

Explanation of changes to Short-Term Acute Care PEPPER (ST PEPPER)

1. The “DRG 416 (septicemia age > 17)” target area has been revised to reflect the ratio of discharges for DRGs 575 (septicemia with mechanical ventilation 96+ hours age > 17) and 576 (septicemia without mechanical ventilation 96+ hours age > 17) to all discharges for DRGs 575, 576, 320 (kidney and urinary tract infections age > 17 with complication or comorbidity) and 321 (kidney and urinary tract infections age > 17 without complication or comorbidity). This target area is now referred to as “DRGs 575 and 576.” This change was necessary due to the changes to the DRGs effective October 1, 2006, as DRG 416 was replaced with DRGs 575 and 576.
2. A new target area for “one-day stay medical DRGs” has been added. This target area reflects the ratio of all one-day stay medical DRGs (excluding patient status codes “20” (expired), “07” (left against medical advice) and “02” (discharged/transferred to a short-term general hospital for inpatient care)) to all discharges for medical DRGs. This target area is referred to as “One-Day Stays Medical.” This target area was added to offer comparative data for one-day stays excluding surgical DRGs, and to encourage hospitals to focus on one-day stays, as they have been identified as prone to payment errors, particularly unnecessary admissions. Since surgical DRGs (some of which pertain to “inpatient-only” procedures) are excluded, this allows hospitals to better focus on other DRGs that may be problematic in terms of unnecessary admissions.
3. Related to #2 above, a new worksheet, “One-Day Stays Medical Top 20 DRGs,” has been added, which displays for the hospital the target area’s top 20 included DRGs.
4. Also related to #2 above, a new worksheet, “One-Day Stay Medical Statewide Top 20 DRGs,” has been added, which displays for the state the target area’s top 20 included DRGs.
5. For all of the PEPPER target areas related to one-day stays (DRG 127 (heart failure and shock), DRG 143 (chest pain), DRGs 182 (esophagitis, gastroenteritis and miscellaneous digestive disorders age > 17 with complication or comorbidity) and 183 (esophagitis, gastroenteritis and miscellaneous digestive disorders age > 17 without complication or comorbidity), DRGs 296 (nutritional and miscellaneous metabolic disorders age > 17 with complication or comorbidity) and 297 (nutritional and miscellaneous metabolic disorders age > 17 without complication or

comorbidity), one-day stays excluding transfers and one-day stays (medical), one-day stays that have prior observation (revenue code 760 or 762) of greater than 24 hours (as reported on the claim) will be excluded from the count of one-day stays, as these admissions do not represent true “one-day stays.” Additionally, analysis of payment errors for one-day stays has identified that one-day stays with prior observation of 24 hours or greater have a lower incidence of unnecessary admissions than other one-day stays. This change was applied to data for all time periods in this version of PEPPER.

Summary of ST PEPPER Target Area Changes

Prior Version (Jan. 2007)	Current Version (Apr. 2007)	Description of Change
DRG 416	DRGs 575 & 576	Effective October 1, 2006 (FY 2007), DRG 416 is replaced by DRGs 575 and 576 (septicemia with and without mechanical ventilator support).
DRG 127 one-day stays	DRG 127 one-day stays	Excluded one-day stays with observation greater than 24 hours from the numerator; applies to all time periods in this version of PEPPER and forward.
DRG 143 one-day stays	DRG 143 one-day stays	Excluded one-day stays with observation greater than 24 hours from the numerator; applies to all time periods in this version of PEPPER and forward.
DRGs 182 and 183 one-day stays	DRGs 182 and 183 one-day stays	Excluded one-day stays with observation greater than 24 hours from the numerator; applies to all time periods in this version of PEPPER and forward.
DRGs 296 and 297 one-day stays	DRGs 296 and 297 one-day stays	Excluded one-day stays with observation greater than 24 hours from the numerator; applies to all time periods in this version of PEPPER and forward.
One-day stays excluding transfers	One-day stays excluding transfers	Excluded one-day stays with observation greater than 24 hours from the numerator; applies to all time periods in this version of PEPPER and forward.
-	One-day stays for medical DRGs	New target area representing the proportion of all discharges to one-day stay medical DRGs, with the same exclusions as the other one-day stay target areas.