

Appendix D: Abbreviations and Glossary of Terms

Abbreviations

AAFP	—American Academy of Family Physicians	FSIG	—Flexible sigmoidoscopy
AAP	—American Academy of Pediatrics	HBsAG	—Hepatitis B surface antigen
ACIP	—Immunization Practices Advisory Committee	HBV	—Hepatitis B
ACOG	—American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	HIAA	—Health Insurance Association of America
ACP	—American College of Physicians	Hib	—Haemophilus Influenza Type b
AFDC	—Aid to Families with Dependent Children	HIP	—Health Insurance Plan
AMA	—American Medical Association	HIV	—Human Immunodeficiency Virus
BCDDP	—Breast Cancer Detection Demonstration Project	HMO	—Health maintenance organization
BLS	—Bureau of Labor Statistics	IPA	—Independent or individual practice association
BPE	—Breast physical examination	IUDs	—Intrauterine devices
CDC	—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	LDL	—Low density lipoprotein
CEPCPS	—Cost-Effectiveness Panel on Clinical Preventive Services	MASFP	—Maternal Serum Alpha-Fetoprotein
CHD	—Coronary Heart Disease	Mg	—Milligram
CTFPHE	—Canadian Task Force on the Periodic Health Examination	MMR	—Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
DDST	—Denver Developmental Screening Test	MRFIT	—Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial
dL	—Deciliter	NHLBI	—National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
DT	—Diphtheria-tetanus	NIH	—National Institutes of Health
DTP	—Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis	ODPHP	—Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
DRE	—Digital rectal examination	OPV	—Oral poliovirus vaccine
EPSDT	—Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment services	OTA	—Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress)
ERISA	—Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974	NCEP	—National Cholesterol Education Program
FDA	—Food and Drug Administration	PKU	—Phenylketonuria
FOBT	—Fecal Occult Blood Test	POS	—Point of service
		PPO	—Preferred provider organization
		PSA	—Prostate-specific antigen
		QALY	—Quality-adjusted life year
		RCT	—Randomized clinical trials
		RPR	—Rapid plasma reagin (syphilis screening test)

STD	—Sexually transmitted disease
TB	—Tuberculosis
Td	—Tetanusdiphtheria
TRUS	—Transrectal ultrasonography
USPSTF	—U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
VDRL	—Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (syphilis screening test)

Terms

ABO blood group: The major classification system for human blood, which is based on two antigens (A and B) on the surface of red blood cells. Four blood types are defined by the presence of one (type A or B), both (type AB), or neither (type O) of these antigens.

Adenomatous polyps: Benign growths usually found in the colon.

Access to services: Potential and actual entry of a population into the health care delivery system. Elements of access include availability, affordability, and approachability.

Amblyopia: Subnormal visual acuity. The term specifically denotes a developmental disorder of visual function arising from either sensory stimulation deprivation or abnormal binocular interaction.

Anemia: A condition that exists when the level of hemoglobin in a person's blood drops to an abnormally low level.

Annual physical examinations: Examinations which are provided annually and are relatively non-specific in terms of their content.

Antibody: A blood protein (immunoglobulin) produced by lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell, in response to the introduction of a specific antigen (e.g., invading bacteria, incompatible red blood cells, inhaled pollen grains, or foreign tissue grafts). Once produced, the antibody has the ability to combine with the specific antigen that stimulated antibody production thereby rendering it harmless. This reaction to foreign substances is part of the immune response.

Antigen: A substance that the body regards as foreign and that elicits an immune response (generating an antibody to react against the antigen or increasing lymphokine production, or both). Antigenic substances may include microorganisms, cells, tissue grafts, or toxins.

Appropriate (health care): Individuals and organizations define appropriate health care in many different ways. The Rand Corporation defines appropriate care as when “the expected health benefit [exceeds] the expected negative consequences. . .by a sufficiently wide margin that the procedure [is] worth doing” (cited in NAS, IOM Committee to Advise the PHS, “Clinical Practice Guidelines, 1990).

Bacteriuria: The presence of bacteria in the urine.

Behavioral preventive strategies: A broad array of strategies to encourage lifestyle changes, such as exercise, smoking cessation, and healthful diets.

Benefit design: The determination of the terms of the benefit package.

Benefit package: In this report, benefit package refers primarily to the services and providers that are covered by a *health insurance plan*, and to the financial and other terms of such coverage (e.g., patient *cost-sharing*, limitations on amounts and numbers of visits or days). However, a benefit package can be said to consist in total of the terms of the contract between the *subscriber* or *enrollee* and the *insurer*. The terms of *payment to health care providers* may also be part of the terms of a benefit package.

