

HEALTH CARE

Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Terms

Seventh Edition, November 2008



Healthcare Association
of New York State

The health care field has a language of its own, one that is nearly unintelligible to all but the most seasoned health care professionals. And with the changing health care environment, new jargon appears daily!

To assist novices and experienced professionals alike in deciphering this code, the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) has prepared the seventh edition of *Health Care Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Terms*. This publication presents a broad variety of information on health policy and medical terms, listed alphabetically, and includes new terms and acronyms coined since the sixth edition was published in 2006. We hope you find this volume useful.



**Healthcare Association
of New York State**

A

AAA Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

A bulge in the part of the aorta that extends through the abdomen. If an AAA bursts, it is often fatal.

AAHPM American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

A professional organization for physicians, nurses, and other health care providers specializing in hospice and palliative medicine.

AAHSA American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

A national trade association for non-profit nursing homes and related facilities.

AAMC Association of American Medical Colleges

A non-profit association that represents accredited U.S. and Canadian medical schools, major teaching hospitals and health systems, and academic and professional societies representing faculty members, medical students, and residents.

AAP American Academy of Pediatrics

Founded in 1930, this association's members include pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists.

ABN Advance Beneficiary Notice

A written notice that a provider gives to a Medicare beneficiary before he or she receives specified items or services that otherwise might be paid for, to inform the beneficiary that Medicare probably will not pay for them on that particular occasion.

Accreditation

A process by which an organization evaluates a health care facility or one of its services to determine if it meets certain professional standards. The Joint Commission accredits most health care facilities. The National Committee on Quality Assurance accredits most managed care organizations.

ACE Angiotensin Converting Enzyme

A peptide that causes blood vessels to narrow. ACE inhibitors are drugs that stop this narrowing effect and are used for blood pressure control and congestive heart failure.

ACF Adult Care Facility

A residential facility licensed to provide personal care services and supervision as well as room and board; may also be known as an adult home, enriched housing, or family-type home.

ACGME Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-medical doctor medical training programs within the United States. Accreditation is accomplished through a peer review process and is based upon established standards and guidelines.

ACHE American College of Healthcare Executives

A professional association for health care facility administrators. *See also: FACHE.*

ACIP Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

ACIP provides advice and guidance to CDC, develops written recommendations for the administration of vaccines to the pediatric and adult populations, and reviews and reports on existing immunization practices.

ACOG American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

A national organization comprised of physicians specializing in childbirth and women's diseases.

ACPE American College of Physician Executives

ACPE represents physician executives with management or administrative responsibilities.

ACT Assertive Community Treatment

A multidisciplinary team treatment model provided by the mental health system that offers comprehensive, community-based psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation, and support to people with long-term psychiatric disabilities.

Acute Care

Care provided for a short-term illness or injury.

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

The federal law providing comprehensive civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities.

ADAP AIDS Drug Assistance Program

A program operated by individual states to provide vital medications to low-income uninsured or under-insured people with HIV and AIDS.

ADE Adverse Drug Event

A patient complication set into motion by a medication, administration, or combination of medication error or reaction.

ADHC Adult Day Health Care

ADHC provides services to adults who do not require 24-hour institutional care, yet are not capable of full-time, independent living. Typically, ADHC includes recreation, supervision, meals, and health care in a protective setting.

ADLs Activities of Daily Living

Activities performed as part of a person's daily routine of self-care, such as bathing, dressing, eating, etc.

Admissions (Admits)

Patients admitted in a hospital or inpatient facility for an overnight stay during a particular period.

Admitting Privilege

Authorization for a clinician to admit patients to a hospital.

ADT Admission, Discharge, and Transfer

ADTs are computer systems that allow efficient management of hospital stays and support the administrative functions of patient registration, admission, discharge, and transfer.

Advance Directives

Instructions or orders issued either orally or in writing to give directions about future medical care or to designate another person(s) to make medical decisions if the patient should lose the capacity to make decisions.

Affiliated Staff

Professionals viewed as an adjunct to a hospital's medical staff.

A&G Administrative and General

A category of expenses for medical claims payment.

Aging in Place

- 1) Process allowing seniors to remain in their current residence despite changes in their needs by adjusting the degree and type of services provided. This can occur at home or in a facility offering multiple levels of care.
- 2) A special level of care in enhanced assisted living residences and certified by DOH.

AHA American Hospital Association

The national trade organization for hospitals, other inpatient care facilities, health systems, outpatient centers, Blue Cross plans, area-wide planning agencies, and hospital schools for nursing.

AHCA American Health Care Association

The national trade association of investor-owned nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

AHEC Area Health Education Center

A New York State program to enhance medical services in under-served areas. AHEC links under-served communities with the State University of New York's health sciences schools and private academic institutions to decentralize health professional education through community-based training sites.

AHIMA American Health Information Management Association

A national trade association of medical records professionals.

AHIP America's Health Insurance Plans

The principal national trade association representing health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, and other network-based health plans.

AHRQ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

A division of HHS' Public Health Service that develops and administers a program of health services research, demonstrations, evaluations and research training, studies, and related grant and contract-supported activities covering the financing, organization, quality, and utilization of health services.

AICD Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator

An electronic device that is implanted surgically in the chest wall that senses the heart's rhythm and delivers a powerful shock to the heart to stop it from fibrillating.

AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

A disease of the human immune system caused by infection with the human immunodeficiency virus.

ALC Alternate Level of Care

Care provided to patients in an acute care setting who no longer need acute care but who are awaiting placement in another health care facility or for community-based care such as home health care.

Allied Health Professional

Specially trained and often licensed health workers other than physicians, dentists, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, and nurses.

ALOS Average Length of Stay

The average number of days in a hospital for each admission.

ALP Assisted Living Program

A state program providing supportive housing and home care services to individuals who are medically eligible for placement in a nursing facility but who do not require around-the-clock skilled nursing services.

ALS Advanced Life Support

ALS generally refers to pre-hospital medical care paramedics provide to patients who have suffered trauma or a medical emergency.

AMA American Medical Association

A professional association representing physicians in the United States.

AMA Against Medical Advice

Refers to when a patient leaves a health care facility against the advice of medical staff.

Ambulatory Care

Health care services that do not require the hospitalization of a patient. These services include outpatient care at a hospital and care provided at a physician's office, clinic, or other facility.

Ambulatory Surgery

Surgical services provided for patients who are admitted and discharged on the day of surgery. These are generally outpatient procedures that cannot be done safely in a doctor's office and that require some level of general anesthesia.

AMC Academic Medical Center

A hospital owned by a medical school or where most clinical service chiefs also serve as medical school department chairs.

AMI Acute Myocardial Infarction

AMI is a heart attack. The term “myocardial infarction” focuses on the heart muscle (the myocardium) and the changes that occur in it due to sudden (acute) deprivation of circulating blood. The word “infarction” comes from the Latin “infarcire” meaning “to plug up or cram.” It refers to the clogging of the artery that supplies blood to the heart muscle.

ANCC American Nurses Credentialing Center

ANCC certification signifies that a nurse has attained specific knowledge, skills, and abilities in a certain specialty field.

Ancillary Care

Additional services performed related to care, such as laboratory work, x-ray, and anesthesia.

Ancillary Charge

Also referred to as hospital “extras” or miscellaneous hospital charges, they are supplementary to a hospital’s daily room and board charge. They include such items as charges for drugs, medicines, dressings, laboratory services, x-ray examinations, and use of the operating room.

Any Willing Provider

Legislation requiring managed care providers to allow any physician they do business with to serve on their physician panel.

AOA Administration on Aging

The principal federal agency designated to carry out the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965.

