

CHIA Standard Statistics: Relative Price



Time Period/Data Year(s): CY2009-2017

Governing Legislation: M.G.L. c. 12C, section 10; Regulation 957 CMR 2.00

Description	To examine provider price variation, CHIA uses relative price (RP) as a measure that compares average prices paid to different providers within a given payer’s network, while accounting for differences across providers in patient acuity, the quantity and types of services delivered, and differences in the types of products offered by payers.
Frequency	Annual - collected June of each year for the previous calendar year (CY) (for hospitals and other providers) and the CY ending 16 months prior (for physician groups).
Statutory Definition	Relative Prices are “the contractually negotiated amounts paid to providers by each private and public carrier for health care services, including non-claims related payments and expressed in the aggregate relative to the payer’s network-wide average amount paid to providers, as calculated under section 10 of chapter 12C.”
Data Submitters	Seventeen payers in the Massachusetts commercial health insurance market; commercial payers offering Medicare Advantage plans, and MassHealth Managed Care Organizations
Data Included	<p>Three RP file types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals: acute hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, and chronic care hospitals • Other Providers: ambulatory surgical centers, community health centers, community mental health centers, freestanding clinical labs, freestanding diagnostic imaging facilities, home health agencies and nursing home facilities • Physician Groups: top 30 physician groups based on share of total payments to physician groups
Quality Assurance Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is reviewed for quality by CHIA staff using a standard quality assurance checklist • Each payer’s data analysis is distributed to the payer for verification that results match the payer’s expected results • Data submissions are certified by payer CFO or equivalent • Data submissions and output are reviewed by CHIA’s actuarial consultant • Staff project lead reviews all RP data for quality and accuracy • All publication materials are reviewed by staff analysts, managers, and team director
Reports	Published annually. Products include databooks and chartbook.

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Data Notes	Any given provider's RP value reported by a payer is specific to that payer's network. Therefore, RP values cannot be directly compared across payers.
How to Obtain Data	Current and historical RP materials are available on the CHIA website .
Related CHIA Measures	None
Questions?	Please contact Erin Bonney, Manager of Payer-Provider Performance, at erin.bonney@state.ma.us .