



Memorandum

To: Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Liaison
Hospital Compliance Officer

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Subject: Dissemination of Hospital Specific PEPPER Reports

Essential Summary of this Memorandum

QSource is pleased to announce the release of “**PEPPER 23.0**”. The data in **PEPPER 23.0** updates information previously received in PEPPER 22.0 distributed in May 2008.

The Texas QIO under special contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the report. PEPPER stands for ***Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report***. These reports, derived from Medicare administrative claims data, allow each Tennessee acute care hospital to compare itself to statewide averages for a number of target areas monitored nationally by CMS, and locally by QSource. Each report is unique to the recipient hospital.



Background

The QIO Community and QSource have been utilizing these reports to assist us in our payment error monitoring efforts. CMS encourages the sharing of these hospital-specific reports with providers in Tennessee. We believe that hospitals can more effectively address billing or payment concerns, especially with physicians, when hospitals are able to review and identify actual comparative data.

Dissemination of Hospital Specific PEPPER Reports via QualityNet Exchange

QSource has elected to use its QNet Exchange application to electronically transmit reports. QNet Exchange provides secure exchange of private data between healthcare providers and QSource by encrypting the data before transmitting it over the Internet. All hospitals that have registered with QSource to use QNet Exchange will have Excel spreadsheet version of the reports uploaded to their QNet Exchange inbox. You will need to login to access and download the spreadsheets to your computer.

If you are unable to determine the QNet Exchange Administrator and/or authorized individual users at your facility, or, if you are unsure if your facility has registered to use QNet Exchange, please contact us at the above listed phone numbers or e-mail addresses.

We anticipate that future releases will continue to occur quarterly. This, however, may be subject to availability of the claims data and release of PEPPER from the Texas QIO.

Conclusion

You may now login and download your hospital specific PEPPER reports from QNet Exchange and begin to use the data immediately. The PEPPER User's Guide can be downloaded from www.hpmpresources.org. If, after reviewing the PEPPER User's Guide and the report data, you have any additional questions, please contact the above named QIO representatives at 1-800-528-2655. The continuing goal of HPMP is to reduce Medicare payment errors. QSource is confident that you will find this data extremely useful in your ongoing HPMP efforts. As always, we welcome your comments and questions.