AONE American Organization of Nurse Executives

A subsidiary of the American Hospital Association, AONE has about 4,000 nurse members nationwide. AONE’s mission is to represent nurses who improve health care and to advocate for sound public health policy. *See also: NYONE.*

APC Ambulatory Payment Classification

The system used to establish Medicare payment for hospital outpatient procedures under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System.

AP-DRGs All Patient Diagnosis Related Groups

These groups expand DRGs beyond Medicare beneficiaries to include pediatric, maternity, and HIV-related groupings.

APG Ambulatory Patient Group

A payment methodology for most Medicaid outpatient services, including outpatient clinic, ambulatory surgery, and emergency department services. Implementation of APGs is one component of DOH’s multi-year agenda to transition funds from inpatient to outpatient services.

APHA American Public Health Association

A non-governmental organization composed of professionals working in the health care field.

APR-DRGs All Patient Refined Diagnosis Related Groups

A patient classification system, developed by the 3M Corporation, that uses hospital patient discharge data and computer-based logic to assign patients to severity of illness and risk of mortality classes so they can be accurately compared in terms of length of stay, resource consumption, and outcomes.

APS Adult Protective Services

A state-mandated program that is responsible for assisting physically or mentally impaired adults who cannot provide for their own basic needs and have no one willing to assist them or may have been abused, neglected, or exploited.

ARB Angiotensin Receptor Blocker

A drug used for controlling high blood pressure, treating heart failure, and preventing kidney failure in people with diabetes or high blood pressure.

AQHC Alliance for Quality Health Care

A coalition of businesses, consumer education groups, and health plans that releases quality report cards on hospitals in New York State.

AR Appropriateness Review

The review conducted by the Commissioner of Health of hospital and home care services based on criteria established by DOH including need for the facility or service, accessibility, availability, financial viability, and quality.

ARD Assessment Reference Date

All clinicians must document findings about a nursing home resident using the same seven-day observation period for the Minimum Data Set. The ARD is the last day of a seven-day assessment window.

ARMS Alternative Rate Methodology System

A New York State Medicaid program used to reimburse hospitals for inpatient mental health services.

ARRC Administrative Regulations Review Commission

A joint New York State legislative commission created to oversee the process of rulemaking by state agencies and to examine rules adopted or proposed by those agencies with respect to statutory authority, compliance with legislative intent, potential impact on the economy and on state and local government operations, and impact on affected parties.

Article 28

The portion of the New York State Public Health Law that governs the establishment, operation, and reimbursement of certain medical facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes, and diagnostic and treatment centers.

Article 43

The portion of the New York State Insurance Law that governs various non-profit health insurers.

Article 44

The portion of the New York State Public Health Law that governs health maintenance organizations.

ASC Ambulatory Surgery Center

An independently licensed entity providing elective surgery on an outpatient, walk-in, or same-day basis.

ASCO American Society of Clinical Oncology

A non-profit organization that represents clinical oncologists, ASCO supports cancer research, particularly patient-oriented clinical research.

ASO Administrative Services Organization

A managed care administrative entity that performs certain tasks for managed care companies and insurers. An ASO is not an insurance plan and is not licensed to sell insurance.

ASP Average Sale Price

The basis for reimbursement for products covered under Medicare Part B, ASP is the weighted average of all non-federal sales to wholesalers net of chargebacks, discounts, rebates, and other benefits tied to the purchase of the drug product, whether it is paid to the wholesaler or the retailer.

ASU Ambulatory Surgery Unit

A unit that provides ambulatory surgery services within a hospital.

AVG Ambulatory Visit Group

Clinically based outpatient groups developed from physician office data taken from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey.

AWP Average Wholesale Price

Published in various commercial compendia, this number is used to set Medicare payment limits for certain outpatient drugs.

AZT Azidothymidine (also called Zidovudine)

An antiviral drug used following exposure to blood or body fluids from a potential source of HIV.

B

Balance Billing

A provider's billing of a covered person directly for charges above the amount reimbursed by the health plan (i.e., difference between billed charges and the amount paid). This may or may not be allowed, depending upon state regulations and the contractual arrangements between the parties.

BBA Balanced Budget Act of 1997

This legislation drastically cut Medicare payments to health care providers and provided federal funding for states' health insurance programs for children. *See also: SCHIP.*

BBRA Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999

This Act modified some of the provisions in the BBA, adding an estimated \$11 billion to Medicare spending in fiscal years 2000 through 2002.

BCBCA BlueCross BlueShield Association

A national trade association for local Blue plans which, in addition to traditional trade association functions, acts as a brand manager and technical advisor.

BCDP™ HANYS' Breast Cancer Demonstration Project

Established in 1998, a partnership with health care sites in New York State to develop, implement, and evaluate a model for integrated breast health services.

BD/CC Bad Debt/Charity Care

Bad debt: amounts not recoverable from patients following exhaustion of all collection efforts. Charity care: care rendered to patients who do not have the ability to pay for services.

Bed Days

The total number of days of hospital care (excluding day of discharge) provided to a health plan member.

Benchmarking

Measuring another organization's or person's product or service by specific standards and comparing it with one's own product or service.

Best Practice

A technique, methodology, or action that, through experience and/or research, has proven to lead to a desired result.

Bioterrorism

The use of biological agents in systematic terror, especially as a means of coercion to achieve goals.

BIPA Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children’s Health Insurance Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000

This law provided limited relief to health care providers from BBA Medicare payment reductions.

BLS Bureau of Labor Statistics

Federal agency that compiles statistics on employment, productivity, and labor trends.

BlueCross/BlueShield

A major provider of health benefits in New York State.

Board Certified

Describes a physician certified as a specialist in his/her area of practice.

Board Eligible

A physician who has graduated from a board-approved medical school, completed an accredited training program, practiced for a specific length of time, and is eligible to take a specialty board examination.

B.S.N. Bachelor of Science in Nursing

A four-year academic degree in the science and principles of nursing, granted by a tertiary education university or similarly accredited school. Though one is eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN licensing examination to become a registered nurse after graduating from either a two-year or four-year nursing program, the BSN prepares nurses for a professional role away from the bedside with coursework in nursing science, research, leadership, and nursing informatics.

Bundle

Refers to a set of steps providers can take to improve quality in a specific area.

Bundled Payment

The use of a single payment for a group of related services.

CABG Coronary Artery Bypass Graft

A surgical procedure in which a vein or an artery is used to bypass a constricted portion of a coronary artery.

CAC Cardiac Advisory Committee

A New York State Commissioner of Health advisory body consisting of renowned cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, and related specialists from New York and outside the state. The CSP develops guidelines for the provision of hospital-based cardiac care.

CAH Critical Access Hospital

A federal designation that enables essential rural hospitals to downsize while continuing to provide key services in affiliation with a full-service acute care hospital.

CAMH Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals: The Official Handbook

CAMH is designed to facilitate self-assessment of facility performance against The Joint Commission hospital standards. Similar manuals exist for ambulatory care, behavioral health care, and long-term care.

Capital Costs

Equipment and physical plant costs, but not consumable supplies.

Capitation

A method of payment for health care services in which a physician, hospital, or provider group is paid a fixed amount (typically monthly) for each person enrolled in a plan regardless of the actual number or nature of services provided.

CARF Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

CARF is a private, not-for-profit organization that accredits programs and services in adult day services, assisted living, behavioral health, employment and community services, and medical rehabilitation.

CASA Community Alternatives System Agency

A local agency that provides home nursing assessments for anyone requiring personal care aide services and helps arrange these services for individuals who are Medicaid-eligible.

Case Management

An arrangement where a “case manager” who is not a physician (usually a Registered Nurse or a Masters in Social Work) serves as a medical ombudsman responsible for coordinating the care process for selected consumers.

CAT/CT Computerized Axial Tomography/Computerized Tomography

A specialized radiological diagnostic technique in which a series of x-rays are computerized to create a composite (scan) picture of the body.

