

Massachusetts Case Mix

Outpatient Observation Data (OOD)

Fiscal Year 2025

User Guide

Massachusetts Case Mix FY 2025 Outpatient Observation Data (OOD) User Guide

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Executive Summary

Each quarter, Massachusetts health care facilities provide the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) with data collected from outpatient observation units. Outpatient observation stays that did not end in an inpatient admission are used to produce the Outpatient Observation Database (OOD). The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 OOD includes outpatient observation stays that occurred in Massachusetts between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025. During this time, observation units reported a total of 236,544 stays.

The FY 2025 OOD User Guide provides general information about data collection and processing, an overview of database organization and enhancements, general data use guidance, and a data dictionary.

For recent facility-specific updates, please consult the FY 2025 OOD Release Notes available on [CHIA's website](#).¹

¹ <https://www.chiamass.gov/databases/case-mix-databases/>

Data Collection and Processing

Acute care hospitals in Massachusetts are required to submit outpatient observation data to CHIA under the following regulations, which are available on [CHIA's website](#).²

- 957 CMR 8.00, APCD and Case Mix Data Submission

Facilities submit preliminary outpatient observation data to CHIA on the last day of the month following the end of each quarter. Complete data is due within 75 days of the end of the quarter.

Quarterly reporting intervals for the FY 2025 OOD are:

- Quarter 1: October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024
- Quarter 2: January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025
- Quarter 3: April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025
- Quarter 4: July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

CHIA reviews each facility's quarterly data for compliance with a one percent error rate threshold. CHIA checks each stay record for valid codes, correct formatting, and the presence of required data elements. If errors are identified in one percent or more of the stays in a quarterly submission, CHIA rejects the submission, and the reporting facility must resubmit the data until it meets the compliance threshold.

Verification Process

Every six months, CHIA sends each facility a profile report of their observation stay data to maintain and improve the quality of their submissions. The Verification Report process gives facilities the opportunity to review the data they have provided to CHIA and affirm accuracy and completeness.

CHIA asks each facility to review and verify the data contained within the report. Each Verification Report has a series of frequency tables for selected data elements that include, but are not limited to, the number of stays per month and breakouts by stay type, stay source, patient race, and patient disposition.

Facilities must affirm that reported data is accurate and complete or identify any discrepancies on the year-end verification cycle. Facilities certify the accuracy and completeness of their data by completing a Verification Report Response form. CHIA accepts two response types from facilities:

² <https://www.chiamass.gov/about-the-agency/regulations-standards/regulations/>

- A. A facility indicates its agreement that the data appearing on the Verification Report is accurate and that it represents the facility's case mix profile.
- B. A facility indicates that the data on the report is accurate except for the discrepancies noted. If any data discrepancies exist, CHIA requests that facilities provide written explanations of the discrepancies.

Users interested in the FY 2025 OOD Verification Reports should contact CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov. Please indicate the period of the Verification Report, the data set name, and if the information is needed for a specific facility or set of facilities.

“Outpatient Observation Services” Definition

Regulation 957 CMR 8.02 defines outpatient observation services as services furnished on a hospital's premises to further evaluate a patient's condition and determine the need for possible hospital admission. These services include the use of a bed and periodic monitoring by hospital staff. If a patient receives outpatient observation services and is later discharged, the services are recorded as an outpatient observation stay.

Please note:

- If an observation stay results in an inpatient admission, the stay details will instead appear in the Hospital Inpatient Discharge Database (HIDD) rather than in the OOD.
- If an observation stay begins in the emergency department (ED), the details of the ED visit will appear in the OOD rather than in the Emergency Department Database (EDD).

Observation Stays Resulting in Inpatient Admissions

If the patient is admitted to inpatient care after an outpatient observation stay, observation services are recorded in the Hospital Inpatient Discharge Database (HIDD) and not in the OOD. Data users interested in observation stays that result in inpatient admission should use the FY 2025 HIDD. Inpatient admissions that began as an outpatient observation stay are flagged in the HIDD using the following element:

- `OutpatntObsrvStayFlagCode = Y`

Observation Stays Originating from Emergency Department Visits

Any emergency department (ED) visit that resulted in an outpatient observation stay appears in the FY 2025 OOD but does not appear in the FY 2025 Emergency Department Database (EDD). Observation stays with an associated ED visit are flagged using the `ED_Flag` element. In addition to `ED_Flag`, CHIA requests that facilities report ED boarding information in the following elements:

- NumberOfHoursInED
- EDRegDate
- EDRegTime
- EDDisDate
- EDDisTime

Based on `ED_flag` values and the proportion of populated boarding elements, over 80% of observation stays in the FY 2025 OOD originated from ED visits.

Data Limitations

The OOD is derived from outpatient observation stay summaries, which can be traced to information entered into the medical record by admitting and attending health professionals. The quality of the OOD is dependent upon facility data collection policies and the coding practices of medical record staff.

Information may not be consistent from facility to facility due to differences in:

- collection and verification of patient-supplied information before or at admission;
- updates to information following forensic autopsies;
- medical record coding, consistency, and/or completeness;
- extent of facility data processing capabilities;
- flexibility of facility data processing systems;
- capacity of facility financial processing systems to record late-occurring charges on CHIA's electronic submissions; or
- non-comparability of data collection and reporting.

Database Organization and Enhancements

Files and Linking

The FY 2025 OOD consists of ASCII text files with a suffix indicating the table contained in the file and whether it belongs to a Limited Data Set (LDS) or Government (GOV) data set.

Many users import the data into SQL, STATA™, SPSS™, SAS™, or R for analysis or data management. The `RecordType01ID` element in the Organization table is the unique identifier for each observation visit and can be used to link records across tables. The `OrgID` element in the Organization table can be linked to columns on the Observation table that contain organization identifiers (`IDOrgFiler`, `IDOrgSite`, `IDOrgHosp`, and `IDOrgTransfer`).

- **FIPA_OOD_2025_Observation_** contains one record per observation stay. The unique identifier on this table is `RecordType01ID`.
- **FIPA_OOD_2025_MEID_Mapping_** contains one record per unique combination of `IDOrgFiler` and `RecordType01ID`. This file is only provided for recipients who also receive LDS elements with Unique Health Information Numbers (UHINs). CHIA creates a unique Master Enterprise Identifier (MEID), `MemberMDMID`, for each distinct patient within the Case Mix data. Each `MemberMDMID` value corresponds to a set of combinations of `IDOrgFiler` and `RecordType01ID`, as mapped in this file. `MemberMDMID` provides a way to identify unique patients without using personally identifying information and enables the tracking of patients over time and across sites of care.
- **FIPA_OOD_2025_Organization_** contains one record per organization. Use this table to look up facility names and affiliations. The Observation table has a many-to-one relationship with this table when linking with the appropriate `OrgID` (`IDOrgFiler`, `IDOrgHosp`, `IDOrgSite`, or `IDOrgTransfer`).
- **FIPA_OOD_2025_SubmissionLog_** contains one record per quarter for each facility filing data. The Observation table has a many-to-one relationship with this table when linking with `IDOrgFiler`.

The FY 2025 OOD does not contain the **ErrorLog** file that has been available in previous releases. If you find an issue in the data that could be the result of a submission error, please contact CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov.

