



PEPPER Sessions Chapter 6 Comparison Groups

During this session, I'm going to review the comparison groups in the PEPPER, where you'll see percentiles calculated for the three comparison groups. All providers in the nation, which is the largest comparison group, all providers in a MAC jurisdiction — which is a larger comparison group, for example, the JH jurisdiction which includes Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi — and all providers in a state, which is the smallest comparison group.

So for each of these comparison groups, we rank the target area percent or rate, and we calculate the percentile. Keep in mind that a provider's percentile will likely be different for each comparison group because it's being compared to a different set of providers. Using three comparison groups can help give you more information as to how much of that risk you might be, and that will help you prioritize the PEPPER findings.

The MAC jurisdictions in the PEPPER reflect the CMS MAC jurisdictions, which are mostly based on the geographical location of the provider. Providers that are part of a larger system may submit their claims to the MAC that is in the geographical location of their corporate headquarters. In this instance, these providers may be included in a MAC jurisdiction that is different from their geographical location. Providers are included in the MAC jurisdiction for the MAC to which they submit their claims for Medicare reimbursement. And the MAC comparison group includes all of the providers that submit their claims to the same MAC.

Please note that for home health and hospice providers, there are four MAC jurisdictions, and so the jurisdiction comparison group is comprised of all of the providers that submit their claims to that home health/hospice MAC for Medicare reimbursement.

To see what jurisdiction your provider is in, you can open the PEPPER and check the first tab, which is the Purpose page, and near the bottom of the page you'll see the jurisdiction information as I've highlighted here in this screen shot.

If you would like more information about the number of providers in your jurisdiction, we do include a report that is available on the pepper.cbrpepper.org website, in the "Training & Resources" section, that shows the number of providers for each jurisdiction in total and by state. So this image on the screen is just a section of the report so you can see how it's set up. We do identify the jurisdiction ID number in the first column, the jurisdiction name in the second, the state in the third column, and then the number of providers — in this example we are showing the short-term providers — and that can be found in the fourth column. So you could use this report to determine if there were changes in your jurisdiction from a previous release if you compared it from one release to the next. And we do update this report on an annual basis when we release the PEPPER.