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News Break

August 6, 2013 Issue

Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns
Electronic Report (PEPPER) for SNFs
To be Mailed on August 30th 2013
and Annually

Skilled Nursing Facilities CEO's and Administrators will be mailed a **PEPPER** report that provides *provider-specific* Medicare claim-based data statistics for SNF Medicare Part A services. **PEPPER** is intended to help providers target areas for performance improvement.

The SNF **PEPPER** report summarizes a SNF's Medicare claims data in areas that may be at risk for abuse or improper payment. **PEPPER** compares a SNF's claims data statistics with aggregate statistics for other SNFs in the state, MAC/FI jurisdiction and the nation. SNFs with high billing patterns (in the upper or lower 20th national percentile) are identified as "outliers" and are encouraged to ensure that they are complying with Medicare payment policy, that services provided to beneficiaries are medically necessary and that medical record documentation supports the services that are billed.

PEPPER can support a Skilled Nursing Facility's compliance effort by identifying potential risk areas. **PEPPER** cannot, however, identify the presence of improper payments; only a review of the medical record can determine whether services are medically necessary and appropriately billed.

Visit PEPPERresources.org to access updated resources for using **PEPPER**, including:

- recorded web-based training sessions
- sample **PEPPER** reports
- User's Guides

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