Organization Identifiers

CHIA assigns a unique organization identifier (`OrgID`) to each Massachusetts facility. The FY 2025 OOD contains four elements that use this identifier:

- **Massachusetts Filer Organization ID (IDOrgFiler):** OrgID for the facility that submitted the observation stay data to CHIA.
- **Massachusetts Site Organization ID (IDOrgSite):** OrgID for the site where the patient received outpatient observation services.
- **Massachusetts Hospital Organization ID (IDOrgHosp):** OrgID for the main hospital affiliation where the patient received outpatient observation services. In many cases, IDOrgSite and IDOrgHosp are the same. In other cases, however, multiple IDOrgSite values are associated with a single IDOrgHosp. This may happen when a single hospital has multiple campuses (sites). For example, 3115 (UMass Memorial Medical Center) is the IDOrgHosp for IDOrgSite 131 (UMass Memorial Medical Center - University Campus).
- **Massachusetts Transfer Hospital Organization ID (IDOrgTransfer):** OrgID for the facility from which a patient is transferred. The IDOrgTransfer value is 9999999 if the patient is transferred from outside of Massachusetts.

Organization of Diagnosis and Procedure Codes

For the FY 2025 OOD, CHIA organizes all diagnosis and procedure elements on the Observation table. The primary diagnosis code on the medical record is contained in the PrincipalDiagnosisCode element. The primary procedure code on the medical record is contained in the PrincipalProcedureCode element. All secondary diagnoses are contained in the associated diagnosis elements (AssociatedDiagnosisCode1 – AssociatedDiagnosisCode15). All secondary procedures are contained in the associated procedure elements (AssociatedProcedureCode1 – AssociatedProcedureCode3). Up to 15 associated diagnoses and 3 associated procedures are permitted in each outpatient observation record for FY 2025 OOD.

Associated diagnoses and associated procedures are ordered as submitted; CHIA does not require the order of diagnoses and procedures to be medically relevant. CHIA does not affirm or confirm the medical relevance of the diagnosis or procedure codes reported in outpatient observation data.

Limited Data Set (LDS)

The pre-configured Limited Data Set (LDS) is designed to protect patient data confidentiality while ensuring analytic utility. All approved data applicants receive the core data elements, which includes some elements that have “LDS” in their names. The Release Level (not the name) of an element in the data dictionary or Request Template indicates if the element is available to all users (“CORE”), a buy-up (“LDS”), or available only to government (“GOV”).

- Data applicants seeking approval to add to the core elements must indicate this by selecting from the list of buy-ups. An applicant can use the buy-up process to receive more granular data. For example, the applicant can request a buy-up to a 5-digit patient ZIP code instead of a 3-digit patient ZIP code. CHIA must review buy-up requests and may approve the request based on the project description.
- CHIA makes an additional set of elements available only to government applicants. Government data applicants must specifically identify requested government-only elements in their application and provide justification for their request.

LDS Age Calculation

If the `PatientBirthDate` and `RegistrationDate` are valid, CHIA calculates `AgeLDS` in years using the following logic.

- `Age = RegistrationDate - PatientBirthDate`, rounded to the nearest integer
- If `Age` is valid and `< 1` year, then `AgeLDS = 0`
- If `Age` is valid and `> 0` and `< 90` years, then `AgeLDS = Age`
- If `Age` is valid and `> 89` and `<= 115`, then `AgeLDS = 999`
- If `Age` is missing, negative, or `> 115`, then `AgeLDS = null`

Use discretion when the `AgeLDS` calculation seems questionable.

MDM ID Sequence Number Calculation

CHIA's derived sequence number (`Observation_Sequence`) calculates the chronological order of outpatient observation stays for patients with multiple stays in a single fiscal year, using that patient's Master Enterprise Identifier (MEID) (`MemberMDMID`). The calculation below derives a similar sequence number (`MDMIDObservation_sequence`) using that patient's Master Enterprise Identifier (MEID) (`MemberMDMID`).

Please note:

- This code uses CHIA's default file names for the `Observation` table and `MEID` table. Rename database, schema, and table names according to your own system.
- To exclude records that do not have an MEID, change `LEFT JOIN` to `INNER JOIN`.
- This code applies if you have imported `RegistrationDate` as text. If you have transformed `RegistrationDate` into a date data type, simply order by `RegistrationDate`.

```
SELECT
    d.RecordType01ID,
    d.RegistrationDate,
    m.MemberMDMID,
```

```

CASE
    WHEN NULLIF(LTRIM(RTRIM(m.MemberMDMID)), '') IS NULL
         OR NULLIF(LTRIM(RTRIM(d.RegistrationDate)), '') IS
NULL
    THEN 0
    ELSE ROW_NUMBER() OVER (
        PARTITION BY m.MemberMDMID
        ORDER BY
            SUBSTRING(d.RegistrationDate, 5, 4) +
            SUBSTRING(d.RegistrationDate, 1, 2) +
            SUBSTRING(d.RegistrationDate, 3, 2)
        )
    END AS MDMIDObservation_sequence
FROM
[OODReleaseFY2025].[dbo].[FIPA_OOD_2025_Observation_Full_L137_Gov16]
    AS d
LEFT JOIN [OODReleaseFY2025].[dbo].[FIPA_OOD_2025_MEID_Mapping]
    AS m
ON m.RecordType01ID = d.RecordType01ID;

```

Historical Data Elements

Users of multiple years of the OOD should exercise caution when merging multiple years of data. To maintain consistency across years, it may be necessary to merge some codes used for specific data elements. For example, the transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS, affecting procedure and diagnosis codes, began in FY 2015 (October 2015). Users with questions about new data elements or changes in coding from year to year should contact CHIA at

CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov.

Master Data Elements by Table

For the FY 2025 OOD, CHIA provides a master data elements list by table. Not every approved data applicant has access to every data element; some are reserved for limited data set buy-ups or for approved government use. All approved data applicants have access to the “CORE” data, as denoted in the Release Level category. Data applicants who choose limited data set buy-ups may receive access to some “LDS” elements, as denoted in the Release Level category (not necessarily the name). Only government data applicants may have access to the “GOV” elements. Data applicants interested in purchasing the data should visit the CHIA website for instructions.

