



2026 Hospital Observation Patient Management Summit

Innovations in Observation Patient Management – Prevent Unnecessary Admissions, Maximize Reimbursements and Leverage Evidence-Based Triage Protocols to Improve Short-Term Care Quality

March 26 – 27, 2026 • Loews Vanderbilt Hotel • Nashville, TN

About the Conference

The 2026 Hospital Observation Patient Management Summit will bring together healthcare leaders, clinicians, and administrators to explore best practices and new strategies for managing patients in hospital observation units. As observation care continues to grow in importance, the summit will focus on how hospitals can improve patient outcomes, reduce costs, and meet regulatory requirements while ensuring a positive patient experience.

Through expert-led sessions, case studies, and interactive discussions, participants will gain practical insights into optimizing patient flow, improving care coordination, and using data-driven approaches to enhance observation services. The event will also highlight innovative tools and models that support efficiency and quality within this critical area of hospital operations.

Designed as a collaborative forum, the summit will give attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from successful programs, and identify actionable solutions that can be applied within their own organizations. It promises to be a valuable gathering for those committed to advancing the role of observation medicine in the future of healthcare delivery.

Intended Audience

From Hospitals & Healthcare Centers:

Chief Executive Officers, Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nursing Officers, Chief Finance Officers, Chief Operating Officers

Also, Vice Presidents, Directors, Managers, and Senior Level Executives Responsible for:

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| • Observation Medicine | • Emergency Medicine |
| • Hospital Medicine | • Internal Medicine |
| • Clinical Decision Making | • Billing & Coding |
| • Emergency Nursing | • Case Management |
| • Utilization Management | • Patient Access |
| • Reimbursement | • Denial Management |
| • Compliance | • Quality Management |
| • Medical Affairs | • Discharge Planning |

This conference will also benefit physician advisor firms, solution providers, healthcare consulting firms and healthcare information technology firms.

Preliminary Agenda

(Topics Subject to Change Based on Final Speaker Presentations)

Day One – Thursday, March 26, 2026

- 7:15 *Conference Registration & Morning Breakfast*
- 8:00 *Chairperson's Opening Remarks*
- 8:15 **A Proven and Effective Blueprint for Implementing a Short Stay/Observation Unit at Your Hospital**
- 9:00 **Nuts and Bolts of Observation Services: Making the Business Case for Creating an Observation Unit**
- 9:45 *Networking Break & Refreshments*
- 10:15 **Reducing Unnecessary Hospital Admissions through Observation and Evidence-Based Clinical Decision Making**
- 11:00 **Achieving Success in Clinical Decision Making and Management of the Observation Unit**
- 11:45 **Evaluating Patients for Observation vs. Inpatient to Optimize Care & Cost Management**
- 12:30 *Luncheon for All Attendees & Speakers*
- 1:30 **How is Psychiatric Observation: Antidote to ED Boarding?**
- 2:15 **Panel Discussion: The Use of Effective Strategies to Develop, Implement and Sustain an Observation Unit**
- 3:15 *Networking Break & Refreshments*
- 3:45 **Integrating Hospitalists as Part of a Successful Observation Care Program**
- 4:30 **Best Practices within an Observation Unit to Reduce LOS and Enhance Patient Throughput**
- 5:15 *End of Day One*

Day Two – Friday, March 27, 2026

- 7:15 *Morning Breakfast*
- 8:00 *Chairperson's Recap of Day One*
- 8:15 **Leveraging the Observation Unit to Reduce Hospital Readmissions and Improve Patient Throughput**

9:00 So What are We? Pros & Cons of the Naming Convention in Observation

9:45 Networking Break & Refreshments

10:15 Applying Care Protocols within an Observation Unit to Optimize Patient Outcomes, Improve Throughput and Ensure Financial Success

11:00 Aligning Performance Benchmarks to Improve Clinical Outcomes and Observation Unit Efficiency

11:45 Measuring and Reporting the Clinical and Financial Outcomes of Your Observation Unit

12:30 Conference Concludes

Workshop Session

Thursday, March 26, 2026 · 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Improving Clinical and Financial Outcomes for Observation Patient Management