Catastrophic Coverage

Insurance that covers illnesses or injuries resulting in unusually expensive or lengthy treatment.

CBO Congressional Budget Office

A nonpartisan organization that provides the U.S. Congress with budget-related information and analyses of alternative fiscal, budgetary, and program issues.

CBSA Core-Based Statistical Area

The federal Office of Management and Budget defines a CBSA as “a geographic entity associated with at least one core of 10,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.” There are two categories of CBSAs: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. MSAs are based on urbanized areas of 50,000 or more population and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are based on urban clusters with a population of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000.

CC Complications and Comorbidities

A classification system of the level of complications and comorbidities. Complications are unsuspected conditions that arise during treatment of a patient. Comorbidities are medical conditions known to increase risk of death that exist in addition to the most significant condition that causes a patient’s stay in the hospital.

CCI Correct Coding Initiative

CMS maintains a system of coding edits utilized nationally by all Medicare carriers. These coding edits are released on a quarterly basis into the system known as the CCI and incorporated into claims processing systems used by Medicare carriers to determine payments to physicians.

CCR Cost-to-Charge Ratio

A ratio used primarily in outlier calculations to estimate costs for an individual claim based on the charges for that claim.

CCRC Continuing Care Retirement Community

A community that provides facilities for independent living and various health care services to individuals eligible to remain in the CCRC for the remainder of their lives, so long as any required entrance and ongoing fees have been paid.

CCU Cardiac Care Unit/Coronary Care Unit

A specially equipped nursing unit for monitoring and treating patients with severe heart problems.

CDAC Clinical Data Abstraction Center

CDACs are responsible for validating quality data that facilities submit as part of the Hospital Quality Alliance.

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A federal agency charged with protecting the public health by providing leadership and direction in the prevention and control of diseases; it also responds to public health emergencies.

CDM Charge Description Master

The list of the lines of services provided in a facility, with each line containing a charge number and other data components. The charge number is used to generate a bill for the services, supplies, and pharmaceuticals provided to the patient during an episode of care.

CDRH Center for Devices and Radiological Health

Part of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, CDRH is responsible for ensuring the safety of medical devices and preventing unnecessary human exposure to radiation from electronic products.

CDT Continuing Day Treatment

A comprehensive day treatment program for people with long-term psychiatric disabilities.

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

CFR is a codification of the rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

CGFNS The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools

Agency designated by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to obtain certifications for immigrant visas for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and licensed vocational nurses.

CHA Catholic Health Association

A national association of Catholic hospitals, health care facilities, religious orders, health care systems, and extended care facilities.

CHAMPUS Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniform Services

A federal program established to administer civilian health and medical care to the spouses and children of military service members.

CHAMPVA Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veteran's Administration

An entitlement health care program administered by the Department of Defense for the Veterans Administration that pays for care delivered by civilian health care providers to eligible dependents and survivors of certain veterans.

CHAP Community Health Accreditation Program

A subsidiary of the National League for Nursing that accredits home- and community-based health care organizations.

CHCCDP Community Health Care Conversion Demonstration Project

A state funding mechanism established to help hospitals transition to Medicaid managed care.

Cherry Picking

The managed care practice of seeking only healthy customers.

CHF Congestive Heart Failure

A condition in which the heart cannot pump enough blood to meet the needs of the body's other organs. It can result from numerous causes.

CHHA Certified Home Health Agency

An agency certified to participate in Medicare and Medicaid that provides skilled nursing services and at least one of the following other services in a patient's home: physical, speech or occupational therapy, social services, or home health aide services.

Chiropractic

A disease theory arguing that the function of a patient's spinal cord and nervous system strongly influences an individual's state of health.

CHP Child Health Plus

This program provides primary, preventive, and inpatient coverage to children under the age of 19 in New York State. *See also: FHP.*

CLABSI Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection

A primary bloodstream infection associated with the presence of a central line or an umbilical catheter in neonates at the time of or before the onset of the infection.

Claim

A formal request by a health care provider to receive payment for services.

CLI Central Line Infection

An infection that develops from a patient having a central line insertion and ongoing maintenance of the central line. Central lines are used for monitoring, medications, and other treatments.

Clinical Integration

A care delivery design approach that can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and improve patient outcomes through more consistent use of clinical standards by physicians and organizations. "Vertical" clinical integration involves aligning care delivery between hospitals and physicians or hospitals and continuing care providers. "Horizontal" clinical integration involves aligning across non-corporate-related providers..

Clinical Pathway

A treatment protocol including only the vital components or items proved to affect patient outcomes.

Clostridium Difficile

A bacterium that causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions such as colitis.

CMG Case-Mix Group

A Medicare patient classification system that groups patients with similar characteristics. This provides a basis for describing the types of patients a hospital or other health care provider treats (its case mix).

CME Continuing Medical Education

Education for medical professionals (i.e., a physician learns new medical techniques or technologies).

CMHA Conference of Metropolitan Hospital Associations

Part of the American Hospital Association, CMHA brings associations representing hospitals in metropolitan areas together to discuss issues of common interest.

CMI Case Mix Index

A measure of relative acuity for treating a hospital's patients.

CMP Competitive Medical Plan

A term used by CMS for a subset of the organizations that have risk contracts to serve Medicare beneficiaries on a capitated payment basis.

CMP Civil Monetary Penalty

CMPs are imposed by government agencies for violations of regulations.

CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

A division of HHS that administers the Medicare program and some aspects of state Medicaid programs.

CNA Certified Nurse Aide

An individual certified to perform nurse assistant duties under the supervision of a nurse.

COBRA Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act

A federal law that, among other things, requires employers to offer continued health insurance coverage to certain employees and their beneficiaries whose group insurance has been terminated.

COGME Council on Graduate Medical Education

A 28-member state advisory body that provides guidance to the Governor and Commissioner of Health on the formulation and implementation of state policies relating to medical education and training.

Coinsurance

A form of cost sharing under a health care plan where the enrolled person pays a specified percentage of the cost of covered services received.

Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century

Also known as the "rightsizing" commission, this panel was created by Governor George Pataki and the State Legislature in 2005 to undertake an independent review of health care capacity and resources in New York State and make recommendations for restructuring. Many of the Commission's recommendations were implemented.

Community Benefit

The value returned to a community by the presence of a health care facility. Also, a planned, managed, organized, and measured approach to hospitals' participation in meeting identified community health needs.

Community Health

Health and quality-of-life improvement initiatives that improve the health and well being of people in the local community and use resources effectively and efficiently to promote health and reduce the overall cost of health care.

Community Rating

Setting health insurance premiums based on the average cost of providing medical services to all people in a geographic area, without adjusting for each individual's medical history or likelihood of using such services.

Comprehensive Medical Service Organization

A wholly owned subsidiary of a health system that purchases the tangible assets of physician practices, manages those practices, and negotiates managed care contracts with payers on behalf of the physician group(s) and hospital.

CON Certificate of Need

A regulation that requires state approval of medical care facility construction, initiation of new health care services, addition of hospital or nursing home beds, and purchase of major medical equipment.

Continuum of Care

A comprehensive set of services including preventive, acute, long-term, and rehabilitative services, or the set of providers offering those services.

Copayment

A form of cost sharing under a health care plan where the enrolled person pays a specified dollar amount every time he or she receives a covered service. *See also: Cost-Sharing.*

COPD Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Several lung diseases are collectively known as COPD, including asthmatic bronchitis, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema.

COPs Conditions of Participation

Conditions that health care organizations must meet to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Cost-Sharing

A payment system in which the patient pays some costs to receive care while Medicare or an insurance company pays the rest.

Covered Service

A health care service that qualifies for full or partial reimbursement by Medicare or an insurance company.

