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“Observation” is the term used to describe the outpatient status of a patient who is in a hospital, but not as an inpatient. Although the Medicare Manuals limit observation to 24-48 hours, many beneficiaries nationwide are experiencing extended stays in acute care hospitals under observation. The financial department monitors case-mix index (CMI), and in an ideal world, the hospital’s CMI would be as high as possible. A high CMI means the hospital performs big-ticket services and therefore receives more money per patient. To calculate CMI, choose a time period (e.g., one month) to examine. Within that time, take all the DRGs your hospital billed and add up the relative weights (RW). [AARP health insurance plans \(PDF download\)](#) [Medicare replacement \(PDF download\)](#) [medicare benefits \(PDF download\)](#) [medicare coverage \(PDF download\)](#) [medicare part d \(PDF download\)](#) [Delegation strategies for the NCLEX](#), [Prioritization for the NCLEX](#), [Infection Control for the NCLEX](#), [FREE resources for the NCLEX](#), [FREE NCLEX Quizzes for the NCLEX](#), [FREE NCLEX exams for the NCLEX](#), [Failed the NCLEX - Help is here](#)