

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Glossary of Terms

Acute-care hospital: A hospital in which the average length of stay is less than 30 days.

Apnea monitor: A medical device that detects the cessation of breathing.

Asphyxia: Lack of oxygen resulting in suffocation or near-suffocation.

Augmented care: Care of a greater level, scope, or duration than that normally provided under a particular program or protocol.

Bronchopulmonary dysplasia: A chronic lung disease in newborns, often defined by a characteristic appearance of the lungs on X-ray and the need for mechanical ventilation for more than 4 weeks.

Case management: Coordination and oversight of the package of services provided to an individual. Case management may be provided by an insurer, a pediatrician, a parent, a social worker, or some other health care professional. The comprehensiveness of case management, and its goals, depend on the manager.

Cerebral palsy: A paralysis of varying severity that results from nonprogressive damage to the brain at or around birth.

Copayment: In insurance, a form of cost-sharing whereby the insured pays a specific amount at the point of service or use (e.g., \$10 per visit). See also *Coinurance*.

Coinurance: That percentage of covered medical expenses, after subtraction of any deductible, for which an insured person is responsible. Under Medicare Part B, after the annual deductible has been met, Medicare will generally pay 80 percent of approved charges for covered services and supplies; the remaining 20 percent is the coinsurance, for which the beneficiary is liable. Also see *Copayment* and *Deductible*.

Colostomy: A surgical opening between the colon (part of the large intestine) and the surface of the body. A colostomy is performed when normal defecation is difficult (e.g., because of lack of control of the necessary muscles) or harmful.

Congenital: Present at birth. Congenital anomalies usually refer to birth defects that result from imperfect development during pregnancy.

Cystic Fibrosis: An inherited disorder caused by the production of a unique glycoprotein that results in abnormal mucous secretions. It is usually fatal before age 20. Death is due to excess mucus in the lungs and to pancreatic insufficiency.

Deductible: The amount of health care charges that an insured person must pay each year before he or she is eligible for coverage.

End stage renal disease: Chronic renal failure that occurs when an individual irreversibly loses a sufficient amount of kidney function so that life cannot be sustained without treatment. Chronic renal dialysis, kidney transplant surgery, and continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis are forms of therapy.

Gastrostomy: A surgical opening into the stomach. A gastrostomy tube allows food to be introduced directly to the stomach, bypassing the mouth and throat. A jejunostomy tube (which connects with the top of the large intestine) may also perform this function.

Hemophilia: A hereditary bleeding disorder distinguished by a deficiency of one or more blood coagulation factors—e.g., Factor VIII (hemophilia A) or Factor IX (hemophilia B).

Home health care: Medical and related services provided in the home.

Hospice care: Medical care rendered to terminally ill patients that is intended to be palliative rather than curative.

Ileostomy: A surgical opening between the ileum (the end portion of the small intestine) and the surface of the body. See also *colostomy*.

Incidence: The frequency of new occurrences of a condition within a defined time period, usually 1 year. Compare *prevalence*.

International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM): A two-part system of coding patient medical information used in abstracting systems and for classifying patients into DRGs for Medicare. The first part is a comprehensive list of diseases with corresponding codes compatible with the World Health Organization's list of disease codes. The second part contains procedure codes, independent of the disease codes.

Intravenous therapies: Nutrients, medications, or other treatments administered directly into the bloodstream (specifically, into a vein).

Long-term care: Health care of prolonged or indefinite duration. Long-term care hospitals usually have an average length of stay of 30 days or more.

Meconium aspiration: The existence of meconium, a dark substance normally found in the intestine of a full-term fetus, in the airway. Meconium aspiration can cause difficulties in breathing after birth.

Medical device: Any instrument, apparatus, or simi-

lar or related article that is intended to prevent, diagnose, mitigate, or treat disease or to affect the structure or function of the body.

Medical technology: The drugs, devices, and medical and surgical procedures used in medical care, and the organizational and support systems within which such care is provided.

Multiple sclerosis: A progressive, crippling disease of unknown cause that destroys the myelin sheath that insulates nerve cell axons. This results in slowed nerve conduction. Symptoms commonly include weakness, lack of coordination, and speech and visual disturbances.

