

## Peer Groups for ST PEPPER

Peer groups were created for short-term (ST) acute care hospitals based on four different characteristics. Each hospital with PEPPER statistics in the represented fiscal quarter was placed in the appropriate peer group based on information obtained from either the Provider of Services file or claims data. The Provider of Services file is available for download from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) web site. It contains data from the Online Survey, Certification and Reporting (OSCAR) system. The data are collected through the CMS Regional Offices, and the file is updated quarterly.

Percentiles (20<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup>) were calculated for each peer group for each target area for discharges ending in the represented quarter. Each characteristic was analyzed independently of the others. There had to be at least 11 providers in a peer group with reportable data for a target area in order to calculate percentiles. Bar charts were prepared to display the percentiles for each peer group. The following table provides details on how the peer groups were constructed.

Characteristic	Source of Information	Peer Group (Percent of Hospitals)	How defined
<b>Location</b>	Provider of Services file: CBSA Urban Rural Indicator	Urban	U – County in which the provider is located is defined as Urban according to Core Based Statistical Area
		Rural	R – County in which the provider is located is defined as Rural according to Core Based Statistical Area
<b>Ownership Type</b>	Provider of Services file: Ownership Type Code  [Note: Providers that fell into the category 03-Other were not included in this analysis]	Nonprofit/Church	01 – Church, or 02 – Private (Not for Profit)
		Government	05 – Federal, or 06 – State, or 07 – Local, or 08 – Hospital District or Authority
		For profit/Physician Ownership	04 – Private (For Profit), or 09 – Physician Ownership
<b>Teaching Status</b>	Provider of Services file: Medical School Affiliation Code	Major Teaching	1 – Major
		Other Teaching	2 – Limited, or 3 – Graduate
		Nonteaching	4 – No affiliation
<b>Surgical focus</b>	Claims for discharges in the quarter	Surgical	Greater than or equal to 70 percent of claims billed to a surgical DRG
		All Others	Less than 70 percent of claims billed to a surgical DRG