CPHQ Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality

By granting CPHQ status, the Healthcare Quality Certification Board recognizes professional and academic achievement by individuals in the field of health care quality management. The comprehensive body of knowledge includes quality management, quality improvement, case/care/disease/utilization management, and risk management at all employment levels and in all health care settings.

CPI Consumer Price Index

An indicator that measures the change in cost of a constant bundle of goods and services purchased by consumers.

CPEP Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program

A psychiatric emergency program based in a hospital emergency room that provides specialized psychiatric holding beds, mobile crisis intervention, assessment, and stabilization.

CPOE Computerized Provider Order Entry

A computer application that accepts a physician's orders electronically. CPOE systems also provide clinical information useful to the physician at the point of care including the patient's active problems, medications, allergies, relevant laboratory data, and current preventive health care status.

C-PORT Cardiovascular Patient Outcomes Research Team

C-PORT is a multi-hospital study affiliated with Johns Hopkins School of Medicine undertaken to determine whether primary angioplasty is superior to thrombolytic therapy, particularly in the "real world" setting of the community hospital without on-site cardiac surgery.

CPR Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

A procedure that, when successful, restores heartbeat and breathing.

CPT-4 Current Procedural Terminology, 4th Edition

A system of terminology and coding developed by the American Medical Association and used for describing, coding, and reporting medical and surgical procedures.

CQI Continuous Quality Improvement

A management strategy that builds quality into every aspect of the organization, encouraging staff to become involved in problem-solving processes to improve operations.

CRNA Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Working closely with other health care professionals such as surgeons, dentists, podiatrists, and anesthesiologists, a CRNA takes care of a patient's anesthesia needs before, during, and after surgery or the delivery of a baby.

CRY Cost Reporting Year

The 12-month period for which a health care provider submits its annual Medicare cost report to CMS.

CSP Community Service Plan

All voluntary, not-for-profit hospitals and health systems are required by DOH to develop and make available to the public an annual Community Service Plan that details the health care organization's mission, performance in meeting community needs, and performance in improving access to care.

CV Curriculum Vitae

A career summary prepared for a job application resume that contains personal details, education, qualifications, and experience

CVA Cerebral Vascular Accident

A serious bleed or blockage of a blood vessel in the brain causing a stroke.

CVS Credentials Verification Service

The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools created CVS to independently verify credentials of foreign-educated health care professionals who are seeking licensure in New York State.

CY Calendar Year

The calendar year runs from January 1 through December 31.

D

D&T Diagnostic and Treatment Center

A facility that provides specialized or primary care for periods of less than 24 hours. Requires state certification under State Public Health Law Article 28 to operate.

DataGen

A for-profit subsidiary of HANYS Solutions, DataGen provides information-based tools that support the operations, advocacy, and educational needs of hospitals, health care systems and networks, hospital/health care associations, researchers, and consultants nationwide.

DBL Disability Benefits Law

A New York State law mandating the payment of lost time benefits to employees who are absent from work because of non-occupational disabilities.

Deductible

A form of cost-sharing in a health care plan where the enrolled person pays an initial, specified dollar amount for covered health care services received before the plan will make any payments for covered benefits.

DICOM Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine

The industry standard for transfer of radiologic images and other medical information between computers. It enables digital communication between diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and systems from various manufacturers.

Direct Contracting

An arrangement whereby employers, unions, and other payers bypass insurance companies and health maintenance organizations and contract directly with organized provider networks.

Discharge Data Abstract

A summary description of data abstracted from a hospitalized patient's medical record that includes specific clinical data and other information about the patient, the physician, and insurance and financial status.

DME Direct Medical Education

The direct costs associated with the operation and administration of approved Graduate Medical Education programs. *See also: GME and IME.*

DNR Do-Not-Resuscitate Order

An order signed by a qualified physician and included in the patient record instructing the staff of the institution not to attempt to resuscitate that patient in case of cardiac or respiratory failure.

D.O. Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

In addition to complete medical doctor education, DO training emphasizes primary and preventive care. DOs practice a “whole person” approach to medicine, viewing the body as an integrated whole. DOs also receive extra training in the musculoskeletal system.

DOB Division of the Budget

The New York State agency responsible for assisting the Governor in creating the state budget. DOB also correlates and revises the estimates and requests for appropriations from state departments and agencies.

DOH Department of Health

The New York State agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Public Health Law, Medicaid, Family Health Plus, and Child Health Plus. It also provides state aid for public health work conducted by counties and cities and administers federal monies allotted for health care.

DOL Department of Labor

An agency at both the federal and state levels that works to foster the welfare of wage earners, improve their working conditions, and advance opportunities for profitable employment.

DPT Days Per Thousand

A utilization measure that looks at the number of hospital inpatient days incurred for every 1,000 members of a health care plan.

DRA Deficit Reduction Act of 2005

This legislation temporarily staved off a scheduled Medicare payment cut to physicians. It also included a limited number of provider provisions and gave states flexibility to significantly reform their Medicaid programs.

DRGs Diagnosis Related Groups

A method for classifying patients in categories according to patient diagnosis and treatment resource requirements. It is the basis for CMS' hospital Prospective Payment System for Medicare and for state Medicaid inpatient reimbursement. *See also: AP-DRG, MS-DRG, and APR-DRG.*

DSH Disproportionate Share Hospital

A hospital that serves a relatively large volume of low-income patients. These hospitals receive an additional payment amount under the Medicare Prospective Payment System.

Dual-Eligible

A person who is entitled to Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

DUR Drug Utilization Review

An evaluation of patient drug use to determine the effectiveness of a prescribed drug therapy.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

An advance directive that designates a family member or friend to make decisions about a patient's care should the patient become unable to do so. It has a wider scope than a living will.

DVT Deep Vein Thrombosis

Blood clotting in veins deep in the body, usually in the inner thigh or leg.

E&M Evaluation and Management

A set of Current Procedural Terminology codes that refer to evaluation and management services.

EAP Employee Assistance Program

Employer-financed counseling for drugs, alcohol, and family problems.

EAPG Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Group

The name of the 3M Company system used in New York's Medicaid program as a payment methodology. *See also: APG.*

ECF Extended Care Facility

Term used by the federal government for a nursing home or nursing center providing 24-hour care.

ECG/EKG Electrocardiogram

A tracing of the heart muscle's electrical impulses recorded at the body's surface.

ECMO Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation

ECMO, also known as extracorporeal life support, uses biomedical devices that reproduce the functions of the heart and lungs.

ECRIP Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program

This program encourages teaching hospitals and Graduate Medical Education consortia to train physicians as clinical researchers to advance biomedical research in New York's academic health centers.

ED/ER Emergency Department/Emergency Room

A department that provides immediate emergency care on a 24-hour basis for acutely ill or injured persons.

EDI Electronic Data Interchange

The process of electronically sending and receiving data between systems, generally for claims processing and/or submitting payments to financial institutions.

EEG Electroencephalogram

A brain wave study.

EHR Electronic Health Record

A medical record or any other information relating to a patient's physical and mental health, which resides in computers that capture, transmit, receive, store, retrieve, link, and manipulate medical data for the primary purpose of providing health care and health-related services. EHR records include patient demographics, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data, and radiology reports.

EHS Employee Health Services

A service providing pre-employment medical screening and health care services to employees.

EIP Early Intervention Program

A state program that requires hospitals to identify children from birth to age three with developmental delays, who might benefit from early treatment or therapy.

EISEP Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program

A New York State program created in 1986 to provide in-home and non-medical home care for functionally impaired elderly who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Eligible

An individual who meets the requirements necessary to participate in a particular health care plan or program.

eMedNY

The electronic system New York State uses to process Medicaid claims.

