



# **TECHNICAL NOTES**

## **for the *Outpatient Procedures Report***

**August  
2025**

**Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council**

Report Period: Calendar Year 2024

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 Data

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Methodology**..... 1-2

    Study period ..... 1

    Measure reported: Number of outpatient surgery cases ..... 1

    Selection of outpatient procedures for this report ..... 1

    Data collection and verification ..... 1

    Study populations and inclusion criteria ..... 2

**Appendix**

**Table A: Definitions for outpatient procedures (with links to code listings)** ..... A-1

**Table B: Statewide Volume Data, by Procedure** ..... A-2

**Table C: Statewide Exclusions from Analyses** ..... A-3

## Technical Notes

### *Outpatient Procedures Report*

#### METHODOLOGY

This document serves as a supplement to the PHC4 *Outpatient Procedures Report*, which presents information about the number of outpatient<sup>1</sup> procedure cases performed at Pennsylvania hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers. Included within this set of technical notes are descriptions of the criteria and definitions (codes) used for case selection and report display.

#### Study period

The report includes data from calendar year 2024: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

#### Measure reported: Number of outpatient cases

The primary measure displayed in this report is the number of outpatient cases for procedures performed on patients at individual hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers in Pennsylvania. Counts are provided for the statewide total as well as for each hospital outpatient department and ambulatory surgery center with at least one case.

Facility volume is reported separately for ten outpatient procedure types including:

- Carpal Tunnel Release
- Cataract Procedures
- Ear Tube Insertion
- Endoscopy – Upper GI Diagnostic
- Endoscopy – Lower GI Diagnostic
- Gallbladder Removal – Laparoscopic
- Hernia Repair – Abdomen
- Hernia Repair – Groin
- Tonsil and Adenoid Removal
- Urinary Tract Stone Removal

#### Selection of procedures for this report

The ten procedures included in this report were chosen based on the following:

- High volume and typically performed in the outpatient setting
- Performed in both hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers
- Eligible for PHC4's outpatient data submission requirements<sup>2</sup>
- Outpatient procedures that are already the focus of another PHC4 report are not included

#### Data collection and verification

The data for the *Outpatient Procedure Volume Report*, obtained from the outpatient UB-04 (Uniform Billing) forms, was submitted electronically to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council by Pennsylvania hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that performed the procedures of interest. Federal facilities were not included.

Facilities submitted data to the Council on a quarterly basis (within 90 days from the last day of each quarter). Upon receipt of the data, verification was performed to assure data were submitted in a readable format, and extensive quality assurance checks were completed. Error reports for UB-04 data were then generated and returned to each facility with an opportunity to correct any problems. Data accuracy and completeness were ultimately the responsibility of each individual facility.

<sup>1</sup> Procedures performed in hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers are collectively referred to as outpatient cases throughout this document.

<sup>2</sup> PHC4 outpatient data submission requirements are outlined in the data reporting manual found at <https://www.phc4submit.org/dept/dc>.

**Study populations and inclusion criteria**

All records meeting the definition criteria listed in the Appendix were included in the volume counts. The study populations for each of the ten procedure categories included all unique outpatient claims from all Pennsylvania hospitals' outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers operational during the study period.

Individual patients who underwent more than one type of procedure during their surgical visit were counted in each respective procedure category. Individual patients who underwent more than one procedure of the same procedure category during their surgical visit were counted once per surgical visit.

## **APPENDIX**

**TABLE A**  
**Definitions for Outpatient Procedures**

**Requirements for including a record in the report:**

- Record was from a Pennsylvania hospital outpatient department or ambulatory surgery center
- Time period: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
- **Coding requirements:** Each outpatient record had to have both of the following on a single revenue line:
  - a CPT-4 procedure code from the list of relevant procedure codes
  - a revenue code from the list of relevant revenue codes
 See links below for lists of codes.

**CPT-4 Code definitions by procedure category:**

**Carpal Tunnel Release:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Carpal-Tunnel-Release.xlsx>

**Cataract Procedures:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Cataract-Procedures.xlsx>

**Ear Tube Insertion:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Ear-Tube-Insertion.xlsx>

**Endoscopy – Lower GI Diagnostic:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Endoscopy-Lower-GI-Diagnostic.xlsx>

**Endoscopy – Upper GI Diagnostic:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Endoscopy-Upper-GI-Diagnostic.xlsx>

**Gallbladder Removal – Laparoscopic:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Gallbladder-Removal-Laparoscopic.xlsx>

**Hernia Repair – Abdomen:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Hernia-Repair-Abdomen.xlsx>

**Hernia Repair – Groin:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Hernia-Repair-Groin.xlsx>

**Tonsil and Adenoid Removal:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Tonsil-And-Adenoid-Removal.xlsx>

**Urinary Tract Stone Removal:**

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2024-Definition-Urinary-Tract-Stone-Removal.xlsx>

**TABLE B**  
**Statewide Volume, by Procedure**

<b>Procedure Group</b>	<b>All Cases</b>	<b>Ambulatory Surgery Center Cases</b>	<b>Hospital Outpatient Department Cases</b>
Carpal Tunnel Release	37,460	21,741	15,719
Cataract Procedures	220,531	180,176	40,355
Ear Tube Insertion	21,864	12,440	9,424
Endoscopy – Lower GI Diagnostic	590,176	349,245	240,931
Endoscopy – Upper GI Diagnostic	295,528	139,758	155,770
Gallbladder Removal – Laparoscopic	23,011	266	22,745
Hernia Repair – Abdomen	18,397	1,366	17,031
Hernia Repair – Groin	23,411	1,981	21,430
Tonsil and Adenoid Removal	23,193	10,303	12,890
Urinary Tract Stone Removal	29,503	4,926	24,577

**TABLE C**  
**Statewide Exclusions from Analyses**

	Cases (n)	Cases (%)
<b>Total Cases Before Exclusions</b>	<b>1,284,465</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Exclusions:</b>		
Duplicate records	1,360	0.1%
Records with through date not in time period	31	<0.1%
<b>Total Exclusions</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Total Cases in Analysis</b>	<b>1,283,074</b>	<b>99.9%</b>