Observation Table – Core Elementsv11

Core VISIT ELEMENTS COLUMN 1	CORE ELEMENTS COLUMN 2	CORE ELEMENTS COLUMN 3
AgeLDS	IdOrgSite	PrincipalExternalCauseCode
AssocConditionPresentCode1-10	IdOrgTransfer	PrincipalProcedureCode
AssociatedDiagnosisCode1-15	LengthOfStayHours	RecordType01ID
AssociatedProcedureCode1-3	NewbornAgeWeeks	SecondaryPayerType
Charges	NumberOfHoursInED	SecondarySourceOfPayment
CPTCode1-10	OtherCareGiver	SecondarySourceOfVisit
DaysBetweenObsStays	PatientSexAtBirthLDS	SourceOfVisit
DepartureStatus	PermanentPatientCountryLDS	SubmissionControlID
ED_Flag	PermanentPatientStateLDS	SubmissionQuarter
HispanicIndicator	PermanentPatientZIP3CodeLDS	SubmissionYear
Homeless	PrimaryPayerType	TemporaryPatientStateLDS
ICDIndicator	PrimarySourceOfPayment	TemporaryPatientZip3CodeLDS
IdOrgFiler	PrincipalConditionPresent	TypeOfVisitObs
IdOrgHosp	PrincipalDiagnosisCode	VisitPassed

Observation Table – LDS Elements

LDS Elements Column 1	LDS Elements Column 2	LDS Elements Column 3
AssociatedProcedureCode1Date	EDDisMonth	PhysicianNumber
AssociatedProcedureCode1YY YYMM	EDRegDate	PrincipalProcedureCodeDate
AssociatedProcedureCode2Date	EDRegMonth	PrincipalProcedureCodeYYYYMM M
AssociatedProcedureCode2YY YYMM	Ethnicity1-2	Race1-2
AssociatedProcedureCode3Date	LegacyCHIAMothersUHIN	RegistrationDate
AssociatedProcedureCode3YY YYMM	LegacyCHIAPatientUHIN	RegistrationMonth
DischargeDate	ObservationSequence	RegistrationYear
DischargeMonth	OtherPhysicianNumber	SurgeonAssociatedProcedure1-3
DischargeYear	PermanentPatientCityLDS	TemporaryPatientCityLDS
EDDisDate	PermanentPatientZIP5CodeLDS	TemporaryPatientZip5CodeLDS

Observation Table – Government-Only Elements

GOV Elements Column 1	GOV Elements Column 2
EDDisTime	MedicaidMemberID
EDDisTimeHH	MedicalRecordNumber
EDDisTimeMM	OtherEthnicity
EDRegTime	OtherRace
EDRegTimeHH	PatientBirthDate
EDRegTimeMM	RegistrationTime
HospitalBillNumber	N/A

Organization Table

This table contains one record for every valid IDOrgSite reported in the FY 2025 OOD. It lists the 67 organizations submitting outpatient observation data in FY 2025.

Site OrgID	Organization Name	FY 2025 Discharge Volume
1	Anna Jaques Hospital	1,472
2	Athol Memorial Hospital	334
4	Baystate Medical Center	12,274
5	Baystate Franklin Medical Center	1,509
7	Berkshire Medical Center - Berkshire Campus	4,022
8	Fairview Hospital	273
10	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center - East Campus	9,714
16	Boston Medical Center - Menino Pavilion Campus	19,262
22	Brigham and Women's Hospital	8,780
25	Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital	3,669
27	Cambridge Health Alliance - Cambridge Hospital Campus	1,580
39	Cape Cod Hospital	5,827
40	Falmouth Hospital	1,678
46	Boston Children's Hospital	10,647
49	MetroWest Medical Center - Framingham Campus	1,185
50	Cooley Dickinson Hospital	1,992
51	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	50
53	Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham	2,902
57	Emerson Hospital	2,425
59	Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital	4,974
62	Boston Medical Center – South	1,164
68	UMass Memorial Health – Harrington Hospital	1,553
71	HealthAlliance - Leominster Campus	2,107
73	Heywood Hospital	1,604
75	Merrimack Health Methuen Hospital	742
77	Holyoke Medical Center	502
79	Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Plymouth	5,567

Site OrgID	Organization Name	FY 2025 Discharge Volume
81	Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Burlington	4,132
83	Merrimack Health Lawrence Hospital	3,578
85	Lowell General Hospital	4,134
88	Martha's Vineyard Hospital	636
89	Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary	696
91	Massachusetts General Hospital	17,780
97	UMass Memorial Health – Milford Regional Medical Center	5,319
98	Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Milton	2,960
99	Morton Hospital	746
100	Mount Auburn Hospital	2,671
101	Nantucket Cottage Hospital	384
103	New England Baptist Hospital	55
104	Tufts Medical Center	4,070
105	Newton-Wellesley Hospital	6,275
106	Baystate Noble Hospital	1,749
109	Lahey Health - Addison Gilbert Hospital	667
110	Lahey Health - Beverly Hospital	2,468
114	Saint Anne's Hospital	1,112
115	Lowell General Hospital – Saints Campus	3,252
116	North Shore Medical Center - Salem Campus	7,993
119	Mercy Medical Center - Springfield Campus	2,937
122	South Shore Hospital	10,097
123	Southcoast Hospitals Group - Charlton Memorial Campus	5,157
124	Southcoast Hospitals Group - St. Luke's Campus	8,114
126	Boston Medical Center – Brighton	626
127	Saint Vincent Hospital	1,756
129	Sturdy Memorial Hospital	3,633
130	UMass Memorial Medical Center - Memorial Campus	2,797
131	UMass Memorial Medical Center - University Campus	7,140
132	HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital Campus	250

Site OrgID	Organization Name	FY 2025 Discharge Volume
133	UMass Memorial Health – Marlborough Hospital	1,389
138	Winchester Hospital	2,404
139	Baystate Wing Campus	1,542
141	MelroseWakefield Hospital Campus - MelroseWakefield Healthcare	4,124
142	Cambridge Health Alliance - Everett Hospital Campus	1,801
145	Southcoast Hospitals Group - Tobey Hospital Campus	2,045
4448	Lahey Medical Center, Peabody	217
6963	Shriners Hospitals for Children Boston	42
11466	Merrimack Health Haverhill Hospital	78
21965	North Adams Regional Hospital	340

Data Dictionary

This section provides the following metadata for each element:

- Data Element Name as it appears in the file
- Short Description
- Primary Table: main table/file in which the element appears
- Linking Table: other table(s) in which the element appears
- Release Level: indicates if the element is available to all users (“CORE”), a buy-up (“LDS”), or available only to government (“GOV”)
- Data Type: Bigint, Char, Datetime, Decimal, Integer, Numeric, Varbinary, or Varchar
- Format: Categorical, Continuous, Date/Time, Identifier, or Open Text, with additional formatting details as relevant
- CHIA-Derived: indicates if CHIA created the element
- Description: longer explanation of the element and its limitations
- Reference Table: indicates if the data element has set of valid values that are associated with other information. Refer to the Longer Reference Tables section at the end of this guide for specific reference tables.

For more specific questions about OOD data elements, contact CHIA at

CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov. If applicable, include the related Application ID, name of Principal Investigator, and extract number. Please keep questions brief to improve response time.

Active

Short Description:	CHIA processing element
Primary Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	CHIA-derived element that indicates the status of the associated quarterly submission. In user files, this element will always have a value of “Y” (Yes).

AgeLDS

Short Description:	Patient age
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Age of the patient as calculated by CHIA using <code>PatientBirthDate</code> and <code>RegistrationDate</code> . AgeLDS is rounded up to the nearest integer. The value is "0" when patient is younger than 1 year of age. The value is "999" when the patient is older than 89 years of age. Discretion should be used whenever a questionable age assignment is noted.