Emergi-Center

A health care facility whose primary purpose is the provision of immediate, short-term medical care for minor but urgent medical conditions.

Employer Mandate

When the government requires all employers to provide health coverage to their employees or face penalties.

EMR Electronic Medical Record

A computer-based patient medical record, an EMR facilitates access to patient data by clinical staff at any given location, claims processing by insurance companies, automated checks for drug and allergy interactions, clinical notes, prescriptions, and scheduling.

EMS Emergency Medical Services

An integrated, federally assisted system of health manpower, facilities, and equipment providing all necessary emergency care in a defined geographic area.

EMT Emergency Medical Technician

EMTs are individuals trained to deliver pre-hospital emergency care at the scene of an injury or sudden illness.

EMTALA Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act

Enacted in 1986, this federal law requires hospitals to assess whether a patient has an emergency condition and, if so, to stabilize it.

Enrollee

An individual subscriber to a health care plan who is covered on his/her own behalf, not as an eligible dependent.

Enrollment

The total number of enrollees in a health care plan at a given point in time.

EOC Effectiveness of Care

Measures included in the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) to measure health plans' effectiveness in meeting patient needs.

EPs Elements of Performance

The steps providers must take to achieve the goals of The Joint Commission standards.

EPIC Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage

A New York State-funded program that subsidizes prescription drug costs for certain elderly residents.

EPO Exclusive Provider Organization

A type of preferred provider organization where the patient must “exclusively” use the providers within the PPO.

ERISA Employee Retirement Income Security Act

A federal law mandating reporting and disclosure requirements for group health and life insurance plans.

ESRD End-Stage Renal Disease

The point in time when a patient with kidney disease has lost all or most kidney function.

Experience Rating

A method of determining health care plan premiums based partially or wholly on the previous experience of the rated group or pool of groups.

F

FACHE Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives

Health care executives who successfully meet the comprehensive credentialing program criteria of the American College of Healthcare Executives become board-certified in health care management and are recognized as ACHE Diplomates or Fellows.

FAHS Federation of American Hospitals

A national association of investor-owned hospitals and health care facilities.

FASC Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Center

A non-hospital sponsored ambulatory surgery center.

Favored Nations Discount

A contractual agreement between a provider and payer stating that the provider will automatically give the payer the best discount it provides anyone else.

FDA Food and Drug Administration

A federal office whose major interests are protecting against unsafe foods, drugs, cosmetics, and other potential hazards.

Federally Qualified HMO

A health maintenance organization that meets certain federal provisions aimed at protecting consumers.

Fee Schedule

A list of accepted fees or predetermined monetary allowances for specified medical services and procedures.

FEHBP Federal Employee Health Benefits Program

The group health insurance program for federal employees; the largest employer-sponsored contributory health insurance program in the world.

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

An independent agency of the federal government whose mission is to reduce loss of life and property and protect the nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards through a comprehensive, risk-based, emergency management program.

FFP Federal Financial Participation

People or programs eligible to have federal government financing for a portion of service charges.

FFS Fee-For-Service

The traditional payment system in which the health care provider bills the patient or insurer for each visit and service provided.

FFY Federal Fiscal Year

The FFY runs from October 1 through September 30.

FHA Federal Housing Administration

A federal agency providing federally insured loans to hospitals and nursing homes.

FHFMA Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association

A distinction given to health care financial managers who achieve the rank of Fellow after meeting requirements beyond those for membership in HFMA.

FHP Family Health Plus

A New York State program that offers comprehensive health coverage to low-income adults who do not have insurance through their employers, but have income too high to be eligible for Medicaid.

FI Fiscal Intermediary

A contractor that processes and pays provider claims on behalf of a government agency.

FICA Federal Insurance Contribution Act

The federal law that requires individuals to contribute to the Social Security fund.

FMAP Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

The federal government matches state Medicaid spending for specified categories of people and benefits, based on the FMAP formula, which compares each state's per capita income to the national average. The federal share of Medicaid spending varies by state, ranging from 50% to 77%.

FMEA Failure Mode and Effects Analysis

A procedure for analyzing potential failure modes within a system. Failures are prioritized according to how serious their consequences are, how frequently they occur, and how easily they can be detected. FMEA also documents current knowledge and actions about the risks of failures, for use in continuous improvement.

FMG Foreign Medical Graduate

A physician who graduated from a medical school outside of the United States (also referred to as IMG, or international medical graduate).

FOIA/FOIL Freedom of Information Act/Freedom of Information Law

Federal and state laws allowing citizens and organizations access to government records while safeguarding individuals' rights to privacy.

Foundation Model

A health system that purchases physician practices, placing them under a foundation structure as a non-profit, wholly owned subsidiary of the system. The physicians remain employees of a separate professional corporation, but sign professional service agreements with the foundation.

Freestanding Emergency Center

A facility physically separate from a hospital that provides emergency and primary care. Also called an emergi-center or urgi-center.

Freestanding Outpatient Surgical Center

A facility physically separate from a hospital, which provides pre-scheduled surgical services.

F-SHRP Federal-State Health Reform Partnership

An arrangement with the federal government under the auspices of a Section 1115 waiver through which the state receives funding for health care reform and restructuring initiatives.

FSMB Federation of State Medical Boards

A national organization consisting of state medical licensing boards.

F Tags

A term used to identify specific federal nursing home regulations in the OSCAR data system in relation to the survey and certification of a nursing home.

FY Fiscal Year

A 12-month period, other than a calendar year, for which an organization maintains its budget and financial records.

G

GAO General Accountability Office

The independent congressional agency that reviews federal financial transactions, examines the expenditure of appropriations of federal agencies, and reports to Congress.

Gatekeeper

A health care professional who coordinates, manages, and authorizes all health care services provided to a covered beneficiary.

Geriatrician

A physician who specializes in the health care needs of older adults.

GME Graduate Medical Education

Medical education after receiving the medical doctorate or equivalent degrees, including education received as an intern, resident, or fellow.

GMLOS Geometric Mean Length of Stay

Used by CMS to develop fractional reimbursement for persons whose medical treatment takes a much longer or shorter time than average.

GNYHA Greater New York Hospital Association

One of the regional affiliates of the Healthcare Association of New York State. GNYHA membership consists primarily of voluntary and municipal hospitals and nursing homes in and around the five boroughs of New York City.

GPS HANYS' Group Purchasing Services, Inc.

A for-profit subsidiary of HANYS Solutions, HANYS' GPS offers access to quality medical supplies, food, equipment, and pharmaceuticals with significant savings, thereby enhancing HANYS members' operational efficiency.

Group Practice Model

A type of health maintenance organization in which physicians practice in a common facility and use common staff. Income is pooled and distributed according to an agreed-upon plan.

Grouper

A computer software program that uses clinical and other information to classify medical cases into the proper Diagnosis Related Group.

GSA General Services Administration

A federal agency that provides other federal agencies the workspace, products, services, and technology they need to accomplish their missions.

H

HAC Healthcare-Acquired Condition

A medical problem that was not present on admission to a hospital. The term is used in federal and state regulations.

HAI Healthcare-Acquired Infection

Any infection treated in the hospital that was not present on admission. The term is used in federal and state regulations.

HANYS Healthcare Association of New York State

The only statewide advocate for more than 550 not-for-profit and public health systems, hospitals, nursing facilities, home care agencies, hospice programs, adult day care programs, and other related health care facilities throughout New York State.

HARRI Home Assessment Resource Review Instrument

Home care assessment instrument used to assess Medicaid applicants/recipients for personal care services, home health services, and long-term home health care programs.

HBS HANYS Benefit Services

A for-profit subsidiary of HANYS Solutions, HBS designs, negotiates, markets, and services employee benefit programs, property and casualty insurance plans, and other insurance coverage offered primarily to health care providers.