Benefits: The covered health care services and the amount payable by a health insurance plan to a beneficiary under the terms of the plan.

Biochemical markers: Substances or processes characteristic of (or indicative of) physiological activity (e.g., blood in the stool as an indicator of colorectal cancer).

Biotinidase Deficiency: A congenital disorder caused by a deficiency of the enzyme needed to metabolize the B vitamin biotin leading to an overall deficiency of biotin in the body. If untreated, severe cases of biotinidase deficiency can lead to neurologic damage, resulting in coma or death in infancy. Less severe cases (resulting in developmental delay or hearing loss) and asymptomatic cases also occur.

Capillary hemoglobin/hematocrit: Test for anemia.

Carotid bruits: Clinical sign associated with atherosclerotic disease of the major arteries of the neck, and is associated with myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular disease.

Cardiovascular disease: Any of a diverse group of diseases affecting the heart, blood vessels, and/or

blood circulation. Cardiovascular disease includes diseases of the heart muscle itself, ischemic heart disease, hypertension, cerebrovascular diseases, and various other conditions.

Case-control study: Also called a retrospective study, An observational epidemiologic study that starts with the identification of a group of individuals with a disease (or other condition or “outcome variable” of interest (“cases”), and a suitable control group of persons without the disease, but who are otherwise similar to the cases (‘controls’). The relationship of a “risk factor” (which may include exposures to a chemical or physical agent, family history of disease, or other personal attribute) to the disease is evaluated by determining how frequently the risk factor is present, or if quantitative, the levels of the risk factor, in the cases and controls. Many risk factors may be studied in a single case control study.

“Categorically needy recipients”: Refers to Medicaid recipients receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Chemoprophylaxis: The prevention of disease by the use of drugs or chemicals.

Cholestyramine therapy: Treatment in which cholestyramine medication binds to cholesterol thereby reducing high levels of cholesterol.

Clinical practice guidelines: Synthesis of literature and expert opinion for the purpose of making recommendations regarding health services.

Clinical preventive services: Interventions comprising medical procedures, tests, or visits with health care providers that are undertaken for the purpose of promoting health, not for responding to patient signs, symptoms, or complaints.

Cohort study: Study participants are identified by whether they are receiving the intervention, and are then followed over time in an effort to determine differences in outcome between those who received the intervention and those who did not receive it.

Coinsurance: A fixed percentage of covered expenses paid by a health plan and an enrollee for covered expenses after any deductible has been met; for example, an 80-20 coinsurance arrangement means that, after the deductible is reached, 80 percent of covered expenses are paid by the plan and 20 percent are paid by the person covered by the plan.

Colonoscope: A tube with a light and mirror at the end which is inserted into the gastrointestinal tract for direct visualization of its interior. Full visualization of the entire colon is possible with a 180 cm colonoscope.

Congenital disorders: Any abnormality, whether genetic or not, that is present at birth.

Coronary artery disease: Narrowing of the small arteries leading to the heart. Can lead to heart attacks or sudden death.

Costs: Expenses incurred in the provision of services or goods. Many different kinds of costs are defined and used (e.g., allowable, direct, indirect, and operating costs).

Cost-effectiveness analysis: An analytic technique that compares the costs of a project or of alternative projects to the resultant benefits, with costs and benefits/effectiveness not expressed by the same measure. Costs are usually expressed in dollars, but benefits/effectiveness are ordinarily expressed in terms such as ‘lives saved,’ or ‘disability avoided.’

Cost-sharing: The provisions of a health benefits plan that require the enrollee to pay a portion of the cost of services covered by the plan, typically exclusive of premium *cost-sharing* (sharing the cost of a health care plan premium between the sponsor and the enrollee). Usual forms of cost-sharing include deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. These payments are made at the time the service is received or shortly thereafter, and are only made by those insured who seek treatment.

Cystic Fibrosis: A life-shortening, autosomal recessive disorder affecting the respiratory, gastrointestinal, reproductive, and skeletal systems, as well as the sweat glands. Cystic Fibrosis is caused by mutations in the Cystic Fibrosis gene.

Deductible: The amount of covered health care expenses (e.g., **\$200, \$500, \$1,000**) that must be incurred by the health plan enrollee and his or her dependents before any health benefits become payable by the health plan. Deductible requirements apply to each individual in a family for a specific time period (usually a year). Some plans specify *family* deductibles after which no additional individual deductibles are required; family deductibles are typically equivalent to two or three times the individual deductible.

