

## The Least You Need to Know:

The annual Hospice PEPPER (Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report) for 2022 was released by CMS and the PEPPER contractor on April 6th, 2023, and is now available for download.

### Remind Me - What is the PEPPER?

Every year CMS uses hospices' Medicare claims data to create reports to be used by the MACs, the providers and other contractors. This data highlights agencies that are above the 80th percentile in different areas affecting payment and claims.

Hospices can use the PEPPER to see how they compare to others in each of these target areas. The PEPPER also includes suggested interventions that hospices could consider when assessing their risk for each of the target areas.

In addition to their value relative to potential improper payments, PEPPER Reports can also be utilized with various payers by hospices to demonstrate positive findings. Given the value of the PEPPER, it is a concern that the rate at which hospices have accessed their PEPPERs has dropped — from 72 percent in 2019 to 62 percent in 2022.

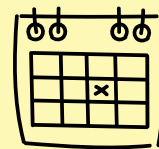
**On the next page you'll find the full list of target areas for 2023.**

## Actions of a Prudent Hospice Agency™

**ONE.** Go to the link provided to "Get Your PEPPER"

**TWO.** Review the data. Pay close attention to both those areas that are nearing or above the 80th percentile, and those areas where your hospice historical data is trending upwards.

**THREE.** Note any areas of concern or opportunities. Develop a plan to make a change!



*Save the Date!*

**Summer Conference**

JUNE 15th & 16th, 2023

*(free for Subscribers!)*

## 2023 PEPPER Target Areas

**For 2023, the Hospice PEPPER will contain two new target areas related to spending under Part B while patients are on hospice:**

- Average Number of Medicare Part B Claims for Beneficiaries Residing at Home
- Average Number of Medicare Part B Claims for Beneficiaries Residing in an Assisted Living Facility, Nursing Facility, or Skilled Nursing Facility

**Following is the full list of target areas for 2023:**

- Live Discharges No Longer Terminally Ill
- Live Discharges –Revocations
- Live Discharges LOS 61 –179 Days
- Long Length of Stay
- Continuous Home Care Provided in an Assisted Living Facility
- Routine Home Care in Assisted Living Facility
- Routine Home Care in Nursing Facility
- Routine Home Care in Skilled Nursing Facility
- Claims with Single Diagnosis Coded
- No General Inpatient Care or Continuous Home Care
- Long General Inpatient Stays
- Average Number of Medicare Part D Claims for Beneficiaries Residing at Home
- Average Number of Medicare Part D Claims for Beneficiaries Residing in an Assisted Living Facility
- Average Number of Medicare Part D Claims for Beneficiaries Residing in a Nursing Facility
- Average Number of Medicare Part B Claims for Beneficiaries Residing at Home **(New as of Q4FY22 release)**
- Average Number of Medicare Part B Claims for Beneficiaries Residing in an Assisted Living Facility, Nursing Facility, or Skilled Nursing Facility **(New as of Q4FY22 release)**

### Link to More Info

#### Get Your PEPPER

<https://pepper.cbrpepper.org/Training-Resources/Hospices>

CHECK  
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