AssocConditionPresentCode1-10

Short Description:	Flags whether associated condition was present on admission
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code indicating whether onset of the associated condition preceded or was followed by admission to the observation unit. There is a Present on Admission (POA) indicator for 96% of the diagnosis and external cause codes on the observation records. Certain diagnosis codes are exempt from POA reporting, in which case the element will be empty.
Reference Table:	Table 2. Condition Present

AssociatedDiagnosisCode1-15

Short Description:	ICD-10-CM code for associated diagnosis
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	7
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis code for the associated condition observed during the observation stay. Excludes the decimal point. May be an external cause code (V00–Y89) or supplementary factor code (Y90–Y99) if the principal external cause code is present on the <code>PrincipalExternalCauseCode</code> element.
Reference Table:	Standard ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes

AssociatedProcedureCode1-3

Short Description:	ICD-10-PCS code for associated procedure
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	7
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS) code for the associated procedure performed during the observation stay. Over 400 new procedure codes were added by CMS for FY 2025. Refer to the CMS website ³ for more information.
Reference Table:	Standard ICD-10-PCS Procedure Codes

³ <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/icd-10-codes>

AssociatedProcedureCode1Date-3Date

Short Description:	Associated procedure date
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMMDD)
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Date on which the associated procedure was performed. See <code>AssociatedProcedureCode1-3</code> for the procedure codes. This element will only be populated if the corresponding <code>AssociatedProcedureCode</code> element is populated.

AssociatedProcedureCode1YYYYMM-3YYYYMM

Short Description:	Month and year of associated procedure date
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMM)
Length:	6
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Month and year portion of the date on which the associated procedure was performed. See <code>AssociatedProcedureCode1-3</code> for the procedure codes. This element will only be populated if the corresponding <code>AssociatedProcedureCode</code> element is populated.

Charges

Short Description:	Total stay costs
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The total charges associated with the observation stay, rounded to the nearest dollar.

City

Short Description:	Municipality of facility
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	100
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Name of the municipality in which the observation unit is located.

CPTCode1-10

Short Description:	Procedure code
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	7
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code for the procedure reported by the facility.
Reference Table:	Standard CPT codes

Datelnative

Short Description:	Date facility became inactive
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Datetime
Format:	Date/Time (YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS.SSS)
Length:	23
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Date on which the observation unit became inactive, if applicable.

DaysBetweenObsStays

Short Description:	Days between observation stays
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	The number of days between each observation stay for applicable patients. A match with the Unique Health Information Number (UHIN) is used to determine that the patient has been readmitted.

DepartureStatus

Short Description:	Patient status at discharge
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The status, disposition, and destination of the patient at discharge from the observation unit.
Reference Table:	Codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • 1: Routine • 2: Admit to hospital • 3: Transferred • 4: Left against medical advice (AMA) • 5: Expired

DischargeDate

Short Description:	Discharge date
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMMDD)
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Date on which the patient was discharged from the outpatient observation unit.

DischargeMonth

Short Description:	Month of patient discharge date
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	6
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Month of the date on which the patient was discharged from the outpatient observation unit, derived by CHIA from <code>DischargeDate</code> . Given as a two-digit value between 01 (January) and 12 (December).

DischargeYear

Short Description:	Year of patient discharge date
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Year of the date on which the patient was discharged from the outpatient observation unit, derived by CHIA from <code>DischargeDate</code> .

ED_Flag

Short Description:	Indicates if observation stay is associated with a recent emergency department visit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code indicating whether the observation stay is associated with a recent emergency department (ED) visit.
Reference Table:	Numeric codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • 0: Not admitted to observation from the ED/no ED visit(s) reflected on this record • 1: Not admitted to observation from the ED but ED visit(s) reflected in this record • 2: Admitted to observation from the ED

EDDisDate

Short Description:	Date of patient discharge from emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (MMDDYYYY)
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Date on which the patient was discharged from the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit.

EDDisMonth

Short Description:	Month of patient discharge from emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Month of the date on which the patient was discharged from the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given as an integer between 1 (January) and 12 (December).

EDDisTime

Short Description:	Time of patient discharge from emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date/Time (HHMM)
Length:	4
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Time of patient discharge from the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given in military time, with values ranging from 0000 to 2359.

EDDisTimeHH

Short Description:	Hour of patient discharge from emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Hour the patient was discharged from the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given as a two-digit value corresponding to the hourly designations of military time. See also <code>EDDisTime</code> and <code>EDDisTimeMM</code> .

EDDisTimeMM

Short Description:	Minute of patient discharge from emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Minute the patient was discharged from the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given as a two-digit value corresponding to the minutes in an hour. See also <code>EDDisTime</code> and <code>EDDisTimeHH</code> .

EDRegDate

Short Description:	Date of patient registration at emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (MMDDYYYY)
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Date on which the patient was registered at the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay began in the ED.

EDRegMonth

Short Description:	Month of patient discharge from emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Month of the date on which the patient was registered at the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given as an integer between 1 (January) and 12 (December).

EDRegTime

Short Description:	Time of patient registration at emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date/Time (HHMM)
Length:	4
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Time of patient registration at the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given in military time, with values ranging from 0000 to 2359.

EDRegTimeHH

Short Description:	Hour of patient registration at emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Hour the patient was registered at the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given as a two-digit value corresponding to the hourly designations of military time. See also EDRegTime and EDRegTimeMM .

EDRegTimeMM

Short Description:	Minute of patient registration at emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Minute the patient was registered at the hospital's emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit. Given as a two-digit value corresponding to the minutes in an hour. See also EDRegTime and EDRegTimeHH .

Ethnicity1, Ethnicity2

Short Description:	Patient ethnicity
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Primary (Ethnicity1) or secondary (Ethnicity2) ethnicity as reported by the provider. CHIA's provider community utilizes the full list of standard ethnicity codes, per the code set available on CHIA's website ⁴ and the specific values listed below. Note that codes for this element were updated in the FY 25 Submission Guides.
Reference Table:	Codes correspond to description as follows: • AMER: American • BRAZ: Brazilian • CANADA: Canadian • CAPE-V: Cape Verdean • CARIB: Caribbean Islander • E-EUR: Eastern European • PORT: Portuguese • RUSSN: Russian • OTH: Other • UNK: Unknown • DONTKNOW: Don't know • ASKU: Choose not to answer • UTC: Unable to collect this information on patient due to lack of clinical capacity of patient to respond

GroupName

Short Description:	System name
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	250
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Type of system that runs the observation unit. See <code>OrganizationGroupID</code> for the code associated with the group name.

⁴ <https://www.chiamass.gov/assets/docs/p/case-mix/FY25-Case-Mix-Submission-Guides/CDC-Ethnicity-Codes.pdf>

HispanicIndicator

Short Description:	Indicates whether patient was Hispanic
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	A flag for patients of Hispanic/Latino/Spanish culture or origin regardless of race, using the codes below. Note that codes for this element were updated in the FY 25 Submission Guides.
Reference Table:	Codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • 2135-2: Patient is Hispanic/Latino/Spanish • 2186-5: Patient is not Hispanic/Latino/Spanish • DONTKNOW: Don't know • ASKU: Choose not to answer • UNK: Unknown • UTC: Unable to collect this information on patient due to lack of clinical capacity of patient to respond

Homeless

Short Description:	Indicates whether patient was homeless
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	8
Description:	This flag indicates whether the patient was homeless at the time of observation stay, using the following codes. Note that codes for this element were updated in the FY 25 Submission Guides.
Reference Table:	Codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • Y: Patient is known to be homeless • N: Patient is not known to be homeless • UNK: Unknown • DONTKNOW: Don't know • ASKU: Choose not to answer • UTC: Unable to collect this information on patient due to lack of clinical capacity of patient to respond

HospitalBillNumber

Short Description:	Unique patient billing record
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Identifier
Length:	256
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Facility-unique number associated with all billing for the stay.

