



CBR201911: Atherectomy Webinar Questions and Answers

November 6, 2019

Q: What is a CBR?

A: A CBR is a Comparative Billing Report, and it is created to compare providers' billing statistics to those of their peers on a state or specialty level and a nationwide level.

Q: Within an organization, who receives the CBR?

A: Each CBR contains specific guidelines as to how a provider is included in the CBR analysis. If a provider meets the criteria to receive a CBR, a notice is sent using the contact information available in the [Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System](#) (PECOS) database. The CBR team uses providers' listed email addresses or fax numbers to send notifications about CBR releases, along with information about how providers can access their report. Physical copies of the CBR are also mailed to providers' mailing addresses.

Q: Is there a way to receive a list of providers who received CBRs within a group practice or receive information for a large group of providers?

A: The providers who receive a CBR will receive individual notifications via the email address or fax number listed in PECOS. In addition, a physical copy of the CBR will be mailed to each provider's mailing address. If there is a question as to whether or not all notifications were received for a group of providers, our Help Desk can assist with lists of National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers.

Q: How can I receive emails in regard to the CBR reporting?

A: A link to join our email list can be found on our home page: <https://cbr.cbrpepper.org/home>.

Q: Where would a CBR be sent if our provider was identified as an outlier? How can I change the contact information regarding where the CBR is sent?

A: If a provider is eligible to receive a CBR using the metrics explained in the webinar, an email is sent to the email address available in PECOS. If a valid email address is not available, the notice is sent via fax to the fax number in PECOS. Providers also receive a physical copy of their CBR to the mailing address listed in PECOS. Please ensure your email address and fax number

are updated in PECOS. The CBRs are available in the secure CBR Portal at cbrfile.cbrpepper.org by using the unique validation code that can be found in the mailed CBR as well as the email or fax notification.

Q: Where can I obtain the validation code to obtain my CBR report?

A: The validation code is sent upon distribution of the CBR to the provider by email or fax.

Q: I would like to view this webinar again; how can I find the recording, slides, and handout for the webinar?

A: The webinar slides, handout, recording, and transcript are posted on the CBR homepage: <https://cbr.cbrpepper.org>.

Q: Is the provider who qualified for a CBR the only individual who can obtain the CBR and data?

A: The CBR and validation code information is sent to the contact data listed in PECOS. Those who can access the email or fax receipts will therefore be in a position to view the CBR access information. A physical copy of the CBR is also mailed to the mailing address listed in PECOS.

Q: We did not receive a CBR. Can we request a CBR be sent for our providers or find a CBR on the website, even if the providers do not meet all the listed qualifications?

A: CBR reports are produced only if a provider meets the criteria for receiving a CBR, and the reports are not produced for providers upon request.

Q: Is it possible for us to receive a detailed list of the patients and dates of service that were included in the analysis for this CBR?

A: The CBR team is not able to provide a listing of claims/patients included in the CBR analysis. Providers should be able to identify those claims/patients by using the same claims inclusion/exclusion criteria that are specified in the CBR.

Q: What does the term “allowed amount” represent?

A: The “allowed amount” refers to the allowed dollar amount that is assigned to each CPT® code in the Medicare Fee Schedule. Due to the variance in billed amounts submitted by providers, use of the allowed amount creates a dollar amount that is comparable for all providers.

Q: After receipt of a CBR, is there follow-up provided to re-review any changes in claims submission that may have taken place?

A: The CBR team does not conduct follow-up assessment of claims data to determine whether providers' billing patterns have changed after a CBR release. Please note: The CBR is not intended to suggest wrong-doing or improper activities, and receipt of a CBR does not require response or follow-up from a provider. While it is possible that a CBR topic may be repeated at some point in the future, there are no plans to do so for this CBR topic at this time.

Q: How does RELI Group, Inc., receive the Medicare Part B claims data for the CBR analysis?

A: RELI has access to the Medicare claims data through our contract with The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The CBR team downloads the claims data from the Integrated Data Repository. These claims data are analyzed during CBR production, and each providers' summarized data are presented in an individualized CBR.

Q: Metric One discusses arterial studies performed prior to a lower extremity atherectomy procedure. Does the suggestion that arterial studies should be performed before an atherectomy procedure pose a threat to the Medicare Trust Fund? Does suggesting that providers order arterial studies they may feel are unnecessary pose a similar threat?

A: The focus of CBR201911 is to provide education and support the clinical initiatives that recommend providers avoid vascular interventions as a first-line treatment. Rather, it is recommended that providers attempt conservative therapy (i.e., medical and exercise interventions) before performing atherectomy procedures. The metrics for this CBR were created to provide an overview of patient care prior to the use atherectomy procedures, and the use of arterial studies prior to atherectomy procedures is an important part of that.

Q: The webinar mentioned a study from the 2019 Vascular Annual Meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery and an article published in the Wall Street Journal? Are links to these resources available?

A: Yes; links to these resources can be found below:

- [“Overuse of early peripheral vascular interventions for claudication,” Presented at the 2019 Vascular Annual Meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery](#)
- [“Doctors Sound an Alarm Over Leg-Stent Surgery,” Wall Street Journal](#)