



E-Alliance Extra

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Hospice Pepper Retrieval Rate Tops 50%; Review Training and Q&A Now Available Online *(from NAHC Report)*

Each April, the TMF Health Quality Institute issues Hospice Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER). The PEPPER Report provides hospice-specific data for services/care patterns that may be potential risk areas for improper payment, and data at the state, Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) jurisdiction, and national levels for comparison. Over the course of the last month, the hospice PEPPER retrieval rate has risen from 42.5 percent to 53.3 percent. Hospices that have NOT retrieved their April 2018 PEPPER Report are strongly encouraged to do so, and use it to identify areas of practice that may be worthy of closer scrutiny.

To help hospice providers gain a deeper understanding of the implications of the various target areas represented in the PEPPER Report, TMF Health Quality Institute has developed a variety of useful educational materials. Recently it was announced that a recording of the training session on the 2018 Hospice PEPPER that was held in late April is now posed online, along with the presentation slides and a Q&A document. Hospices are encouraged to explore these materials to increase their understanding. TMF Health Quality Institute also updates state by state retrieval rates monthly around the 21st of the month. Following are useful links for hospice providers:

[Hospice PEPPER Review Training](#) (held April 26, 2018)

[Hospice PEPPER Review Training Slides](#)

[Hospice PEPPER Q&A](#)

[Hospice PEPPER Retrieval Portal](#)