ICDIndicator

Short Description:	ICD version
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code indicating which version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is used for the diagnosis codes, external cause codes, and procedure codes on the record. In a user file, all ICD codes use the 10 th revision (ICD-10-CM/PCS), corresponding to a value of "0" in the <code>ICDIndicator</code> element.

IDOrgFiler

Short Description:	Submitting facility ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Linking Table:	MEID_Mapping
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Organization ID for the facility that submitted the observation stay data to CHIA.
Reference Table:	Organization Table

IDOrgHosp

Short Description:	Main facility ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Organization ID for the main hospital affiliation where the patient received outpatient observation care.
Reference Table:	Organization Table

IDOrgSite

Short Description:	Treating facility ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Organization ID for the site where the patient received outpatient observation care.
Reference Table:	Organization Table

IDOrgTransfer

Short Description:	Transferring facility ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Organization ID for the facility from which the patient was transferred. The IDOrgTransfer value is "9999999" for patients transferred from outside of Massachusetts.
Reference Table:	Organization Table

LegacyCHIAMothersUHIN

Short Description:	Patient's mother's unique ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varbinary
Format:	Identifier
Length:	64
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	CHIA-generated unique identifier of the newborn's mother, if the patient is a newborn. For newborns or infants less than 1 year old, CHIA derives a Unique Health Information Number (UHIN) for the patient's mother. This unique ID allows a newborn visit to be associated with the mother and is linkable across records and fiscal years. The UHIN is generated based on the unique information reported by hospitals. In cases where insufficient information is reported by hospitals, a value of "000000001" is assigned to the UHIN element. In cases where invalid information is reported by hospitals, a value of "4" is assigned to the UHIN element. Invalid information may occur when demographic information (age, sex, etc.) is not consistent within the same UHIN record.

LegacyCHIAPatientUHIN

Short Description:	Patient's unique ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varbinary
Format:	Identifier
Length:	64
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	CHIA-generated unique identifier for the patient. CHIA gives each patient a Unique Health Information Number (UHIN), which is a surrogate key that can link patients over time and across facilities. The UHIN is generated based on the unique information reported by hospitals. In cases where insufficient information is reported by hospitals, a value of "000000001" is assigned to the UHIN element. In cases where invalid information is reported by hospitals, a value of "4" is assigned to the UHIN element. Invalid information may occur when demographic information (age, sex, etc.) is not consistent within the same UHIN record.

LengthOfStayHours

Short Description:	Count of hours in observation unit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Decimal
Format:	Continuous
Length:	18.4
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Number of hours the patient spent in the observation unit, as reported by facility.

MedicaidMemberID

Short Description:	Patient's unique MassHealth ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Identifier
Length:	256
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Unique MassHealth identifier for the patient.

MedicalRecordNumber

Short Description:	Patient's unique facility-assigned ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Identifier
Length:	256
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The unique number assigned to each patient within the facility that distinguishes the patient and the patient's medical record(s) from all others in that facility.

MemberMDMID

Short Description:	Patient's unique surrogate key
Primary Table:	MEID Mapping
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Bigint
Format:	Identifier
Length:	19
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	CHIA-generated unique surrogate key for each patient. CHIA uses the Master Patient Index (MPI) approach to create a unique MemberMDMID value for each distinct patient within the Case Mix data. MemberMDMID provides a way to identify unique patients without using personally identifying information. The MemberMDMID element enables the tracking of patients over time, across sites of care, and across payers.

NewbornAgeWeeks

Short Description:	Newborn age in weeks
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Newborn age in weeks for patients less than 1 year old. Given as an integer between 0 and 52. NewbornAgeWeeks is determined by calculating the number of weeks between PatientBirthDate and RegistrationDate and rounding to the nearest integer.

NumberOfHoursInED

Short Description:	Count of hours in the emergency department
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Decimal
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10.2
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Number of hours spent in the emergency department (ED), if the observation stay is associated with a recent ED visit.

NumberOfObservations

Short Description:	Number of observation stays in data submission
Primary Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Total number of registered observation stays for the facility during the reporting period, including any observation stays that originated in the emergency department.

ObservationSequence

Short Description:	Order of observation stays for patient
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Continuous
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	This calculated element indicates the chronological order of observation stays for patients with multiple stays in a fiscal year. A match with the Unique Health Information Number (UHIN) is used to make the determination that a patient has had multiple stays. <code>ObservationSequence</code> uses the following data conventions: (1) The sequence number is calculated by sorting the file by UHIN and <code>RegistrationDate</code> (in ascending order). (2) The sequence number is then calculated by assigning a counter to the stays under each UHIN. A sequence number of “1” indicates the first stay for the UHIN in that fiscal year; (3) If a UHIN has two registrations on the same date, <code>RegistrationTime</code> is used as a secondary sort key; (4) If the UHIN is undefined (not reported, unknown or invalid), the <code>ObservationSequence</code> value is set to zero.

OrganizationGroupID

Short Description:	System ID
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Code for the type of system that runs the observation unit. See <code>GroupName</code> for the description corresponding to the Group ID.

OrganizationName

Short Description:	Facility name
Primary Table:	Organization
Linking Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Open Text
Length:	500
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Name of the facility that houses the observation unit. See <code>OrgID</code> for the code corresponding to the organization name

OrganizationNumber

Short Description:	Facility ID
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Identifier
Length:	200
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Unique identifier of the facility that houses the observation unit. Generally, <code>OrgID</code> should be used as the primary identifier for facilities. However, <code>OrganizationNumber</code> had historical utility with respect to certain legacy reference numbers.

OrganizationTypeID

Short Description:	Facility type ID
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code for the type of facility that houses the observation unit. See <code>Type</code> for the corresponding type description.

OrgID

Short Description:	Facility ID
Primary Table:	Organization
Linking Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Unique identifier of the facility that houses the outpatient observation unit. <code>OrgID</code> is used to link facilities across tables and fiscal years.
Reference Table:	Organization Table

OtherCareGiver

Short Description:	Type of additional caregiver
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The type of primary caregiver responsible for the patient's care other than the attending physician, operating room physician, or nurse midwife.
Reference Table:	Numeric codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • 1: Resident • 2: Intern • 3: Nurse Practitioner • 4: Not Used • 5: Physician Assistant

OtherEthnicity

Short Description:	Non-standard patient ethnicity designation(s)
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	20
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient's ethnicity as entered by the facility. <code>OtherEthnicity</code> is used to report additional ethnicities, particularly when <code>Ethnicity1</code> or <code>Ethnicity2</code> has a value of "OTH" (Other).

OtherPhysicianNumber

Short Description:	Unique identifier of attending physician
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Identifier
Length:	25
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Unique identifier for the lead physician who supervised patient care during the outpatient observation stay. Valid values are the physician's Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) number or "DENSG", "PODTR", "OTHER", "MIDWIF", "NURSEP" or "PHYAST" for Dental Surgeon, Podiatrist, Other (i.e., non-permanent licensed physician), Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant, respectively.
Reference Table:	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine license numbers

OtherRace

Short Description:	Non-standard patient race designation(s)
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	15
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient's race as entered by the facility. <code>OtherRace</code> is used to report additional races, particularly when <code>Race1</code> or <code>Race2</code> has a value of "OTH" (Other).

