

Massachusetts Case Mix

Hospital Outpatient Observation Data (OOD)

RELEASE NOTES

Background

These release notes provide information for users of the FY 2024 Outpatient Observation Data (OOD). This data includes outpatient observation stays from Massachusetts acute care hospitals for the period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. The Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) has made minimal changes to the FY 2024 data structure/elements. Users of the data should consult the Fiscal Year 2024 Documentation Manual for further details.

Data Notes

- North Adams Regional Hospital (Org Id 21965) opened in March 2024 and is designated a critical access hospital.
- Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital (Org Id 25) temporarily closed as of February 7, 2023, due to a transformer fire and did not submit quarterly OOD files for FY 2024 Quarter 1 through Quarter 3. This site reopened August 13, 2024, and submitted for Quarter 4 FY 2024.
- Steward Health Care closed two sites on August 31, 2024: Nashoba Valley Medical Center, A Steward Family Hospital (Org Id 11467) and Steward Carney Hospital (Org Id 42). Also, Steward Norwood Hospital (Org Id 41) is currently considered a closed facility since this site's license was not renewed in November 2024.

Note: In October 2022, the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) implemented a new online system that required a change in the physician license number from 6 to 7-digits. CHIA specifications only allowed a fixed length physician license number of 6-digits. To address this reporting issue, CHIA implemented a short-term solution for FY 2023 and FY 2024 with the use of a new code, "BORIM7" when the patient record required a 7-digit physician license number. Although this new code was reported by hospitals, it is not present (NULL) in the Final FY 2024 OOD Release. This issue has been resolved for FY 2025 with the expansion of the BORIM license number field length.

FY 2024 – Provider Specific Notes

Prior to releasing the Final FY 2024 OOD data, CHIA provides the hospitals with a profile of the data submitted. Providers may resubmit data or may provide written feedback to CHIA. Below is a summary of some of the key feedback received.

- Berkshire Medical Center – Berkshire Campus (Org Id 7):
 - Noted total volume decreased 10% from FY 2023 to FY 2024 due to the March 28, 2024 opening of North Adams Regional Hospital as a new site within the same hospital system.

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center - East Campus (Org Id 10):
 - Noted significant volume shifts in reported Patient Source and Type of Admission categories directly related to new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) conversion in June 2024 with plans for ongoing education and adjustments to improve accuracy.
- Boston Medical Center – Menino Pavilion Campus (Org Id 16):
 - Noted trending increase in FY 2024 total volume due to a change in reporting of ED observation encounters beginning January 2024. Upon review of CHIA data reporting requirements, Boston Medical Center reclassified their reporting of certain Emergency Department (ED) observation encounters as Outpatient Observation stays. CHIA expects only Outpatient Observation Data (OOD) to be reported for patients who receive observation services and are not admitted. Boston Medical Center recognized a coding issue with this shift in reporting which resulted in some long lengths of stay in observation. This issue was identified after finalizing FY 2024 OOD but is currently being reviewed and a resolution is expected for FY 2025.
- Harrington Memorial Hospital (Org Id 68):
 - Noted reporting category volume shifts for Source and Type of Admission attributed to Epic conversion in October 2023 and UMass Memorial Medical Center system-wide data standardization.
- MetroWest Medical Center (Org Id 49) and Saint Vincent Hospital (Org Id 127):
 - Noted EMR conversion in June 2023 created data mapping challenges which continued into FY 2024.
- Tufts Medical Center (Org Id 104) and MelroseWakefield Hospital Campus (Org Id 141):
 - Noted an increase in Quarter 4 Outpatient Observation stays as some Physician Assistants may have been overly conservative with keeping patients in an Observation class. This reporting is being monitored but both hospitals report observation rates are at acceptable levels.
- Winchester Hospital (Org Id 138):
 - Noted 31% decrease in FY 2024 total volume due to updated hospital policies and procedures for classifying Inpatient versus Observation admissions.

The following hospitals resubmitted data prior to finalizing the FY 2024 OOD release available in August 2025.

- Athol Memorial Hospital (Org Id 2) and Heywood Hospital (Org Id 73) resubmitted Quarter 1 to include patient SSN data which is required to create CHIA generated Unique Health Information Numbers (UHIN).
- Baystate Medical Center (Org Id 4), Baystate Franklin Medical Center (Org Id 5), Baystate Noble Hospital (Org Id 106) and Baystate Wing Campus (Org Id 139) resubmitted Quarter 2 to correct Hispanic Status data mapping.
- Boston Children's Hospital (Org Id 46) resubmitted Quarter 4 to correct Source of Admission, Principal Procedure Code and Zip Code data mapping related to a system conversion in June 2024.
- Cape Cod Hospital (Org Id 39) resubmitted quarters 1-4 to correct payer mapping.
- Falmouth Hospital (Org Id 40) resubmitted quarters 1-4 to correct payer mapping and quarter 1 to correct discharge volumes.
- Lawrence General Hospital (Org Id 83) resubmitted Quarter 3 to correct Hispanic Status data mapping.
- MetroWest Medical Center (Org Id 49) and Saint Vincent Hospital (Org Id 127) resubmitted quarters 1-4 to correct Departure Status mapping.
- Harrington Memorial Hospital (Org Id 68), HealthAlliance - Leominster Campus (Org Id 71), UMass Memorial Medical Center - Memorial Campus (Org Id 130), UMass Memorial Medical Center - University Campus (Org Id 131), HealthAlliance - Clinton Hospital Campus (Org Id 132) and Marlborough Hospital

(Org Id 133) resubmitted quarters 1-4 to include patient SSN data which is required to create CHIA generated Unique Health Information Numbers (UHIN) and to correct payer mapping.

End User Support

Data documentation for Case Mix data releases can be accessed at <https://www.chiamass.gov/case-mix-data/>.

For more information about specific data elements, facility reporting, or other questions about the data, please contact CHIA by emailing CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov.