



TECHNICAL NOTES for the *Outpatient Procedures Report*

**August
2026**

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

Report Period: Calendar Year 2025

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 Data

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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 outpatient¹ 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 2025: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

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 requirements²
- Outpatient procedures that are already the focus of another PHC4 report are not included

Data collection and verification

The data for the *Outpatient Procedures 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.

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

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

Hospitals Not Reported

Results were not displayed for the following types of hospitals:

- facilities that closed or merged into other facilities
- facilities that recently opened and do not submit within the report period
- facilities with extensive data errors or missing data

See Appendix Table D for detailed information. Although data and analyses specific to these facilities were not displayed in the *Outpatient Procedures Report*, their valid records were retained in the reference database (unless noted otherwise) for the statistical analyses.

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, 2025 through December 31, 2025
- **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/OPR2025-Definition-Carpal-Tunnel-Release.xlsx>

Cataract Procedures:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Cataract-Procedures.xlsx>

Ear Tube Insertion:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Ear-Tube-Insertion.xlsx>

Endoscopy – Lower GI Diagnostic:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Endoscopy-Lower-GI-Diagnostic.xlsx>

Endoscopy – Upper GI Diagnostic:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Endoscopy-Upper-GI-Diagnostic.xlsx>

Gallbladder Removal – Laparoscopic:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Gallbladder-Removal-Laparoscopic.xlsx>

Hernia Repair – Abdomen:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Hernia-Repair-Abdomen.xlsx>

Hernia Repair – Groin:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Hernia-Repair-Groin.xlsx>

Tonsil and Adenoid Removal:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Tonsil-And-Adenoid-Removal.xlsx>

Urinary Tract Stone Removal:

<https://www.phc4.org/wp-content/uploads/OPR2025-Definition-Urinary-Tract-Stone-Removal.xlsx>

TABLE B
Statewide Volume, by Procedure

Procedure Group	All Cases	Ambulatory Surgery Center Cases	Hospital Outpatient Department Cases
Carpal Tunnel Release	36,525	20,906	15,619
Cataract Procedures	217,102	177,885	39,217
Ear Tube Insertion	20,385	11,577	8,808
Endoscopy – Lower GI Diagnostic	564,380	323,313	241,067
Endoscopy – Upper GI Diagnostic	291,380	135,754	155,626
Gallbladder Removal – Laparoscopic	22,439	239	22,200
Hernia Repair – Abdomen	17,899	1,205	16,694
Hernia Repair – Groin	23,299	1,819	21,480
Tonsil and Adenoid Removal	22,945	10,045	12,900
Urinary Tract Stone Removal	29,286	4,503	24,783

TABLE C
Statewide Exclusions from Analyses

	Cases (n)	Cases (%)
Total Cases Before Exclusions	1,246,678	100.0%
Exclusions:		
Duplicate records	1,023	<0.1%
Records with through date not in time period	15	<0.1%
Total Exclusions	1,038	<0.1%
Total Cases in Analysis	1,245,640	99.9%

TABLE D
Facilities Not Reported in the *Outpatient Procedure Report*

Facilities that closed

- North Shore Endoscopy
- Pine Grove ASC
- GSH Outpatient SC
- Delaware County Memorial
- St Luke's/Anderson
- Hanover SurgiCenter
- Crozer-Chester
- Grant SC
- McCandless Endoscopy
- Doylestown SC
- UPMC Leader SC

Facilities that merged

- Geisinger MC Muncy (merged with Geisinger Danville)
- St Luke's Anderson (merged with St Luke's Bethlehem)

Facilities that opened

- *(none)*

Facilities with missing data

- Robert Packer
- Troy Community