

## Appendix D

# Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

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### *Acronyms*

AHA	—American Hospital Association
AMA	—American Medical Association
ANA	—American Nurses' Association
CHA	Catholic Health Association of the United States
CPR	-cardiopulmonary resuscitation
DHHS	—Department of Health and Human Services
DNR	-do-not-resuscitate (order)
DOD	—Department of Defense
EMs	-emergency medical service
HCFA	—Health Care Financing Organization
JCAHO	—Joint Commission on-the-Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (formerly the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals)
OTA	Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress)
PHS	—Public Health Service
VA	—Veterans' Administration

### *Terms*

**Health Care Institution (or Facility):** Health care institution refers to any hospital, nursing home, emergency medical service, hospice, or home care program that is engaged in direct patient care.

**Life-Sustaining Treatment:** Life-sustaining treatments are drugs, medical devices, or procedures that can keep alive a patient who would otherwise die within

a foreseeable, though usually uncertain, time. Examples include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, mechanical ventilation, renal dialysis, nutritional support (i.e., tube or intravenous feeding), and antibiotics to fight life-threatening infections.

**Protocol:** Protocol refers collectively to decisionmaking guidelines, policies, and models, defined as follows:

**Guidelines:** Guidelines are advisory documents. This report considers guidelines that are intended to assist health care providers by suggesting morally and legally acceptable approaches to the difficult questions related to the provision, withholding, or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment.

**Policy:** A policy is an instrument of health care facility governance that is designed to ensure that essential administrative objectives are met. Policies can state fundamental principles for conduct, provide for orderly, accountable interactions between practitioners within an institution, and ensure that social expectations or legal requirements for health care are met. The hallmarks of policies are their prescriptive language, their precise assignment of responsibility for decisions, and their detailing of procedures to be followed in implementing decisions.

**Model:** A model protocol is an advisory document intended to assist health care institutions in developing their own policies or guidelines.