Diagnostic intervention: Clinical intervention relating to or aiding in diagnosis.

Digital rectal examination: The procedure where the clinician inspects the interior of the rectum with a finger in search of a rectal mass.

Diphtheria-Tetanus (DT) Toxoid: A combination immunization given to prevent diphtheria and tetanus.

Discounting: A procedure used in economic analysis to express as “present values” those costs and benefits that will occur in future years. Discounting is based on two premises: 1) individuals prefer to receive benefits today rather than in the future; and 2) resources invested today in alternative programs could earn a return over time.

Distal colon: Rear area of the colon.

Ectopic pregnancy: A pregnancy that occurs outside the uterus, usually in a Fallopian tube. Early symptoms include severe abdominal pain and vaginal bleeding; if untreated, may lead to rupture or internal hemorrhage, and shock.

Effectiveness: Effectiveness is a particular application of *efficacy*, that is, it reflects the performance of an intervention under ordinary conditions by the average practitioner for the typical patient.

Efficacy: The probability of benefit to individuals in a defined population from health technology applied to a given health problem under ideal conditions of use.

Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA): Exempts companies that self-insure, or fund their own insurance plans, from State regulations.

Environmental preventive strategies: Strategies for the prevention of disease or promotion of health that typically consist of social policies, such as seat belt laws, taxes on alcohol and tobacco use, speed limits, and restrictions on access to firearms, in addition to environmental and occupational regulations.

False-positive: A person without the disease who tests positive for the disease.

Family planning: A general name applied to a range of services intended to help individuals plan when to have children, from counseling concerning the advisability of initiating sexual intercourse to the provision of contraceptive methods.

Fecal occult blood test: A screening test which analyzes samples of stool for the presence of blood. Fecal occult blood tests indirectly test for the presence of colorectal cancer or polyps.

Fee-for-service: In fee-for-service health care, physicians and other providers bill separately for each patient encounter or service rendered. This system contrasts with salary, per capita, or other prepayment systems, where the payment to the practitioner does not change with the number of services actually rendered.

Fee schedule: A list of medical services in which each entry is associated with a specific monetary amount that represents the approved payment amount for the service under a given insurance plan.

Financing (of health care): Refers to where the money to pay health care providers for the delivery of health care services comes from (e.g., government, taxpayers).

Fixed costs: An operating expense that does not vary, at least over the short term, with the volume of services provided.

Flexible sigmoidoscopy: A flexible tube with a light and mirror at the end inserted into the colon through the anus to examine the distal end of the large bowel.

Free erythrocyte protoporphyrin (FEP): Refers to a screening test used to indicate iron deficiency.

Galactosemia: A deficiency of the enzyme needed to metabolize galactose, a type of sugar found in milk products. Untreated galactosemia usually leads to blood poisoning, progressive liver damage, and death within the first few weeks of life.

Global budget: Generally, an overall budget limit on health care services. Global budgets can take the form of a State or national cap on total health care expenditures, but usually imply national limits. In some contexts, global budgeting has come to mean setting a limit on spending by sector (e.g., specific allocations for doctors, hospitals).

Gonococcal arthritis: Complication of gonorrhea in which the infection involves the joints.

HBV markers: Blood test which detects current or past hepatitis B virus.

Health benefits: Include increased life expectancy, better functional status, and reduced morbidity, pain, and anxiety. Negative health outcomes are the opposites of these qualities.