Passed

Short Description:	CHIA processing element
Primary Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Indicates that the given submission has passed CHIA intake. In user files, this element will always have a value of "P" (Passed).

PatientBirthDate

Short Description:	Patient date of birth
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMMDD)
Length:	12
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Calendar date of patient's birth.

PatientSexAtBirthLDS

Short Description:	Patient sex at birth
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient sex assigned at birth. Note that this element was renamed from <code>SexLDS</code> for FY 25 and new codes were added to the FY 25 Submission Guides.

Reference Table: Codes correspond to descriptions as follows:

- M: Male
- F: Female
- UNK: Unknown
- DONTKNOW: Don't know
- ASKU: Choose not to answer
- UTC: Unable to collect this information on patient due to lack of clinical capacity of patient to respond

PermanentPatientCityLDS

Short Description:	Permanent municipality of residence for patient
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	25
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Primary municipality of residence for the patient. In the LDS file for non-government data users, the data release will only include city information for residents of Massachusetts. Any questions concerning city information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

PermanentPatientCountryLDS

Short Description:	Permanent country of residence for patient
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	20
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Permanent country of residence for the patient, reported using International Standards Organization (ISO - 3166) 2-letter country codes. In the CORE and LDS files, the data release will only include country information for the United States (US), Canada (CA), and Mexico (MX). All other countries will be designated by ZZ. Any questions concerning country information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

PermanentPatientStateLDS

Short Description:	Permanent state of residence for patient
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Permanent state of residence for the patient, reported using USPS 2-letter state abbreviations. In the CORE and LDS files, the data release will only include state information for Massachusetts (MA), Connecticut (CT), Maine (ME), New Hampshire (NH), New York (NY), Vermont (VT), and Rhode Island (RI). All other states in the US will be designated by XX. Any questions concerning state information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .
Reference Table:	Table 5. State

PermanentPatientZIP3CodeLDS

Short Description:	3-digit ZIP code of patient's permanent residence
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	5
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	First three digits of the patient's permanent ZIP code. In the CORE file, if the patient's permanent residence is not in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, or Rhode Island, ZIP codes are set to zeros (0s) and the state is removed. Any questions concerning ZIP code information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

PermanentPatientZIP5CodeLDS

Short Description:	5-digit ZIP code of patient's permanent residence
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	5
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	First five digits of the patient's permanent ZIP code. In the LDS file for non-government data users, if the patient's permanent residence is not in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, or Rhode Island, ZIP codes are set to zeros (0s) and the state is removed. Any questions concerning ZIP code information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

PhysicianNumber

Short Description:	Unique identifier of principal surgeon
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Identifier
Length:	25
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Unique identifier for the surgeon who performed the primary procedure for the observation stay. Valid values are the surgeon's Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) number or "DENSG", "PODTR", "OTHER", "MIDWIF", "NURSEP" or "PHYAST" for Dental Surgeon, Podiatrist, Other (i.e., non-permanent licensed physician), Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant, respectively.
Reference Table:	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine license numbers

PrimaryPayerType

Short Description:	Primary payer type for observation stay
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient's expected primary payer type for the outpatient observation stay. Reported as a single character code indicating the type of payer who has primary responsibility for the payment of the services related to the stay.
Reference Table:	Table 3. Payer Type

PrimarySourceOfPayment

Short Description:	Primary payment source for observation stay
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	4
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient's expected primary payment source for the outpatient observation stay. Reported as a three-character code indicating the source of the payment for services related to the stay.
Reference Table:	Table 4. Payment Source

PrincipalConditionPresent

Short Description:	Flags whether the condition was present on admission
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code indicating whether the onset of the principal condition preceded or was followed by admission to the observation unit. There is a Present on Admission (POA) indicator for 96% of the diagnosis and external cause codes on the observation records. Certain diagnosis codes are exempt from POA reporting, in which case the element will be empty.
Reference Table:	Table 2. Condition Present

PrincipalDiagnosisCode

Short Description:	ICD-10-CM code for primary condition
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Data Type:	Categorical
Length:	7
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis code for the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for the admission of the patient to the observation unit.
Reference Table:	Standard ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes

PrincipalExternalCauseCode

Short Description:	ICD-10-CM external cause code for primary condition
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Data Type:	Categorical
Length:	7
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes for the principal external cause of injuries, poisonings, and/or adverse effects. In addition to the dedicated external cause code element, facilities record additional external cause codes in the associated diagnosis elements (AssociatedDiagnosisCode1-15) for conditions having multiple causes.
Reference Table:	Standard ICD-10-CM V00–Y99 Codes

PrincipalProcedureCode

Short Description:	ICD-10-PCS code for principal procedure
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	7
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS) code for the chief procedure performed during the observation stay.

PrincipalProcedureCodeDate

Short Description:	Date principal procedure was performed
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMMDD)
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Date on which the principal procedure was performed. For records without a principal procedure, this element will be blank. Certain blank date elements may be populated with “19000101” in the FY 2025 OOD. These values can be recoded as NULL.

PrincipalProcedureCodeYYYYMM

Short Description:	Month and year of principal procedure date
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMM)
Length:	6
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Month and year of the date on which the principal procedure date was performed. For records without a principal procedure, this element will be blank. Certain blank date elements may be populated with “190001” in the FY 2025 OOD. These values can be recoded as NULL.

Quarter

Short Description:	Quarter of data submission
Primary Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Quarter for which the observation stay data was submitted to CHIA. Possible values are 1, 2, 3, and 4, corresponding to the first, second, third, and fourth quarters, respectively.

Race1, Race2

Short Description:	Patient race
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Primary race as reported by the facility. CHIA's provider community utilizes the full list of standard race codes, per the code set available on CHIA's website ⁵ and the values listed below. Note that codes for this element were updated in the FY 25 Submission Guides.
Reference Table:	Codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • 1002-5: American Indian/Alaska Native • 2028-9: Asian • 2054-5: Black/African American • 2076-8: Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander • 2106-3: White • OTH: Other Race • DONTKNOW: Don't know • ASKU: Choose not to answer • UNK: Unknown • UTC: Unable to collect this information on patient due to lack of clinical capacity of patient to respond

RecordType01ID

Short Description:	Unique key for stay
Primary Table:	Observation
Linking Table:	MEID_Mapping
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Unique identifier for the outpatient observation stay. Note that this element distinguishes unique visits rather than unique individuals.

⁵ <https://www.chiamass.gov/wp-content/uploads/docs/p/case-mix/FY25-Case-Mix-Submission-Guides/CDC-Ethnicity-Codes.pdf>

RegistrationDate

Short Description:	Date of registration at observation unit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date (YYYYMMDD)
Length:	8
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Date on which the patient was admitted to the facility for the outpatient observation stay.

RegistrationMonth

Short Description:	Month of registration at observation unit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	6
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Month of the date on which the patient was admitted to the facility for the outpatient observation stay. Given as a two-digit value between 01 (January) and 12 (December).

