

PEPPERS will no longer be mailed to providers who previously received their PEPPERS by mail. They will now be able to access them through a secure portal from this website beginning in May 2014. Those providers who have been receiving their PEPPERS through QualityNet will continue to do so.

<http://www.pepperresources.org/>

**Please note these requirements:**

1. Access to the PEPPER will be restricted to the provider's Chief Executive Officer, President or Administrator. Corporate offices and/or facility management companies will need to obtain PEPPERS from each individual provider in their organization.
2. Requestors will be required to enter their 6-digit CMS certification number (also referred to as a provider number or PTAN). This is *\*not\** the same number as the tax identification number or national provider identification number.
3. For verification purposes, requestors will be required to enter either a patient control number (found at form locator 03a on the UB04 claim form) *\*or\** a medical record number (found at form locator 03b on the UB04 claim form) for a fee-for-service Medicare patient who received services at the provider during a specified time period (either the "From" or "Through" date on the claim is during the time period) (TMF will determine this time period closer to report distribution).

**PEPPER**  
Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report

Provide your feedback on PEPPER.

Monday, March 03, 2014 Options

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Join our e-mail list to receive updates on training and PEPPER distribution.

**Welcome to PEPPER Resources**

PEPPERresources.org is the official site for information, training and support related to the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER). PEPPER provides provider-specific Medicare data statistics for discharges/services vulnerable to improper payments. PEPPER can support a hospital or facility's compliance efforts by identifying where it is an outlier for these risk areas. This data can help identify both potential overpayments as well as potential underpayments.

<b>Short-term Acute Care Hospitals</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule	<b>Long-term Acute Care Hospitals</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule	<b>Critical Access Hospitals</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule	<b>Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule
<b>Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule	<b>Hospice</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule	<b>Partial Hospitalization Programs</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule	<b>Skilled Nursing Facilities</b> ▶ User's Guide (PDF) ▶ Training & Resources ▶ Distribution Schedule

This website is developed and maintained by TMF Health Quality Institute, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide comparative data reports to providers and to Medicare Administrative Contractors in support of efforts to reduce Medicare fee-for-service improper payments. PEPPER was previously distributed to hospitals by their state Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in support of the Hospital Payment Monitoring Program. QIOs are no longer involved in providing these reports.

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Visit the Home Page of PEPPER resources.org and click on the gray box in the upper right corner of the page to "join the email list". Fill out the requested information and select the "skilled Nursing Facility". This will ensure that facilities receive any future information or updates pertaining to the SNF PEPPER.

## **Access SNF PEPPER Q4FY13 (Now!)**

The Pepper is not a new report for CMS. The program was initiated in 2003, but has focused on other Medicare provider types over the years. PEPPER is now distributed to SNFs. *PEPPER gives provider-specific Medicare data statistics for services vulnerable to improper payments, according to the federal government, and allows providers to see how their facility compares to all other SNFs across the state, nation or MAC jurisdiction.* For SNFs, the targeted areas were determined by recent OIG reports in 2010 and 2012 and conversations with CMS staff, and include:

- Therapy RUGs with High ADLs
- Nontherapy RUGs with High ADLs
- Change of Therapy Assessment
- Ultrahigh Therapy RUGs
- Therapy RUGs
- 90+ Day Episodes of Care

The goal of the PEPPER report is to provide provider-specific Medicare data statistics for discharges and services **vulnerable to improper payments**. PEPPER can support a facility's compliance efforts by identifying facility specific outliers for targeted risk areas. This data can help identify both potential overpayments as well as potential underpayments.

Please feel free to discuss this report with your RM in order to assess trends and opportunities.

**HHI 5/16/2014**