- Health care provider:** An individual or institution that provides medical services (e.g., a physician, hospital, laboratory). This term should not be confused with an insurance company which ‘provides’ insurance.
- Health insurance:** In this report, the term ‘health insurance’ is used broadly to include various types of health plans that are designed to reimburse or indemnify individuals or families for the costs of medical care, or (as in HMOs) to arrange for the delivery of that care, including traditional private indemnity fee-for-service coverage, prepaid health plans such as HMOs, self-funded employment based plans, Medicaid, and Medicare. **Private health insurance:** With respect to health insurance, refers to a plan run or sponsored by an entity other than the government. **Public health insurance:** With respect to health insurance, refers to a government-run or -sponsored plan.
- Health maintenance organization (HMO):** A health care organization that, in return for prospective per capita (cavitation) payments, acts as both insurer and provider of specified health services.
- Hematocrit:** The volume occupied by the cellular elements of blood in relation to the total volume.
- Hemocystinuria:** A congenital disorder caused by a deficiency of one of the enzymes involved in the metabolism of the amino acid homocystine. If left untreated, homocystinuria can lead to life-threatening episodes of vascular thrombosis; most untreated survivors go on to have mental deficiency, and half of them may die in early adulthood.
- Hemoglobin:** A protein found in red blood cells that is responsible for the transport of oxygen.
- Hemoglobinopathy:** A blood disorder caused by alteration in the genetically determined molecular structure of hemoglobin, which results in a characteristic complex of clinical and laboratory abnormalities and often, but not always, overt anemia.
- Hepatitis B:** Viral hepatitis, type B. An acute inflammation of the liver caused by infection with hepatitis B virus, which is transmitted mainly by sexual contact, parental exposure (contaminated needles or administration of blood products), and from carrier mother to baby. In some cases, infection may be severe and result in prolonged illness, destruction of liver cells, cirrhosis, and death. Formerly known as ‘serum hepatitis.’
- Haemophilus influenzae b:** One of six types of infection with *Haemophilus influenzae b*, a parasitic bacterium that occurs in an encapsulated form. In children and in debilitated older adults, infection may result in destructive inflammation of the larynx, trachea, and bronchi, and may also cause subacute bacterial endocarditis and purulent meningitis. Immunization against Hib is available through inoculation with *anti-Haemophilus influenzae* serum.
- High risk:** At greater than normal risk of contracting a specific disease or condition.
- Hypercholesterolemia:** An elevation of the blood cholesterol level.
- Hypothyroidism:** Diminished production of thyroid hormone, leading to thyroid insufficiency.
- Indemnity:** Benefits paid in a predetermined amount in the event of a covered loss.
- Individual practice association (IPA) HMOs: A form of HMO in which participating physicians remain in their independent office settings, seeing both enrollees of the IPA and patients covered by other health insurance plans. Participating physicians may be reimbursed by the IPA on a fee-for-service or a cavitation basis.
- Lipoprotein: Compounds consisting of lipids (fatty substances such as cholesterol) and proteins, the form in which lipids are transported in the blood and lymph fluid. They are classified as very low-density (VLD), low-density (LD), and high-density (HD).
- Mammography: X-ray examination of the breast, used as both a screening procedure on apparently healthy females and as a diagnostic procedure in clinical situations to detect breast cancer.
- Managed Competition Plan: An approach to health care reform that would combine health insurance market reform with health care delivery system restructuring. The theory of managed competition is that the quality and efficiency of health care delivery will improve if independent groups compete with one another for consumers in a government-regulated market.
- Mandated insurance benefits: Minimum health insurance coverage requirements specified by government statute.
- Markov model: A quantitative tool useful in describing the movements of members of a population through different states over time. The model

requires that the distribution of the population among defined states at the initiation of the model, and the probability that any one individual move into a different state between two periods of time, be known.

Maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein (MSAFP): Blood test used during pregnancy to detect possible neural tube defects.

Medicaid: A joint Federal-State program, authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, of Federal matching grants to the States to provide health insurance for categories of the poor and medically indigent. States determine eligibility, payments, and benefits consistent with Federal standards.

Medicare: A Federally administered health insurance program authorized by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965 which covers the cost of hospitalization, medical care, and some related services for eligible persons over age 65, persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance payments for 2 years, and persons with end-stage renal disease. Medicare consists of two separate but coordinated programs—hospital insurance (Part A) and supplementary medical insurance (Part B).

Meta-analysis: A systematic, typically quantitative method for combining information from multiple studies.

Morbidity: The condition of being ill or otherwise afflicted with an unhealthful condition.

Morbidity rate: The rate of illness in a population, calculated as the number of people ill during a time period divided by the number of people in the total population; used to refer to incidence or prevalence rates of disease.

Mortality rate: The death rate, often made explicit for a particular characteristic (e.g., age, sex, or specific cause of death). A mortality rate contains three essential elements: 1) the number of people in a population group exposed to the risk of death (the denominator); 2) a time factor; and 3) the number of deaths occurring in the exposed population during a certain time period (the numerator).

Neoplasm: Uncontrolled and progressive growth of tissue, either benign or malignant; a tumor.

Nicotine gum: Alternative nicotine delivery method (as opposed to cigarettes) used to wean smokers from habitual cigarette use. The gum transmits nicotine by chewing.

Nicotine patch: Alternative nicotine delivery method (as opposed to cigarettes) used to wean smokers from habitual cigarette use. The patch transmits nicotine through the skin.