HCA Home Care Association of New York State

An association representing Certified Home Health Agencies in New York State.

HCAHPS Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems

A standardized survey instrument and data collection methodology for measuring patients' perceptions of their hospital experience. HCAHPS data are available on the CMS Hospital Compare Web site.

HCP New York State Association of Health Care Providers

An association representing licensed home care services agencies in New York State.

HCPCS Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System

An expansion of Current Procedural Terminology codes used by CMS to code medical and surgical procedures.

HCRA Health Care Reform Act

See: *NYHCRA*.

HCSC Healthcare Community Securities Corporation

A for-profit subsidiary of HANYS Solutions, HCSC is a broker-dealer specializing in providing employers with comprehensive retirement products and services including 401(k) and 403(c) retirement plans, and selecting investment advisory services.

HCUP Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project

A federal study undertaken by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to create a national database for research into the efficacy and costs of U.S. health care.

HCW Health Care Worker

An individual employed by a health care provider.

HDHP High Deductible Health Plan

A health insurance plan with a lower premium and higher deductible than a traditional health plan.

HDL High-Density Lipoproteins

Lipoproteins that enable lipids like cholesterol and triglycerides to move within the water-based solution of the bloodstream. When measuring cholesterol, any contained in HDL particles is considered as protection to the body's cardiovascular health, in contrast to "bad" LDL cholesterol.

HEAL NY Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers

A four-year New York State grant program established in 2005 that provides \$1 billion in capital grant funding to support health care facility improvements, reconfiguration and consolidation, information technology enhancements, and other projects to enhance the efficiency of facility operations.

Health Care Plan

Any entity or organization that covers health care services.

Health Care Proxy

A document authorizing a person (the agent) to make health care decisions on behalf of another person (the principal) in the event that the principal lacks the capacity to make decisions for him/herself.

HEDIS® Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set

Part of the process used by the National Committee for Quality Assurance in accrediting managed care organizations. This tool is used by more than 90% of America's health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service.

HERDS Hospital Emergency Response Data System

DOH's comprehensive, interactive database that provides health officials with online, real-time data describing available hospital beds; medical supplies; personnel; numbers, status, and immediate care needs of ill or injured persons; along with other urgent information to facilitate a rapid and effective emergency response.

HERF Healthcare Educational and Research Fund

A not-for-profit affiliate of HANYS, HERF is known for the many conferences and seminars it plans and coordinates for the health care community. It is a source of quality programming and strives to provide an open forum for discussion on strategies and tools to improve the delivery of quality health care.

HFMA Healthcare Financial Management Association

A professional society of health care financial managers and those in related fields.

HHA Home Health Agency

An agency that provides health care, social work, and rehabilitation services in the home. To be certified under Medicare, an agency must provide skilled nursing services and at least one additional therapeutic service in the home.

HHQI Home Health Quality Initiative

A CMS project that aims to improve the quality of home health care by assisting and educating home health care agencies and to provide consumers with information on the quality of care provided by home care agencies.

HHRG Home Health Resource Group

A home care patient's case mix classification used to determine payment for services under the Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System.

HHS Department of Health and Human Services

The federal agency that administers most federal health programs, including Medicare.

HIAA Health Insurance Association of America

A professional organization that promotes the development of voluntary insurance against loss of income and financial burdens resulting from accident or illness.

HIM Health Information Management

The management of information in health care organizations that often includes the use of automated or computerized systems.

HIMSS Health Information Management System Society

A professional society for data processing within hospitals.

HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

HIPAA governs privacy, security, and electronic transaction standards for health care information. This federal law also protects individuals' rights to health coverage during events such as changing or losing jobs, pregnancy, moving, or divorce.

HIPDB Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank

A national health care fraud and abuse data collection program for reporting and disclosing certain adverse actions taken against providers, suppliers, and practitioners.

HIT Health Information Technology

Computer-based tools developed specifically for health care delivery. These tools can provide physicians and other clinicians up-to-date information about their patients, access to cutting-edge medical knowledge and best practices through decision-support systems, and other benefits.

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

Causes a breakdown of the body's immune system, leading in some cases to the development of AIDS.

HLQAT Hospital Leadership and Quality Assessment Tool

A tool designed to assess the perceptions of hospital board members and leaders about important areas of clinical quality improvement in their hospitals.

HMO Health Maintenance Organization

A prepaid group health plan that provides a range of services for a fixed monthly premium. Following are characteristics of various types of HMOs:

Group Model HMO

The HMO has contracts with physicians organized as a partnership, professional corporation, or other association. The HMO compensates the medical group for services at a contracted rate, and that group is responsible for compensating its physicians and contracting with hospitals for care of their patients. The group can be “captive”—serving only the HMO’s patients, or “independent”—serving non-HMO patients.

Individual Practice Association Model HMO

IPA model HMOs contract with an association of physicians—the IPA. Physicians continue in their existing practices and are compensated on a per capita, or fee-for-service basis.

Network Model HMO

A type of HMO where a network of two or more existing group practices has contracted to care for the majority of patients enrolled in an HMO plan.

Open Panel HMO

An HMO in which any licensed physician in an area is eligible to join the HMO.

Social HMO

A type of HMO developed mainly on a demonstration basis with government funding. It is intended to supplement traditional HMO medical services to include expanded coverage for prescriptions and chronic care services to elderly and disabled enrollees.

Staff Model HMO

A type of HMO where the majority of enrollees are cared for by physicians who are on the staff of the HMO.

Home Health Care

Health care, social work, and rehabilitation services provided to patients in their homes.

Hold-Harmless

When used in health care reimbursement, hold-harmless means that a new reimbursement provision or system is designed to ensure that a provider will not receive less reimbursement than the provider would have received before the new provision or system was implemented.

HOP QDRP Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program

Under this program, hospitals report data on the quality of hospital outpatient care using standardized measures of care to receive the full annual update to their Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System rate. HOP QDRP is modeled on the quality data reporting program for inpatient services, the Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update program.

Hospice Care

Health care that addresses the physical, emotional, social, financial, and legal needs of terminally ill patients and their families.

Hospitalist

A physician who specializes in caring for hospitalized patients. Hospitalists coordinate patient care and keep the primary care physician informed of the patient's condition and progress on a daily basis.

HPA New York Health Plan Association

An industry voice for health care plans across the state that provide coverage for New Yorkers, HPA was established for the purpose of promoting the development of managed health care plans within New York State.

HPCANYS Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State

A trade association primarily composed of certified hospice programs and palliative care programs caring for the terminally ill.

HPN Health Provider Network

HPN is a secure, Internet-based system used by DOH to communicate and exchange data with, and distribute software to, hospitals and other health care providers.

HPNA Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

A professional nursing organization dedicated to promoting excellence in hospice and palliative nursing care.

HPSA Health Professional Shortage Area

Areas identified by the Health Resources and Services Administration as having shortages of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers. The areas may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low-income population), or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center, or other public facility).

HQA Hospital Quality Alliance

A public/private collaboration to improve the quality of care provided by the nation's hospitals by measuring and publicly reporting on that care. Through this national CMS project, participating hospitals agree to submit additional quality information for public reporting.

HQI Hospital Quality Initiative

Part of the HQA, this CMS project includes several parts, including demonstration projects and the Hospital Compare Web site. Its goals are to improve the care provided by the nation's hospitals and to provide quality information to consumers and others.

HRET Hospital Research and Educational Trust

A part of the American Hospital Association that engages in educational and research activities to improve the management of hospital and health services.

HRF Health Related Facility

A residential health care facility whose residents are more functionally independent than those residing in a skilled nursing facility. Often used synonymously with the federal term “intermediate care facility.”

