PEPPER Summarizes Medicare Data

- Paid Medicare claims (UB-04)
  - Short term part A or part B final action claims (interim and non-payment claims excluded)
  - Medicare claim payment amount > zero (note: includes Medicare secondary payer claims)
  - Exclude HMO claims
  - Exclude canceled claims
- See the PEPPER User's Guide (available at pepper.cbrpepper.org) for data specifications

PEPPER Data

- Summarized by federal fiscal year quarters according to the discharge date on the claim

- Federal fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30
  - Q1 = October-December
  - Q2 = January-March
  - Q3 = April-June
  - Q4 = July-September

- ST PEPPER distributed quarterly

PEPPER Data Restriction

- Due to CMS data restrictions, the PEPPER will not display statistics when the numerator or denominator count is less than 11 for a target area in any time period.
  - Some hospitals may not see any data for some target areas or time periods.
  - Some hospitals will not have a PEPPER available.

Table 38 Hospital Statistics for Medical Back Problems

Time Periods	Outlier Status	Percent (Numerator/ Denominator)	Target Area Discharge Count (Numerator)	Denominator Count	Target Area Average Length of Stay (ALOS)	Denominator Average Length of Stay (ALOS)	Target Average Medicare Payment	Target Sum Medicare Payments
Q2 FY 2017	No data							
Q3 FY 2017	No data							
Q4 FY 2017	No data							
Q1 FY 2018	No data							
Q2 FY 2018	No data							
Q3 FY 2018	No data							
Q4 FY 2018	No data							
Q1 FY 2019	No data							
Q2 FY 2019	No data							
Q3 FY 2019	No data							
Q4 FY 2019	No data							
Q1 FY 2020	No data							

Note: Data for hospitals with fewer than 11 discharges in the numerator of a target area have been suppressed due to confidentiality requirements.

Why are the statistics in PEPPER so old?

- The PEPPER team 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 Q4FY19 (July-Sept. 2019) were downloaded the end of Jan. 2020. Data processing, quality checks, report production and distribution require an additional 5-6 weeks.