PEPPER Summarizes Medicare Data

- Paid Medicare claims (UB-04)
  - Hospice final action claims
  - Medicare claim payment amount > zero (note: includes Medicare secondary payer claims)
  - Exclude HMO claims (Medicare Advantage)
  - Exclude canceled claims

- See the PEPPER User’s Guide (available at PEPPERresources.org) for data specifications.
PEPPER Data

- Organized in three 12-month time periods based on fiscal year (FY).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

PEPPER Target Area Statistics

- Some target areas are claims-based and summarize statistics for claims that end in the respective fiscal year.

- Some target areas report on services provided to a beneficiary whose episode of service ends during the respective fiscal year.
  - An episode of service is created from the claims submitted by a hospice for each beneficiary.
What is an “Episode of Service” (EOS)?

- To create an EOS: All claims submitted by a hospice for a beneficiary are collected and sorted from the earliest “Claim From” date to the latest.
- If the patient discharge status code on the latest claim in a series indicates that the beneficiary was discharged (by death or alive) or did not return for continued care, that beneficiary’s EOS is included in the time period in which the latest “Through Date” falls.
- If there is a gap between one claim’s “Through Date” to the next claim’s “From Date” of more than 60 days, then that is considered the end of one EOS and the beginning of a new EOS.
- If the latest claim in the series ends in the last month of the latest time period (Sept. 1-30, 2016 for the Q4FY16 release) and indicates that the beneficiary was still a patient (patient discharge status code “30”), then that beneficiary’s EOS is not included.
- Each EOS is included in the time period in which the latest “Through Date” falls.
- Claims are collected for two years prior to each time period so that longer lengths of stay may be evaluated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bene</th>
<th>Claim Number</th>
<th>From Date</th>
<th>Through Date</th>
<th>Day Count per claim</th>
<th>Days Btwn Claims</th>
<th>Hospice EOS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bene A</td>
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<td>8/31/2014</td>
<td>24</td>
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PEPPER Data Restriction

Due to CMS data restrictions, the Hospice PEPPER will not display statistics when the numerator or denominator count is less than 11 for a target area in any time period.

- Some hospices may not see any data for some target areas or time periods.
- About 300 hospices will not have a PEPPER available.
Why are the statistics in PEPPER so old?

- TMF must wait four months after the most recent month in a reporting time period before downloading the claims data to analyze for inclusion in the report. Data for the fiscal year ending September 30 are downloaded at the end of the following January. Data processing, quality checks, report production and distribution require an additional three months.