

# Appendix B.—Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

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## Glossary of Acronyms

CAPD—continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis  
CCPD—continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis  
EDTA —European Dialysis and Transplant Association  
ESRD —end-stage renal disease  
GAO —General Accounting Office  
HCFA —Health Care Financing Administration  
HD —hemodialysis  
IPD —intermittent peritoneal dialysis  
NIH —National Institutes of Health  
RCT —randomized clinical trial  
SCD —sterile connection device

## Glossary of Terms

**Anticoagulant:** Any substance that suppresses, delays, or nullifies the coagulation or clotting of blood.  
**Arteriosclerotic:** Pertaining to or affected with arteriosclerosis. A group of diseases characterized by thickening and loss of elasticity of arterial walls.  
**Arteriovenous:** Pertaining to or affecting an artery and a vein.  
**Ascites:** The excessive accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity.  
**Atherogenesis:** The formulation of masses of degenerated fatty or lipid material in the arterial wall associated with atherosclerosis.  
**Cannula:** A tube for insertion into a duct or cavity. This is used to attain a continuous flow of liquid into and out of an organ.  
**Cardiac arrhythmias:** Variations from the normal rate or rhythm of heart beats.  
**Dementia:** A general designation for mental deterioration; also referred to as aphrenia, aphronesia, and athymia.  
**Diabetic nephropathy:** A disease of or an abnormal state of the kidneys caused by diabetes.  
**Effectiveness:** Same as efficacy except that it refers to “. . . average or actual conditions of use.”  
**Efficacy:** The probability of benefit to individuals in a defined population from a medical technology applied for a given medical problem under ideal conditions or use.  
**Electrolyte balance:** The state in which the body has the correct amount of positively and negatively charged ions in its system.  
**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 intervention.

Hemodialysis, continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, and kidney transplant surgery are forms of therapy.  
**Fistula:** An abnormal passage between two organs or from an internal organ to the surface of the body.  
**Glomerulonephritis:** Inflammation of the kidneys characterized by the inflammation of the capillary loops in the glomeruli of the kidneys. It occurs in acute, subacute, and chronic forms.  
**Hemorrhage:** The escape of blood from the blood vessels, either into surrounding tissues or into the environment.  
**Heparin:** A substance occurring in various tissues or produced artificially that renders the blood unable to coagulate.  
**Hydrothorax:** An abnormal accumulation of watery fluid within the pleural cavity.  
**Hypertension:** A common and significant cardiovascular disorder characterized by persistently high arterial blood pressure, ranging from 140 to 200 mm Hg systolic and 90 to 110 mm Hg diastolic pressure.  
**Hypotension:** Abnormally low blood pressure that is seen in shock but not necessarily indicative of it.  
**Immunosuppressive:** Pertaining to or inducing the artificial prevention or diminution of the immune response.  
**Incidence:** The frequency of new occurrences of disease within a defined time interval. Incidence rate is the number of new cases of specified disease divided by the number of people in a population over a specified period of time, usually 1 year.  
**Laparotomy:** Surgical incision through the abdominal section.  
**Medicare:** A nationwide, federally administered health insurance program authorized in 1965 to cover 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) Program and the Supplementary Medical Insurance (Part B) Program. Health insurance protection is available to insured persons without regard to income.  
**Modality:** A possible or preferred manner or procedure used in order to carry out a particular function.  
**Peritoneum:** The smooth transparent serous membrane that lines the cavity of the abdomen.  
**Peritonitis:** Inflammation of the peritoneum.  
**Pleural effusion:** The accumulation of fluid within the pleural spaces that occurs either as a result of dis-

ease involving the pleurae (the serous membranes investing the lungs and lining the thoracic cavity) or as a result of diseases of other organs that affect the dynamics of pleural fluid production.

**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. It is a measure of morbidity at a point in time.

**Prima facie:** True, valid, or self-evident.

**Serum triglycerides:** Neutral fats synthesized from carbohydrates for storage in animal fat cells.

**Symbiosis:** In parasitology, the living together or close association of two dissimilar organisms.

**Thrombosis:** The formulation, development, or presence of a solid mass in a blood vessel or in the heart. It is composed of fibrin, platelets, and, in most instances, erythrocytes,

**Uremia:** The retention of excessive byproducts of protein metabolism in the blood, and the toxic condition produced thereby.

**Uterine prolapse:** Protrusion of the uterus through the vaginal orifice.

**Validity:** A measure of the extent to which an observed situation reflects the "true" situation.

**Internal validity:** A measure of the extent to which study results reflect the true relationship of a "risk factor" (e.g., treatment or technology) to the outcome of interest in study subjects.

**External validity:** A measure of the extent to which study results can be generalized to the population that is represented by individuals in the study, assuming that the characters of that population are accurately specified.

**Vascular access site:** Pertaining to entry into the blood vessel system.