME (as per Ministry of Health Letter to the Electricity Commission; 18 February 2008).