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PEPPER Reports Are Back

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Payment Group

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PEPPER (Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report) is back, to spice up both compliance and enforcement efforts. The PEPPER Reports provide hospital-specific comparative utilization for those Medicare MS-DRGs and discharges targeted by CMS for high risk for payment errors. They were discontinued during 2008, but are scheduled once again to be provided to hospitals each quarter beginning January 25, 2010.

Previously hospitals received these from their state Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), as part of the Hospital Payment Monitoring Program. Now these Reports will be produced and distributed by TMF Health Quality Institute under contract with CMS. Information on enrollment to obtain these reports is available [here](#).

Ober|Kaler's Comments: Short-term and long-term acute care hospitals should be sure to take advantage of the information in their PEPPER Reports to identify changes in billing practices, lengths of stay and potential coding issues, and to prioritize areas in need of auditing and monitoring. Certainly the Medicare contractors will be doing the same.

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