



PEPPER Sessions Chapter 5 Top Diagnoses Long-Term Acute Care

During this session, I'm going to review the top DRG report that's found in the PEPPER for long-term acute care hospitals. The top DRG report identifies the top DRG by the number of discharges that have short stay outliers at the hospital that end in the most recent fiscal year. And it does include the number of discharges for the DRG that met the short stay outlier definition, the total number of discharges for the DRG, the proportion of short stay outliers to total discharges, and the hospital's average length of stay for the DRG. Now, this is a supplemental report. It doesn't have any impact on outlier status or risk for improper payments, but it's included in the PEPPER for your internal use only.

We also have a report that is at the national level summarizing the top DRGs by number of discharges for all long-term acute care hospitals in the nation that end in the most recent fiscal year. And it has the same data elements as a hospital-specific report.

So, let's take a look at a sample PEPPER. This is a sample PEPPER for a long term acute care hospital. And we are on—we are going to go to the top DRG page—or the top DRG tab, which is the hospital top DRGs report for the most recent four quarters, or fiscal year. And for the long-term acute care hospital, we'll identify the DRG number and the DRG description. The report is sorted in descending order based on the short stay outlier count. And for those of you who may need a refresher, we've included what a short stay outlier is in this report. It's a claim in which the discharge date is less than or equal to the admission date, plus 5/6 of the DRG geometric mean length of stay.

So we do identify on this report the number of short stay outliers for this DRG, the total number of discharges for the DRG, the proportion of short stay outliers to total discharges, and the hospital's average length of stay for the DRG. Now you can see that we have room here on this report for up to 20 DRGs. However, we are restricted to displaying only those DRGs that have at least 11 short stay outliers in the most recent fiscal year. We do have some summary level information here for the top DRGs, and then for all DRGs.

On the nationwide top DRGs tab, we include this type of information at the national level. So, you can see the top DRGs in terms of short stay outlier count, the total discharges for the DRG, the proportion of short stay outliers, and the national average length of stay. And again, this is at the national level for all long-term acute care hospitals in the nation, and this type of information might be helpful for comparison purposes.