HRSA Health Resources and Services Administration

This federal agency directs national health programs assuring quality health care to under-served, vulnerable, and special-need populations. It also promotes appropriate health professions workforce capacity and practice.

HSA Health Savings Account

Established by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, HSAs are tax advantaged medical savings accounts designed to help individuals save for future qualified medical and retiree health expenses on a tax-free basis.

HSI HANYS Solutions

A for-profit subsidiary of HANYS and the parent of HANYS’ for-profit companies, HANYS Solutions provides responsive, high-quality products and services to the health care market of New York State and the nation.

HSRV Hospital-Specific Relative Value

A weighting system used in the Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System that adjusts for a hospital’s costs.

HTNYS Healthcare Trustees of New York State

An affiliate of HANYS, its mission is to assist voluntary health care trustees through education, communications, and advocacy to promote the delivery of quality health care to all communities in a cost effective manner. HTNYS serves trustees statewide through a Board of Governors that establishes policy for the organization.

HUD Housing and Urban Development

A federal agency responsible for programs concerned with housing needs, fair housing opportunities, and improving and developing the nation’s communities.

IBNR Incurred But Not Reported

Costs associated with a medical service that has been provided, but for which a claim has not been received by the carrier.

ICD International Classification of Disease

A system developed by the World Health Organization for classifying mortality data from death certificates.

ICD-9-CM International Classification of Disease, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification

ICD-9-CM is a classification system that groups related diseases and procedures for the reporting of statistical information. Maintenance of the system is shared by CMS and the National Center for Health Statistics. A new ICD-10-CM system is being developed to replace the ICD-9-CM system on October 1, 2011.

ICF Intermediate Care Facility

A federal classification of institutions recognized under the Medicaid program that provides health-related services to individuals who need care in an institutional facility but do not require the degree of care that a hospital or skilled nursing facility is designed to provide.

ICM Intensive Case Management

A case management model provided by the mental health system that includes crisis management, screening, assessment, care planning, service arrangement, monitoring, evaluation, and advocacy.

ICR Institutional Cost Report

A uniform report used by New York hospitals to report income, expenses, assets, liabilities, and statistics to DOH and various Blue Cross plans.

ICU Intensive Care Unit

A specially equipped nursing unit for monitoring and treating seriously ill patients.

IDN Integrated Delivery Network

A group of providers that organize with the purpose of providing a coordinated continuum of health care services to its members. An IDN may or may not include traditional insurance companies. An IDN generally receives payment and then pays its providers on a capitated basis.

IDS Integrated Delivery System

An entity composed of affiliated providers certified by DOH to deliver comprehensive health care services on a capitated basis.

IGT Intergovernmental Transfer

Intergovernmental transfers are an authorized financing mechanism in which states may use revenue from local governments to help fund the state share of allowable Medicaid expenditures.

IHA Iroquois Healthcare Alliance

One of the regional affiliates of the Healthcare Association of New York State, representing health care providers in 32 counties of Central and Northeastern New York.

IHI Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Founded in 1991, IHI is a not-for-profit organization focused on improving health care throughout the world. IHI's 100,000 Lives and 5 Million Lives campaigns are initiatives to engage U.S. hospitals in a commitment to implement proven changes that improve patient care and prevent avoidable deaths.

IME Indirect Medical Education

Reimbursement that recognizes the higher costs teaching hospitals incur while training interns and residents. Under the Medicare Prospective Payment System, IME payments are based on a hospital's teaching intensity, which is measured by the ratio of interns and residents to beds.

IMG International Medical Graduate

A physician who graduated from a medical school outside of the United States. *See also: FMG.*

IMS Indicator Measurement System

A function of The Joint Commission, providing ongoing performance measurement to accredited and accreditation-seeking organizations.

Indemnity Insurance

A type of health care insurance coverage where enrolled members are reimbursed for all or part of their health care expenditures and the enrolled members choose their own providers. Typically, there are enrollee deductibles and coverage limits.

Inpatient

A patient who has been admitted at least overnight to a hospital or other health facility and occupies a hospital bed, crib, or bassinets while under observation, care, and diagnosis. Also refers to the services provided to these individuals.

Intern

A physician in training in the first year after graduating from medical school. *See also: Resident.*

Integrity Works, Inc.

A for-profit subsidiary of HANYS Solutions, Integrity Works provides a full range of background investigation services designed to help employers reduce cost and business risk, and improve the quality of their workforce.

IOM Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences

IOM provides information and advice concerning health and science policy to government, the corporate sector, the professions, and the public. The federal government created the National Academy of Sciences to be an advisor on scientific and technological matters. The Academy and IOM are private, non-governmental organizations and do not receive direct federal appropriations.

IPA Individual Practice Association

Physicians organized for the purpose of obtaining and/or administering contracts with health care plans. An IPA may or may not be legally separate from the plan with which it contracts. Providers in an IPA are able to treat non-plan patients.

IPF Inpatient Psychiatric Facility

A freestanding psychiatric hospital or distinct part psychiatric unit of acute care hospitals that provides mental health diagnosis, observation, evaluation, care, treatment, or rehabilitation inside or on the premises of the facility.

IPRO

New York State's designated peer review organization, which reviews the hospital care provided to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Formerly known as Island Peer Review Organization.

IPS Interim Payment System

Any interim payment system.

IRB Intern/Resident to Bed Ratio

The ratio between the number of interns/residents to the number of beds in a hospital.

IRF Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility

A facility that specializes in caring for people recovering from injuries or illnesses that severely impair their physical functioning or understanding. These include strokes, spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, chronic pulmonary problems, or neurological disorders.

IRF-PAI Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility—Patient Assessment Instrument

The IRF-PAI is a core set of screening, clinical, and functional status elements that forms the foundation of the comprehensive assessment instrument used for all Medicare covered inpatient rehabilitation patients, classifying, and placing them into a per diem payment reimbursement system.

ISMP Institute for Safe Medication Practices

A non-profit organization that works with health care practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, professional organizations, and the pharmaceutical industry to provide education about adverse drug events and their prevention.

IV Intravenous

Administering liquid substances directly into a vein.

J

JCR Joint Commission Resources

An affiliate of The Joint Commission, JCR offers health care providers consulting services, educational services, and publications to assist in improving quality and safety and to help in meeting Joint Commission accreditation standards.

The Joint Commission

A private, non-profit organization dedicated to the development of optimal, achievable standards and the conduct of surveys to encourage the attainment of uniform high standards of hospital, nursing home, and home health care.



LAIV Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine

LAIV contains attenuated (or weakened) viruses that provide immunity and usually do not cause illness because they have lost their disease-causing properties.

LANE Local Area Network for Excellence

A coalition of stakeholders at the state level that comes together for the purpose of supporting providers and consumers in achieving the goals of the Advancing Excellence in Nursing Homes campaign, a collaborative campaign to transform the quality of care and quality of life for nursing home residents.

LDL Low Density Lipoprotein

A molecule that is a combination of lipid (fat) and protein. LDL transports cholesterol from the liver to the tissues of the body and is therefore considered the “bad” cholesterol.

LHCSA Licensed Home Care Services Agency

Offers one or more home care services to clients who pay privately or have private insurance coverage. Many also contract with local social services districts or other home care providers to care for those with Medicaid coverage.

Living Will

A statement of a person’s preferences for treatment if he or she becomes incompetent or goes into an irreversible coma.

LOS Length of Stay

A standard measure of hospital usage, obtained by dividing patient discharges into days of care.

LPN Licensed Practical Nurse

A person who has undergone training and obtained a license from a state conferring authorization to provide routine care for the sick.

LTC Long-Term Care

Continuous or recurring care provided for a chronic illness.

LTD Long-Term Disability

An insurance program providing lost time benefits to disabled employees.