Muscular dystrophy: A group of inherited neuromuscular diseases that result in the progressive deterioration of muscle function.

Neonatology: The medical specialty of newborn care.

Parenteral nutrition: The intake of nutrients directly into the bloodstream (intravenously), circumventing the digestive tract. Strictly speaking, intramuscular administration of nutrients is also parenteral nutrition, but the term as normally used in health care implies bloodstream administration.

Patent ductus arteriosus: Incomplete closing of a fetal blood vessel that allows blood that is low in oxygen to be returned to the body rather than to the lungs.

Phototherapy: The treatment of diseases, such as jaundice in newborns, with light.

Prevalence: In epidemiology, the number of cases of disease, infected persons, or persons with disabilities or some other condition, present at a particular time and in relation to the size of the population. Also called "prevalence rate." Compare incidence.

Private duty nursing: Services provided by a professional nurse to a patient who needs individual and continuous care beyond the level normally provided by a visiting nurse (in the home) or the nursing staff (of a hospital or skilled nursing facility).

Pulmonary surfactant: A substance present in the lungs that aids in oxygen absorption.

Quadriplegia: Paralysis of all four limbs.

Respite care: Care provided in order to give family caregivers some relief. Respite care is a broad category that can include occasional home nursing or custodial care or institutional care.

Sequelae: Aftereffects or secondary consequences.

Shift nursing: Nursing provided in the home in hourly shifts (usually 8-hour shifts), as distinguished from nursing provided in visits (usually of an hour or less). See also private duty nursing.

Skilled nursing care: In this technical memorandum, any care that requires highly technical nursing skills, including care provided by nonprofessionals such as parents trained in such skills.

Spina bifida: A birth defect of unknown cause that results in incomplete or improper development of the spine, usually associated with the protrusion of the spinal cord through the bony spine.

Suctioning: As it applies to children with breathing difficulties, suctioning is the removal of secretions from the airway and is particularly important when the child has a tracheotomy tube (artificial airway) that could be blocked by these secretions.

Surfactant: See *pulmonary surfactant*.

Technology-dependent children: Those children who use a medical technology (embodied in a medical device) that compensates for the loss of normal use of a vital body function, and who require substantial daily skilled nursing care to avert death or further disability.

Third-party payment: Payment by a private insurer or government program to a medical provider for care given to a patient.

Trachea: The airway extending from the back of the mouth and nose to the bronchial tubes (which lead to the lungs).

Tracheotomy: A surgical opening into the trachea. A tracheotomy tube is an artificial airway (a tube in the trachea) that opens to the outside at the tracheotomy, where it can be connected to a mechanical ventilator.

Urinary catheterization: The introduction of a tube into the urinary tract to withdraw urine.

Ventilator: A mechanical device used to assist in or control respiration by delivering an appropriate volume of gas to the airways or by promoting inspiration. In this report, it refers to both positive- and negative-pressure devices that cause or help a person to breathe.

Glossary of Acronyms

AFDC	—Aid to Families With Dependent Children
AIDS	—acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
BPD	—bronchopulmonary dysplasia
CHAMPUS	—Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (Department of Defense)
CNS	—central nervous system
CSHCN	—Children with Special Health Care Needs
DOD	—US Department of Defense
EPSDT	—Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (program)
ERISA	—Employee Retirement Income Security Act
GAO	—General Accounting Office (U.S. Congress)

HCFA	—Health Care Financing Administration (DHHS)	OTA	—Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress)
ICD-9-CM	—International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)	PFTH	—Program for the Handicapped (CHAMPUS)
ICF	—intermediate care facility	PHC	—Pediatric Home Care
ICU	—intensive care unit	RDS	—respiratory distress syndrome
LPN	—licensed practical nurse	REACH	—Rural Efforts to Assist Children at Home
LVN	—licensed vocational nurse	RN	—registered nurse
MCH	—Maternal and Child Health (program)	SNF	—skilled nursing facility
MNIL	—medically needy income level	SPRANS	—Special Projects of Regional and National Significance
NIH	—National Institutes of Health (PHS)	SSI	—Supplemental Security Income (program) (SSA)
NHIS	—National Health Interview Survey		