

Peer Groups for CAH PEPPER

Peer groups were created for critical access hospitals (CAH) based on three different characteristics. Each CAH with PEPPER statistics in the represented fiscal year 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) website. 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 (20th, 50th, and 80th) were calculated for each peer group for each target area for discharges ending in the fiscal year. 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	How defined
Location	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
Ownership Type	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, or 10 – Tribal
		For Profit	04 – Private (For Profit), or 09 – Physician Ownership
Size	Discharges ending in the most recent year	Smallest 1/3 number of Discharges	Smallest 1/3 of CAHs
		Middle 1/3 number of Discharges	Middle 1/3 of CAHs
		Largest 1/3 number of Discharges	Largest 1/3 of CAHs