

# Appendix D.—Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

## Glossary of Terms

**ABLEDATA System:** Computer data bank of the National Rehabilitation Information Center.

**Discounting:** A procedure used in economic analysis to reduce to present value 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.

**Health maintenance organization:** An organization that acts as both insurer and provider of comprehensive but specified medical services by a defined set of physicians to a voluntarily enrolled population paying a prospective per capita amount.

**Innovation:** Any product or product modification that substantially improves the quality or decreases the cost of a product, while introducing a technology, material, or concept not previously found in any similar product on the market.

**Manual wheelchairs:** Type of wheelchair built in the traditional chair shape with wheels instead of legs. It may be propelled by the user's hands or feet or pushed by another person.

**Power alternatives:** Motorized vehicles that function like power wheelchairs but do not look like typical wheelchairs; most have three wheels and resemble golf carts or motor scooters.

**Power wheelchairs:** Motorized wheelchairs, usually battery-powered, which are heavier than manual wheelchairs.

**Process innovations:** Changes in the means of production.

**Product innovations:** Changes in the final product.

**Total annualized costs:** Annual overall costs of (wheelchair) use, calculated by taking the sum of: 1) the purchase price divided by a factor based on expected years of use and, 2) the annual repair and maintenance costs.

## Glossary of Acronyms

ABLEDATA	- Computer Center at National Rehabilitation Information Center
ANSI	- American National Standards Institute
CID	- Commercial Item Description
CPV	- cumulative present value
E&J	- Everest & Jennings, Inc.
FDA	- Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
FTE	full-time equivalent
GSA	- General Services Administration
HCFA	- Health Care Financing Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HMO	- health maintenance organization
HUD	- Housing and Urban Development
ISO	International Standards Organization
NIHR	- National Institute for Handicapped Research, U.S. Department of Education
OTA	- Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress
R&D	- research and development
UMTA	- Urban Mass Transportation Administration
VA	Veterans Administration