Node-negative tumors: Cancers which are less likely to have spread beyond their primary site, as evidenced by the lack of involvement of lymph nodes.

Oral glucose tolerance test: Screening test for diabetes.

Ortalan maneuvers: Manual orthopedic manipulation used to relocate the femur (femoral head) into the hip joint socket.

Out-of-pocket expense: Payments made by an individual for medical services. These may include direct payments to providers as well as payments for deductibles and coinsurance for covered services, for services not covered by the plan, for provider charges in excess of the plan's limits, and for enrollee premium payments.

Papanicolaou (Pap) smear: A screening test for women for cervical cancer.

Papillomavirus: A virus which causes up to sixty types of warts. It is recognized as a sexually transmitted agent and is also believed to be a contributing factor in cervical, vaginal, and vulvar carcinoma (cancer).

Pathology: The scientific study of the cause of disease and of the associated structural and functional changes that result.

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID): An infection involving the endometrium, Fallopian tubes, and peritoneum, often occurring as a complication of untreated gonorrhea. Women using intrauterine contraceptive devices are also at increased risk for the disease. Bacteria that cause gonorrhea, chlamydia, or other infections can ascend from the lower genital tract through the endometrium (causing endometriosis), to the Fallopian tubes (causing salpingitis), and possibly to the ovaries (causing oophoritis), and if untreated, can result in tubal scarring, infertility, or ectopic pregnancy. Symptoms include lower abdominal pain, increased vaginal discharge, and fever.

Periodic health examination: The periodic health examination is provided in accordance with recommended schedules for specific interventions (usually less frequently than every year). It includes

- relatively specific interventions, emphasizes tailoring interventions to individual circumstances, and is limited primarily to those services which have been shown to be effective.
- Pertussis:** An acute, infectious inflammatory respiratory disease of children caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. The disease is characterized by explosive attacks of coughing ending in an inspiratory whoop or choking on mucus and occurs in infants and children who have not been immunized against the disease. Also known as “whooping cough.”
- Phenylketonuria (PKU):** A genetic disorder of amino acid metabolism, characterized by the inability to metabolize the amino acid phenylalanine. Untreated or late treated PKU results in severe mental retardation in the majority of cases.
- Pneumonia:** Any one of several types of acute or chronic inflammation of the lungs due to infection by viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms; a common complication of other serious illnesses and a common cause of death in the United States.
- Point-of-service plan (POS):** A hybrid form of managed care plan based on a mixture of cavitation and fee-for-service (FFS) payment arrangements, POS plans permit health plan enrollees to choose a FFS or HMO provider at the time he or she seeks services (rather than at the time they choose to enroll in a health plan).
- Predictive capability:** In screening and diagnostic tests, the probability that individuals with positive test results have the condition in question or that a person with a negative result does not have it. A test’s predictive value is determined by its sensitivity and specificity and by the prevalence of the condition for which the test is used.
- Preferred provider organization (PPO):** Refers to a variety of different insurance arrangements under which plan enrollees who choose to obtain medical care from a specified group of ‘preferred’ providers receive certain advantages, such as reduced cost-sharing charges. PPO providers typically furnish services at lower than usual fees in return for prompt payment by the health insurance plan and a certain assured volume of patients.
- Premium:** The price or amount which must be paid periodically (e.g., monthly, biweekly) to purchase insurance coverage or to keep an insurance policy in force. Premiums paid to *health maintenance organizations* or similar organizations are often called *cavitation* payments.
- Preventive interventions:** Strategies for health promotion or disease prevention that include counseling, screening, immunization, or prophylactic interventions for individuals in clinical settings.
- Preventive services:** Services intended to prevent the occurrence of a disease or its consequences. Preventive health care includes health care programs aimed at warding off illnesses (e.g., immunizations), early detection of disease (e.g., Pap smears), or inhibiting further deterioration of the body (e.g., exercise or prophylactic surgery). Preventive medicine is also concerned with general preventive measures aimed at improving the healthfulness of the environment and with the promotion of health through altering behavior, especially using health education. Preventive health services are sometimes categorized as primary, secondary, or tertiary. Primary prevention is aimed at reducing the incidence of a disease or health problem; **secondary prevention** is aimed at reducing the prevalence of a problem by shortening the duration among those who have the problem; and tertiary prevention is aimed at reducing complications.
- Primary care:** A basic level of health care, usually provided in an outpatient setting, that emphasizes a patients’ general health needs (e.g., preventive services, treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, identification of problems that require referral to specialists).
- Prostate-specific antigen (PSA):** A protein produced exclusively by the prostate gland and present at elevated levels in men with prostate cancer and other prostatic diseases. Concentrations of PSA can be determined using a blood test.
- Provider:** See *health care provider*.
- Pyelonephritis:** Inflammation of the kidney, particularly due to local bacterial infection.
- Randomized clinical trial (RCT):** An experiment designed to test the safety and efficacy of a medical technology in which people are randomly assigned to experimental or control groups, and outcomes are compared.
- Renal disease:** Disease pertaining to the kidney.
- Respiratory distress syndrome:** Lung problem involving fluid filling air spaces in the lungs.

