

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Hospice News: Know Where To Get Your Annual PEPPER Reports

The new Hospice Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER), with statistics through September 2013, is now available, CMS says in a message to providers.

CMS has made two changes to the report. First, the "Live Discharges" target area now includes all beneficiary episodes, not just those with a length of stay less than 25 days, the agency notes.

**Another difference:** The "State" comparison group now includes all hospices in a state. Previously, the "State" comparison group included all hospices in a state that were in the same MAC jurisdiction. As a result, state percentiles will differ from the previous PEPPER release.

Access your report and more information at

[www.pepperresources.org](http://www.pepperresources.org). PEPPER contractor **TMF Health Quality Institute** is no longer mailing paper copies of the report, so you'll have to download it from the site, TMF says.