RegistrationTime

Short Description:	Time of registration at observation unit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	GOV
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Date/Time (HHMM)
Length:	4
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Time of patient admission to the facility for the outpatient observation stay. Given in military time, with values ranging from 0000 to 2359.

RegistrationYear

Short Description:	Year of registration at observation unit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Year of the date on which the patient was admitted to the facility for the outpatient observation stay.

SecondaryPayerType

Short Description:	Secondary payer type for observation stay
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient's expected secondary payer type for the outpatient observation stay. Reported as a single character indicating the type of payer who has secondary responsibility for the payment of the services related to the stay.
Reference Table:	Table 3. Payer Type

SecondarySourceOfPayment

Short Description:	Secondary payment source for observation stay
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	4
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Patient's expected secondary payment source for the outpatient observation stay. Reported as a three-character code indicating the source of the payment for services related to the stay.
Reference Table:	Table 4. Payment Source

SecondarySourceOfVisit

Short Description:	Secondary source of visit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code representing the secondary source originating, referring, or transferring the patient to the outpatient observation unit.
Reference Table:	Table 1. Source of Visit

SourceOfVisit

Short Description:	Source of visit
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code representing the primary source originating, referring, or transferring the patient to the outpatient observation unit.
Reference Table:	Table 1. Source of Visit

State

Short Description:	Facility state
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	State in which the observation facility is located, reported using USPS 2-letter state abbreviations.
Reference Table:	Table 5. State

SubmissionControlID

Short Description:	Submission ID
Primary Table:	Observation
Linking Tables:	SubmissionLog MEID_Mapping
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Identifier
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Unique identifier for the data submission. A unique <code>SubmissionControlID</code> value is assigned to each quarterly submission from each facility.

SubmissionQuarter

Short Description:	Quarter of data submission
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Quarter for which the observation stay data was submitted to CHIA. Possible values are 1, 2, 3, and 4, corresponding to the first, second, third, and fourth quarters, respectively.

SubmissionYear

Short Description:	Year of data submission
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Year for which the observation stay data was submitted to CHIA.

SurgeonAssociatedProcedure1-3

Short Description:	ICD-10-PCS/CPT code for significant procedure
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	25
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Unique identifier for the physician who performed the associated procedure. Valid values are the surgeon's Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) number or "DENSG", "PODTR", "OTHER", "MIDWIF", "NURSEP" or "PHYAST" for Dental Surgeon, Podiatrist, Other (i.e., nonpermanent licensed physician), Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant, respectively.
Reference Table:	Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine license numbers

TemporaryPatientCityLDS

Short Description:	Temporary municipality of residence for patient
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	25
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Current municipality of residence for the patient, if different from permanent residence. In the LDS file for non-government data users, the data release will only include city information for residents of Massachusetts. Any questions concerning city information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

TemporaryPatientStateLDS

Short Description:	Temporary state of residence for patient
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	2
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Current state of residence for patient, if different from permanent residence. Reported using USPS 2-letter state abbreviations. In the CORE and LDS files, the data release will only include state information for Massachusetts (MA), Connecticut (CT), Maine (ME), New Hampshire (NH), New York (NY), Vermont (VT), and Rhode Island (RI). All other states in the US will be designated by XX. Any questions concerning state information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .
Reference Table:	Table 5. State

TemporaryPatientZip3CodeLDS

Short Description:	3-digit ZIP code of patient's temporary residence
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	5
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	First three digits of the patient's current ZIP code, if different from permanent ZIP code. In the CORE file, if the patient's temporary residence is not in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, or Rhode Island, ZIP codes are set to zeros (0s) and the state is removed. Any questions concerning ZIP code information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

TemporaryPatientZip5CodeLDS

Short Description:	5-digit ZIP code of patient's temporary residence
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	LDS
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	5
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	First five digits of the patient's current ZIP code, if different from permanent ZIP code. In the LDS file for non-government data users, if the patient's temporary residence is not in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, or Rhode Island, ZIP codes are set to zeros (0s) and the state is removed. Any questions concerning ZIP code information can be addressed by contacting CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov .

TotalCharges

Short Description:	Total observation stay charges for facility submission
Primary Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Numeric
Format:	Continuous
Length:	19.4
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Total charges for all outpatient observation stays at the facility for the given quarterly data submission. Rounded to the nearest whole number.

Type

Short Description:	Facility type
Primary Table:	Organization
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	50
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	The type of facility where the patient received outpatient observation services. See <code>OrganizationTypeID</code> for the corresponding type code.

TypeOfVisitObs

Short Description:	Type of observation stay
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Varchar
Format:	Categorical
Length:	1
CHIA-Derived:	No
Description:	Code representing the type of observation stay.
Reference Table:	Numeric codes correspond to descriptions as follows: • 1: Emergency • 2: Urgent • 3: Elective • 4: Newborn • 5: Information Unavailable • 6: Trauma

VisitPassed

Short Description:	CHIA processing element
Primary Table:	Observation
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Code indicating whether the observation stay has passed CHIA intake.

Year

Short Description:	Year of data submission
Primary Table:	SubmissionLog
Release Level:	CORE
Data Type:	Integer
Format:	Categorical
Length:	10
CHIA-Derived:	Yes
Description:	Year for which the observation stay data was submitted to CHIA.

Longer Reference Tables

The FY 2025 OOD has several standard reference tables. These relate to categorical variables that are driven by the [Outpatient Observation Database Submission Guide](#). Some of the tables have been integrated into the data dictionary. This section contains longer tables used by multiple data elements. Users of the data with additional questions about any specific reference table should contact CHIA at CaseMix.data@chiamass.gov.

Table 1. Source of Visit

Principal Data Element: SourceOfVisit
Other Data Elements: SecondarySourceOfVisit
Rules: All other values are invalid.
Last Updated: 04/2020

CODE	DESCRIPTION
0	Information Not Available
1	Direct Physician Referral
2	Within Hospital Clinic Referral
3	Direct Health Plan Referral/HMO Referral
4	Transfer from Acute Hospital
5	Transfer from a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)
6	Transfer from Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)
7	Outside Hospital Emergency Room Transfer
8	Court/Law Enforcement
9	Other (to include level 4 Nursing Facility)
F	Transfer from a Hospice Facility
J	Transfer from another unit within same hospital
K	Transfer from a Designated Disaster Alternative Care Site
L	Outside Hospital Clinic Referral
M	Walk-In/Self-Referral
R	Within Hospital ER Transfer
T	Transfer from Another Institution's Ambulatory Surgery (SDS)
U	Transfer to Swing bed in same facility
V	Transfer from another facility to Swing bed

CODE	DESCRIPTION
W	Extramural Birth
X	Observation
Y	Within Hospital Ambulatory Surgery Transfer (SDS Transfer)

Table 2. Condition Present

Principal Data Element: PrincipalConditionPresent
Other Data Elements: AssocConditionPresentCode1-10
Rules: All other values are invalid.
Last Updated: 01/31/2017

CODE	DESCRIPTION
Y	Yes
N	No
U	Unknown
W	Clinically undetermined
1	Exempt
A	Not applicable (only valid for NCHS official published list of not applicable ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM codes for POA flag)
[Blank]	Not applicable (only valid for NCHS official published list of not applicable ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM codes for POA flag)

