

Peer Groups for HHA PEPPER

Peer groups were created for home health agencies (HHA) based on three different characteristics. Each HHA 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 episodes ending in the calendar 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 (Percent of HHAs)	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	Nonprofit/Church	01 – Religious Affiliation 02 – Private 03 – Other
		For profit	04 – Proprietary
		Government	05 – State/County 06 – Combination Gov't & Voluntary 07 – Local
Size	Claims/episodes ending in the year	Smallest 1/3 number of Episodes	Smallest 1/3 of HHAs
		Middle 1/3 number of Episodes	Middle 1/3 of HHAs
		Largest 1/3 number of Episodes	Largest 1/3 of HHAs