



PEPPER Sessions Chapter 5 Top Diagnoses Home Health Agencies

During this session, I'm going to review the Top Diagnoses Report and the Top Therapy Report that are found in the PEPPER for home health agencies. The Top Diagnoses Report lists the top Clinical Classification Software diagnosis categories, up to 20 categories, for episodes that end in the most recent calendar year by the total number of episodes. In this report, we also identify the proportion of episodes to total episodes, the number of visits, and the average number of visits for each of these categories.

We use Clinical Classification Software to collapse the principal diagnosis code for episodes that end in the calendar year into general categories. And that allows us to present the information for you in an organized way that allows more information about the diagnosis categories.

Now, in your PEPPER you'll see two reports-- one for your home health agency and another that aggregates the statistics for all home health agencies in the MAC jurisdiction. And this is a supplemental report. It doesn't have any bearing on outlier status or risk or improper payments. And we will take a look at a sample report in here in just a minute.

We also include, in the PEPPER, a Top Therapy Report. And here we identify for those episodes, again, at the end of the most recent calendar year, the top five diagnosis categories or five episode categories. So, we're looking at early episodes with 0 to 13 therapy visits, early episode, 14 to 19 therapy visits, late episode, 0 to 13 therapy visits, late episode, 14 to 19 therapy visits, and early or late episodes with 20 or more therapy visits.

In this report, we identify the number and average number of episodes, the number and average number of therapy visits. And again, we have two reports-- one at the home health agency level and another aggregating all the home health agencies in the MAC jurisdiction. And again, these supplemental reports are provided for your use. You may find some of the information helpful in comparing your statistics to aggregate level statistics.

I've just switched to a sample home health agency PEPPER. And we're going to be reviewing the Top Diagnosis Report first. You'll find this report on the Top Diagnosis tab in your PEPPER. And again, it will identify, for your home health agency, the top diagnosis categories for the most recent calendar year.

So, we identified these diagnosis categories here in this column. We identified the total number of episodes for each of these categories, the proportion of episodes for each category to the total episodes, the number of visits for each CCS category, and the average number of visits for each of these categories.

And we will identify up to 20 Clinical Classification System diagnosis categories on this report. If there are not at least 11 episodes ending in the most recent fiscal year for a category, then we cannot report that information on this top report. So, you may see here that there are fewer than 20 categories identified on your report. And if that occurs, it's because there are categories that have fewer than 11 episodes ending in the calendar year.

Going down just a bit, you can see that we have some summary information for all of the top diagnosis categories, and then for all of the diagnosis categories. And here is just the note that reminds you that the report is limited to up to 20 categories for which there are at least 11 episodes ending in the calendar year. And we do use the principal diagnosis code for the episodes ending in the most recent year to identify the Clinical Classification System's diagnosis category. And here's where you can find more information on the CCS.

Now, the jurisdiction level information will be found on the Jurisdiction Top Diagnosis tab. And you can see that this report is formatted in the same way as the home health agency level report. We identify the total number of visits, the proportion of visits to total, the number of visits, and the average number of visits. And this, again, is at the jurisdiction level. You might find some of this information helpful to compare your information with the aggregate jurisdiction level information.

Moving on to the Top Therapy Report. On this tab, we are identifying, for your agency, the top therapy episodes in the most recent calendar year. And you can see that this report has basically five buckets in it-- five categories there, those five buckets.

As I mentioned on the slide, we have these five categories of episodes. For each of these overall five categories, we identify the total number of episodes, the proportion of episodes-- all episodes-- the number of therapy visits, and the average number of therapy visits for each of these five categories. And again, the number in this column here has to be at least 11 or we cannot display any statistics.

Now, within each of these five categories, we identify the CCS diagnosis categories, the top five. So here is where you'll see that information, as well as the number of episodes for each of these categories within the therapy bucket, the proportion of the episodes within this group, the number of therapy visits, and the average number of therapy visits.

So, this information might be helpful for you, as you're looking more into your statistics at your home health agency. And again, this is provided for comparison use only. Scrolling down just a little bit, we have the notes here at the very bottom of the report that give you a little bit more information on how we categorize these episodes into a therapy group. And it is based on the first digit in the code-- in the code as reported on the claim.

The jurisdiction level information can be found on the Jurisdiction Top Diagnosis Report. Excuse me, the Jurisdiction Top Therapy Report. And here you can see that this report is fully populated at the jurisdiction level. So it might have information that you find interesting or helpful when you're comparing your statistics to the jurisdiction level information.