

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Benchmarking: Watch For New SNF And ALF Data Targets In Your PEPPER Report

**Access your benchmarking data  before regulators do.**

You should have an idea of whether your data makes you stick out like a sore thumb, now that your newest PEPPER report is available.

Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER) contractor **TMF Health Quality Institute** made hospice PEPPER reports available April 9, a bit ahead of its announced due date of April 13.

**Old:** Like previous PEPPER reports, this one compares your data on live discharges and long lengths of stay to hospices in your state, MAC region, and the nation.

**New:** New to the report are data on Continuous Home Care (CHC) provided in an assisted living facility; routine home care (RHC) provided in an ALF; CHC provided in a skilled nursing facility; and RHC provided in a NF.

"These PEPPER target areas were approved by [the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**] because they have been identified as being potentially at risk for improper Medicare payments," an updated PEPPER User's Guide explains. "The [**HHS Office of Inspector General**] found concerns relating to overutilization of hospice services for beneficiaries residing in an ALF. Hospice services to beneficiaries residing in a SNF or NF are also at risk for overutilization. Therefore, there are target areas focusing on these concerns."

**Tip:** "When the hospice's percent is at or above the national 80th percentile for a target area, the hospice's percent is printed in red bold" print, the guide explains.

**Note:** For links to the new User's Guide, training resources, and distribution information (including how to log in and view your report via the PEPPER Resources Portal), go to [www.pepperresources.org](http://www.pepperresources.org) and scroll down to the "Hospices" box. Step-by-step instructions for download are at <http://pepperresources.org/Portals/0/Documents/PEPPER/PEPPERresourcesorgSecurePEPPERAccesssGuide.pdf>.