Table 3. Payer Type

Principal Data Element: PrimaryPayerType
Other Data Elements: SecondaryPayerType
Rules: All other values are invalid.
Last Updated: 10/01/2024
Note: New code “P” added in FY 25.
Refer to complete listing at: [CHIA Payer Type/Source Codes](#)
(sheet titled “FY21-FY26 Payer Type”)

PAYER TYPE CODE	PAYER TYPE ABBREVIATION	PAYER TYPE DEFINITION
1	SP	Self-Pay
2	WOR	Worker's Compensation
3	MCR	Medicare
F	MCR-MC	Medicare Managed Care (includes Medicare Advantage)
4	MCD	Medicaid
B	MCD-MC	Medicaid Managed Care / MCO
5	GOV	Other Government Payment
7	COM	Commercial Insurance
D	COM-MC	Commercial Managed Care
8	HMO	HMO
9	FC	Free Care
0	OTH	Other Non-Managed Care Plans
E	PPO	PPO and Other Managed Care Plans Not Elsewhere Classified
H	HSN	Health Safety Net
J	POS	Point-of-Service Plan
K	EPO	Exclusive Provider Organization
T	AI	Auto Insurance
N	None	None (Valid only for Secondary Payer)
Q	CommCare	Commonwealth Care/Connector Care Plans
Z	DEN	Dental Plans
S	SCO/ICO	Senior Care Options / Integrated Care Organization
A	MCD-ACO	Medicaid Accountable Care Organization
C	COM-ACO	Commercial Accountable Care Organization
P	PACE	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
1	SP	Self-Pay
2	WOR	Worker's Compensation

Table 4. Payment Source

Principal Data Element:	PrimarySourceOfPayment
Other Data Elements:	SecondarySourceOfPayment
Rules:	All other values are invalid.
Last Updated:	10/01/2025
Note:	Payer source 323 was renamed from Steward Health Choice (ACO) to Revere Health Choice (ACO) in FY 25.
Refer to complete listing at:	CHIA Payer Type/Source Codes (sheet titled “FY26 Payer Source”)

Table 5. State

Principal Data Element:	PermanentPatientStateLDS
Other Data Elements:	State, TemporaryPatientStateLDS
Rules:	All other values are invalid. Must be present when patient country is United States (“US”). Must be valid U.S. postal code for state.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
CT	Connecticut
ME	Maine
MA	Massachusetts
NH	New Hampshire
NY	New York
RI	Rhode Island
VT	Vermont

Note: The LDS includes only the states listed above. The default code of XX is used for any other state or U.S. territory.

Data Notes

Procedures in Longest Observation Stays

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes associated with the longest observation stays were open trimalleolar ankle fracture repair (CPT 27822), femoral nerve block injection (CPT 64447), and diagnostic flexible colonoscopy (CPT 45378), per analysis of `CPTCode1` and `LengthOfStayHours`. Table 1 lists median, average, and maximum length of stay values for the five `CPTCode1` procedures associated with greatest number of hours in the observation unit.

The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS) codes associated with the longest observation stays were drainage of the peritoneal cavity (0W9G3ZZ), performance of urinary filtration (5A1D70Z), and insertion of feeding device into stomach (0DH64UZ), based on analysis of `PrincipalProcedure` and `LengthOfStayHours`. Table 2 lists median, average, and maximum length of stay values for the five ICD-10-PCS codes associated with greatest number of hours in the observation unit.

Table 1. CPT Procedures Associated with Longest Length of Stay (LOS)

CPT CODE	PROCEDURE DEFINITION	CASES	MeDIAN LOS (HOURS)	AVG. LOS (HOURS)	MAX. LOS (HOURS)
27822	Open Trimalleolar Ankle Fracture Repair (without fixation of posterior lip)	50	53	58.52	171.43
64447	Femoral Nerve Block Injection (anesthetic infusion for nerve/pain relief)	134	51.24	53.23	170.47
45378	Diagnostic Flexible Colonoscopy (examination of the large intestine)	134	50.25	57.55	208.45
43653	Laparoscopic Gastrostomy (surgical placement of a feeding G-tube)	62	50	54.18	138
74183	Abdominal MRI (performed without contrast, followed by contrast sequences)	30	49.76	57.74	170.37
74183	Abdominal MRI (performed without contrast, followed by contrast sequences)	30	49.76	57.74	170.37

Table 2. Principal Procedures Associated with Longest Length of Stay

ICD-10-PCS	Procedure Definition	Cases	Median LOS (hours)	Avg. LOS (hours)	Max. LOS (hours)
0W9G3ZZ	Drainage of Peritoneal Cavity , Percutaneous Approach	31	63	63.77	190.27
5A1D70Z	Performance of Urinary Filtration , Intermittent, less than 6 Hours Per Day	73	50	56.57	243.3
0DH64UZ	Insertion of Feeding Device into Stomach , Percutaneous Endoscopic Approach	55	49	56.85	142
5A09357	Assistance with Respiratory Ventilation , less than 24 Consecutive Hours, CPAP	76	48	52.49	153.97
3E02340	Introduction of Influenza Vaccine into Muscle , Percutaneous Approach	50	48	57.7	207.92
0W9G3ZZ	Drainage of Peritoneal Cavity , Percutaneous Approach	31	63	63.77	190.27

Race Reporting Categories

The introduction of three new race-reporting categories in FY2025 (“Patient chose not to answer”; “Don’t Know”; “Unable to collect due to lack of patient clinical capacity to respond”) coincided with a substantial reduction in use of the “Unknown” race category. The number of records in the “Unknown” category increased each year from FY2021 through FY2024, rising from 7,321 to 11,037 over that period. In FY2025, after the introduction of three new categories, the number of records with an “Unknown” designation was 5,330, a decrease of 5,707 records (51.7%) compared with FY2024. See Table 3 below for detailed figures on race reporting values by fiscal year.

Table 3. Patient Race1 Data (FY2021–FY2025)

Race / Reporting Category	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
White	140,612	140,664	161,334	153,138	163,289
Black/African American	19,143	19,061	24,331	27,286	32,284
Other Race	12,217	12,002	18,665	19,260	22,242
Asian	7,035	7,045	6,644	6,535	7,533
American Indian/Alaska Native	288	331	516	561	537
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	141	146	197	217	234
Unknown	7,321	7,850	9,530	11,037	5,330
Don’t know (<i>New</i>)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	590
Choose not to answer (<i>New</i>)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,643
Unable to collect (Lack of clinical capacity) (<i>New</i>)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,862
Total Observations	186,757	187,099	221,217	218,034	236,544

Longitudinal Trends in Observation Stay Mortality

Figure 1 tracks mortality trends over the last 10 years of outpatient observation data. In FY2015 through FY2019, observation volume remained stable while mortality rates declined. During FY2020 and FY2021, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced observation volume significantly, while the number of deaths increased slightly. As a result, the mortality rates during this period increased compared to the FY2015-FY2019 period. Mortality rates increased further in FY2022 through FY2024, with the decade's highest mortality rate occurring in FY2022 (0.099%). In FY2025, observation volume reached a record high while deaths declined, reducing the mortality rate to 0.075%.