Retinopathy: Noninflammatory degenerative disease of the retina.

Rh blood group: Genetically determined immunologic antigens (referred to as D or Rh+) on the surface of the red blood cells capable of inducing intense antigenic reactions when combined with blood cells lacking those antigens (no D or Rh-). The presence or absence of an Rh factor is especially important in blood transfusions (where it is a major cause of incompatibility) and in pregnancy when the mother is Rh- and the fetus is Rh+, which, if untreated, can lead to hemolytic disease of the newborn.

Risk factor: A characteristic which has been found in populations to be positively associated with the development of a disease or condition.

Scoliosis: Lateral curvature of the spine.

Screening services: The use of tests or physical examinations to detect the existence of one or more particular diseases or health deviations or to identify for more definitive studies those suspected of having certain diseases.

Sensitivity: The proportion of persons with a condition who correctly test “positive” when screened.

Sensitivity analysis: An analysis of the effect of changes in key assumptions or uncertainties on the findings and outcome of an overall study.

Serum tumor marker: Series of blood tests associated with various cancers.

Sickle-cell anemia: A genetic disorder of hemoglobin synthesis leading to the production of abnormal red blood cells. Infants with sickle cell anemia are at increased risk of overwhelming infection and sudden death in the first few years of life. Painful episodes of vase-occlusive crises are the hallmark of sickle cell anemia, although there is wide variability in expression of the disease in older patients.

Single-Payer System: Approach to health care reform that would provide tax-financed universal coverage with government as the sole purchaser of services. A single entity, usually government-run, reimburses all medical claims. Consumers typically pay a uniform tax rather than premiums. Money goes to a single health care trust fund, used only for health care expenditures.

Specificity: The proportion of persons without a condition who correctly test “negative” when screened.

Sphygmomanometer: Blood pressure cuff.

Sputum cytology: The anatomy, physiology, pathology, and chemistry of sputum cells. Sputum is mucus and other fluids formed in air passages and upper food passages (the mouth) and expelled by coughing.

Staff-model HMO: In this type of HMO, the majority of health plan enrollees are cared for by physicians who are typically salaried staff of the HMO.

Strabismus: A misalignment of the eye that the patient cannot overcome without aid.

Therapeutic intervention: Treatment of disease or disorders (as opposed to prevention or diagnosis).

Third-party payer: An organization (private or public) that pays for or insures at least some of the health care expenses of its beneficiaries. Third-party payers include Blue Cross/Blue Shield, commercial health insurers, Medicare, and Medicaid. The individual receiving the health care services is the first party, and the individual or institution providing the service is the second party.

Traditional indemnity plan: A conventional or fee-for-service health plan that typically reimburses the health care provider on a “reasonable and customary” basis or as billed.

Transrectal ultrasound (TRUS): Using high frequency ultra soundwaves to create a visual picture which can help to detect cancer in the prostate.

Tyrosinemia: A disorder of tyrosine metabolism marked by an excess of tyrosine in the blood. It occurs in two forms; Transient or Neonatal Tyrosinemia: a benign condition of newborns which responds to ascorbic acid; and Hereditary Tyrosinemia: results in liver failure or severe nodular cirrhosis, with renal tubular involvement, rickets, darkening of the skin, and slight mental retardation. It is transmitted as an autosomal recessive trait.

Ultrasound cephalometry: A procedure that measures the head size of fetus, used to assess fetal growth.

Urinalysis: Analysis of the urine.

Well-baby care: Preventive health care for children, includes immunizations, health education, parental guidance, physical examinations, and other tests that screen for illness or developmental problems. Sometimes defined as care for children less than one year of age, although the distinction between well-child care and well-baby care is not a precise one.

Well-child care: Preventive health care for children, includes immunizations, health education, parental guidance, physical examinations, and other tests that screen for illness or developmental problems. Sometimes defined as care for children one year of age and older, although the distinction between well-child care and well-baby care is not a precise one.