



Home Health Agency (HHA) PEPPER Review Webinar Questions and Answers

July 18, 2019

Q: Will the PEPPER change with the implementation of the Patient-Driven Grouping Model (PDGM)?

A: The PEPPER team is coordinating with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to plan for changes to the HHA PEPPER following the transition to the PDGM. The first PEPPER that will summarize the statistics for the PDGM (version Q4CY2020) will be released in July of 2021.

Q: Under the “Compare Targets” tab, why is there an absence of “Episodes with 5 or 6 Visits”?

A: In order to calculate statistics for a given target area and time period, the beneficiary or episode count must be at least 11 (e.g., “reportable data”). If an agency has a volume lower than 11 for calendar year 2018, then the information will not be displayed in the “Compare Targets” report. The “Compare Targets” report only includes target areas for which there is reportable data for the most recent calendar year.

Q: How can I find out my validation code to access my PEPPER?

A: To access your PEPPER, you can enter a Patient Control Number (UB04 form locator 03a) or a Medical Record Number (UB04 form locator 03b) from a claim of a traditional fee-for-service Medicare beneficiary who received services between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018. Some HHAs will need to use a validation code provided by the PEPPER team, which can be obtained by contacting our [Help Desk](#).

Q: Is the data represented in the national, jurisdiction, and state data actual data or sample information?

A: Throughout the PEPPER, the national, jurisdiction, and state data and statistics represent the actual aggregate statistics for all agencies included in each comparison group. The “Compare Targets” report numbers represent percentile values for agencies.

Q: It is possible to have a quarterly release of the PEPPER?

A: At this time, the HHA PEPPER is distributed annually, and its statistics are aggregated into three 12-month time periods. There are no plans to change to a quarterly release.

Q: Do Unified Program Integrity Contractors (UPIC) contractors get information from PEPPER?

A: The PEPPER team does not provide PEPPERS to other contractors, such as UPICs, Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), and Recovery Auditors (RAs). However, the team does make a Microsoft Access database available to these contractors that contains all of the PEPPER statistics for providers in the contractor's respective region/jurisdiction for the PEPPER target areas. The contractor could produce a PEPPER using this database.

Q: Does the PEPPER collect data from the Health Value Base Payment (HHVBP)?

A: No; the PEPPER does not have any intersection with the value-based payments.