



Regrouped Historical Data Dissemination: HIG and Ontario-Specific CACS

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is supporting the effective deployment and use of the Health Based Allocation Model (HBAM) funding methodology of the Ontario Ministry of Health under the Health System Funding Strategy. This support includes providing monitoring tools, such as historical data regrouped to the 2024 HBAM Inpatient Group (HIG) and Ontario-specific Comprehensive Ambulatory Classification System (CACS) weighting methodologies. Provision of these regrouped historical data files will ensure that historical time-series analyses derived from these methodologies are relevant and useful.

Please note:

- **There are no changes to the HIG or CACS 2024 case-mix methodology; however, the HIG weights and Ontario-specific CACS weights have been updated for the 2024 methodology year.**
- **The Case Mix Group+ (CMG+) and CACS directories will no longer be updated annually. You should continue to use the 2022 version of the directories until the next case-mix methodology update.**

This bulletin concerns the 2024 methodologies that are applied to acute and ambulatory care data: HIGs for inpatient Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) records and Ontario-specific CACS weights for National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) records. This bulletin will inform Ontario clients about how to access and read these record-level historical files. For more information regarding HBAM, please visit the [Ministry of Health's website](#).

Data dissemination

CIHI will disseminate data regrouped to the 2024 methodology for all 5 historical years at no additional charge. 4 closed years of data (2019–2020, 2020–2021, 2021–2022, 2022–2023) will be disseminated by the end of **May 2024**, and the most recently closed year of data (2023–2024) will be disseminated by the end of **July 2024**. The regrouped historical output will be available until March 31, 2025.

Please note:

- **It is important that historical regrouped data files be downloaded before March 31, 2025; after that, the data will be available upon request only until mid-May 2025, for a nominal fee of \$320 for each institution/facility number and each fiscal year being requested.**



Bulletin

Regrouped historical data sets will be provided to hospital clients through Operational Reports via the links **DAD** and/or **NACRS** under My Reports on [CIHI's website](#).

The screenshot shows a navigation menu for 'Operational Reports'. On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with links: 'Home > Applications > Operational Reports', 'My Reports', 'Back to My Services', 'Decoders', 'Help', and 'Back to My Services'. The main content area has a header 'Operational Reports' and two links: 'DAD' and 'NACRS'.

By clicking the link to **HBAM Data** under DAD and/or NACRS, clients will be able to view the list of files that have been regrouped and download the files to a local computer.

The screenshot shows the 'DAD' section of the Operational Reports page. It includes a search bar labeled 'Search for Report'. Below the search bar, the text reads: 'DAD You may search for reports that have been published in the following categories:'. A list of categories follows, each with a folder icon: 'HBAM Data' (highlighted with a black arrow), 'Case Mix Grouped Data', 'Case Mix Regrouped Historical Data', 'Submission Reports - Production', 'Submission Reports - Test', and 'Open Year Data Quality Reports'.



The regrouped historical data files will contain a selected subset of DAD or NACRS data elements. For DAD files, 59 data elements will be provided; for NACRS files, 51 data elements will be provided. Included in the files will be the data elements that are key linking variables and grouping methodology output variables (HIG and CACS groups, weights, etc.). The files can be linked to abstract data in hospital systems using the key linking variables. The text files are in tab-delimited ASCII format and have been zipped; the layout is outlined below. Please note that the linking variables are marked with asterisks (*): variables 1 to 7 for DAD and variables 1 to 6 for NACRS.

DAD HIG file layout

Field number	Data element
1	Reporting Institution Number*
2	DAD Transaction ID (unique identifier, CIHI-defined field)*
3	Fiscal Year*
4	Fiscal Period*
5	Batch Number*
6	Abstract Number*
7	Chart Number*
8	Recorded Sex or Gender
9	Age Code
10	Age Units
11	Admission Category
12	Entry Code
13	Discharge Date
14	Total Length of Stay
15	Acute Length of Stay
16	ALC Days
17	Institution To
18	Institution From
19	Provider Number
20	Provider Service Code



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Field number	Data element
21	Main Patient Service
22	MRDx
23	Principal Intervention Code
24	Methodology Year
25	HIG Code
26	Comorbidity Level Code
27	HIG Atypical Status
28	HIG Weight
29	HIG ELOS Days
30	HIG Age Category
31	Interv Event CNT Code
32	HIG FI Total Count
33	FI Cardioversion Flag
34	FI Cell Saver Flag
35	FI Chemotherapy Flag
36	FI Dialysis Flag
37	FI Heart Resuscitation Flag
38	FI Invasive Ventilation GE96 Flag
39	FI Invasive Ventilation LT96 Flag
40	FI Feeding Tube Flag
41	FI Paracentesis Flag
42	FI Parenteral Nutrition Flag
43	FI Pleurocentesis Flag
44	FI Radiotherapy Flag
45	FI Tracheostomy Flag
46	FI Vascular Access Device Flag
47	HIG OOH Flag
48	HIG SCU Flag



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Field number	Data element
49	HIG Homecare Flag
50	HIG Long Stay Trim Days
51	HIG Short Stay Trim Days
52	HIG Maternal Age Flag
53	Provincial Region Code
54	Provincial Region Name
55	Medical CMG
56	FI ECMO Flag
57	Typical Inpatient RIW
58	FI Status
59	HIG per Diem Factor

NACRS CACS file layout

Field number	Data element
1	Reporting Institution Number*
2	Fiscal Year*
3	Fiscal Period*
4	Abstract ID Number*
5	NACRS Transaction ID (AM CARE KEY)*
6	Chart Number*
7	Recorded Sex or Gender
8	Date of Registration/Visit
9	Registration/Visit Time
10	Main Problem
11	Main Intervention
12	Anaesthetic Technique



Bulletin

Field number	Data element
13	Visit Disposition
14	Mode of Visit
15	Ambulatory Care Type
16	Program Area
17	Methodology Year
18	Methodology Version
19	MAC
20	CACS
21	CACS Ontario-Specific Weight
22	CACS Intervention
23	CACS Intervention Status
24	CACS Intervention Location
25	CACS Intervention Extent
26	CACS Partition
27	CACS Age Category
28	CACS Anaesthetic Code
29	CACS Investigative Technology Total Count
30	CACS Investigative Technology Category 1
31	CACS Investigative Technology Category 1 Count
32	CACS Investigative Technology Category 2
33	CACS Investigative Technology Category 2 Count
34	CACS Investigative Technology Category 3
35	CACS Investigative Technology Category 3 Count
36	CACS Investigative Technology Category 4
37	CACS Investigative Technology Category 4 Count
38	CACS Investigative Technology Category 5
39	CACS Investigative Technology Category 5 Count



Field number	Data element
40	CACS Investigative Technology Category 6
41	CACS Investigative Technology Category 6 Count
42	CACS Investigative Technology Category 7
43	CACS Investigative Technology Category 7 Count
44	CACS Investigative Technology Category 8
45	CACS Investigative Technology Category 8 Count
46	CACS Investigative Technology Category 9
47	CACS Investigative Technology Category 9 Count
48	CACS Investigative Technology Category 10
49	CACS Investigative Technology Category 10 Count
50	Provincial Region Code
51	Provincial Region Name

If you have questions

If you have questions regarding the data to be disseminated, please contact the Case Mix team through the [eQuery tool](#) on our website.

If you have questions regarding the new HBAM methodology, please contact the Ministry of Health by email at hsf@ontario.ca.

If you require access to these reports, please submit a request for access to the Central Client Services team at help@cihi.ca.

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