

PEPPER REPORT 2018

What Is PEPPER?

National hospice claims data were analyzed to identify areas within the hospice benefit which could be at risk for improper Medicare payment. These areas are referred to as “target areas.” PEPPER is a data report that contains a single hospice’s claims data statistics (obtained from the UB-04 claims submitted to the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)) for these target areas. Each hospice receives a PEPPER, which contains statistics for these target areas, regardless of whether the hospice’s data are of concern. The report shows how a hospice’s data compares to national, jurisdiction and state statistics. Data in PEPPER are presented in tabular form, as well as in graphs that depict the hospice’s target area percentages over time. All of the data tables, graphs and reports in PEPPER were designed to assist the hospice in identifying potentially improper payments. PEPPER is developed and distributed by TMF Health Quality Institute, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Live Discharges No Longer Terminally Ill

(Live Disch)

Numerator (N): count of beneficiary episodes who were discharged alive by the hospice (patient discharge status code not equal to 40 (expired at home), 41 (expired in a medical facility) or 42 (expired place unknown)), excluding:

- beneficiary transfers (patient discharge status code 50 or 51)
- beneficiary revocations (occurrence code 42)
- beneficiaries discharged for cause (condition code H2)
- beneficiaries who moved out of the service area (condition code 52)

Denominator (D): count of all beneficiary episodes discharged (by death or alive) by the hospice during the report period (obtained by considering all claims billed for a beneficiary by that hospice)

Live Discharges – Revocations

(Live Disch Rev)

N: count of beneficiary episodes who were discharged alive by the hospice (patient discharge status code not equal to 40 (expired at home), 41 (expired in a medical facility) or 42 (expired place unknown)), with occurrence code 42

D: count of all beneficiary episodes discharged (by death or alive) by the hospice during the report period (obtained by considering all claims billed for a beneficiary by that hospice)

Live Discharges with LOS 61-179 Days

(Live Disch LOS 61-179)

N: count of beneficiary episodes who were discharged alive by the hospice (patient discharge status code not equal to 40 (expired at home), 41 (expired in a medical facility) or 42 (expired place unknown)), with a length of stay (LOS) of 61-179 days

D: count of all beneficiary episodes discharged alive by the hospice during the report period (obtained by considering all claims billed for a beneficiary by that hospice)

Long Length of Stay

(Long LOS)

N: count of beneficiary episodes discharged (by death or alive) by the hospice during the report period whose combined days of service at the hospice is greater than 180 days (obtained by considering all claims billed for a beneficiary by that hospice)

D: count of all beneficiary episodes discharged (by

death or alive) by the hospice during the report period (obtained by considering all claims billed for a beneficiary by that hospice)

Continuous Home Care Provided in an Assisted Living Facility
(CHC in ALF)

N: count of beneficiary episodes discharged (by death or alive) by the hospice during the report period where at least eight hours of Continuous Home Care (revenue code = 0652) were provided while the beneficiary resided in an Assisted Living Facility (HCPCS code = Q5002)

D: count of all beneficiary episodes ending in the report period that indicate the beneficiary resided in an assisted living facility (HCPCS code = Q5002) for any portion of the episode

The Hospice PEPPER report is released every April.

How to run the PEPPER report:

1. Go to <https://securefile.tmf.org/#>
2. Complete:
 - a. I certify section
 - b. First and Last Name-
 - c. Provider Name, City, State, Type,
 - d. Email and confirm email.
 - e. PTAN number
 - f. Medical record number of patient with a claim billed between July 1 - September 30, 2017.