LTHHCP Long-Term Home Health Care Program

A New York State certified program providing skilled nursing services to individuals residing in their homes; also described as the Nursing Home Without Walls program.

LUPA Low Utilization Payment Adjustment

Under the Medicare Home Health Prospective Payment System, LUPA is a per-visit payment that is applicable when there are four or fewer visits in an episode.

LVN Licensed Vocational Nurse

A non-registered nurse who has completed a nursing program and is licensed to provide routine patient care under the direction of a registered nurse or a physician.

LVSD Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction

A condition in which the heart's left ventricle does not effectively pump blood to the organs.

LWDII Lost Work Day Injury and Illness

The number of injury and illness cases serious enough for workers to lose time or be put on restricted work activities per 100 workers per year.

M

MA Medical Assistance

A health care program for the medically indigent authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, known as Medicaid.

MAC Medicare Administration Contractor

A contractor selected by CMS to administer claims.

Malpractice

A dereliction from professional duty or a failure to exercise an accepted degree of professional skill or learning by one (such as a physician) rendering professional services which result in injury, loss, or damage. Also refers to the insurance that covers instances of malpractice.

Managed Care

A health insurance provider or plan that attempts to control costs by closely monitoring patient treatment, limiting referrals to outside providers, and requiring pre-authorization for hospital care and surgical procedures.

Marketbasket

This Medicare update calculation is intended to reflect the average change in the price of goods and services hospitals purchase to furnish patient care.

MCO Managed Care Organization

Any organization or health care plan that takes a managed care approach to the delivery of services.

MD Doctor of Medicine

One duly licensed to practice medicine.

MDCs Major Diagnostic Categories

A grouping of diagnostic related groups pertaining to major body areas or groups of diagnoses, i.e., musculoskeletal systems, mental health, etc.

MDH Medicare Dependent Hospital

Medicare dependent hospitals are small rural hospitals for which Medicare patients comprise a significant percentage of their patients and, hence, their revenues. They are considered more financially vulnerable under prospective payment than hospitals that are reimbursed for patient care through a mix of private and public insurance.

MDS Minimum Data Set

MDS is a core set of screening, clinical, and functional status elements that forms the foundation of the comprehensive assessment instrument used for all residents in Medicare/Medicaid-certified nursing facilities.

Medicaid

A joint federal and state health care assistance program for low-income persons of any age and some people with long-term disabilities. In New York State, county governments share in funding Medicaid.

Medicare

A federally sponsored health insurance program for those aged 65 and over, as well as certain other eligible individuals. It has four parts: Part A covers inpatient costs; Part B covers outpatient costs; Part C is the Medicare+Choice program; and Part D covers prescription drugs.

Medicare Cost Contract

A managed care arrangement between an HMO and the federal government where the government pays reasonable costs to the provider for Medicare recipients who receive services through that HMO. The HMO receives an interim capitated payment that is adjusted at the end of the contract period based on the HMO's actual expenses and CMS' determination of reasonable costs.

Medicare Cost Report

CMS requires health care providers to file a cost report on an annual basis to properly determine the amounts payable under the Medicare program. The cost report summarizes the provider's financial records and statistical data.

Medicare Risk Contract

An arrangement where the federal government pays an HMO a fixed, capitated amount for Medicare recipients enrolled through that HMO. The enrolled Medicare beneficiaries pay allowable cost sharing to the HMO and must obtain services through the chosen HMO for the duration of the contract period. The HMO is at risk for expenditures in excess of the federal and beneficiary payment.

Medigap Medicare Supplemental Insurance

Private insurance policies that pay some or all of Medicare's deductibles and copayments.

MedPAC Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

A panel that reviews and makes annual recommendations to Congress on Medicare fee-for-service and managed care payment policies.

MedPAR Medicare Provider Analysis and Review

A Medicare billing file, including diagnostic information for a 20% sample of patients, used to determine service intensity weights for calculating a case mix index.

Member Months

The total members in a health care plan multiplied by the number of months of coverage, or the sum of the number of members for each month. This number is generally used by managed care plans and providers as part of their per member per month expense and revenue calculations, and is used to calculate various utilization measures.

Members

The total number of covered participants, including dependents, in a health care plan at a given point in time. The average number of members in a given year is calculated as member months divided by 12.

MGCRB Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board

A federal entity that reviews requests and issues decisions concerning the geographic reclassification of hospitals for purposes of payment under the Medicare Prospective Payment System.

MICA Mentally Ill Chemical Abuser

An adult who has both a mental illness and a substance abuse disorder. MICA is also a program funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health that provides services to this population.

MIEA-TRHCA The Medicare Improvements and Extension Act, Division B of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006

A narrow Medicare bill that temporarily staved off a scheduled Medicare payment cut to physicians. The bill included a limited number of hospital provisions, one of which required that outpatient departments begin to submit data on quality measures. The bill also made permanent and expanded nationally the Recovery Audit Contractor program.

MIP Managed Indemnity Plan

A type of health plan where the insurer (or its agent) uses a significant number of utilization controls to manage the practices of providers it reimburses.

MIPPA Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008

A narrow Medicare bill that staved off a scheduled Medicare payment cut to physicians by cutting payments to Medicare Advantage plans. The bill also enhanced payments to rural providers and provided a limited number of positive provider and beneficiary provisions.

MLTC Managed Long-Term Care

A type of care that provides or arranges for health and long-term care services on a capitated basis.

MMA Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003

Also known as the Medicare Modernization Act, this legislation established a Medicare prescription drug benefit, included health care provider payment improvements, and authorized changes that give managed care a larger role in the Medicare program.

MMIS Medicaid Management Information System

New York State's computerized claims, processing, and payment system for Medicaid.

MMSEA Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007

This legislation reauthorized the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The bill also staved off a scheduled Medicare payment cut to physicians, enhanced payments to rural providers, and provided a limited number of positive provider and beneficiary provisions.

MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

A series of reports on disease and health care issues issued weekly by CDC.

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

An agreement between various bodies identifying the respective responsibilities of each party for various activities and costs.

M.P.H. Master of Public Health

A professional Master's degree awarded for studies in areas related to public health. The degree focuses on public health practice, as opposed to research or teaching.

MQSA Mammogram Quality Standards Act of 1992

This federal law imposed standards for mammography personnel, equipment, record-keeping, and facility inspections.

MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging

A non-invasive technique for examining cross-sectional images of the body.

MRSA Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*

Staphylococcus aureus are bacteria that normally live on people's skin, but can also cause a urinary tract infection, pneumonia, and toxic shock syndrome. MRSA is a strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* that is resistant to a large number of antibiotics, making it difficult to treat.

MSA Medical Savings Account

A savings plan whereby pre-tax dollars can be used for health care expenses, providing an incentive for reduced use of health care services.

MSA Metropolitan Statistical Area

An urban area specified by the U.S. Census Bureau with a central city with a population of more than 50,000 people and including adjoining suburban areas.

MSB Management Service Bureau

A wholly owned subsidiary of a health system created to provide an "a la carte" menu of practice management services to physicians at fair market value.

MS-DRG Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Group

A Medicare classification for patients with diagnoses designated as major complications and comorbidities.

MSSNY Medical Society of the State of New York

A trade association representing licensed physicians in New York State.

MUA Medically Under-Served Area

A county or a group of contiguous counties, a group of county or civil divisions, or a group of urban census tracts identified by the Health Resources and Services Administration as having a shortage of personal health services.

MUGA Multigated Radionuclide Angiography

Also known as equilibrium gated radionuclide angiography or radionuclide ventriculography, MUGA is a radioisotope test used to measure heart function and performance.

NABCO National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations

Founded in 1986 and based in New York City, NABCO is a non-profit information and education resource on breast cancer in the U.S.

NAB/NCERS National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators/National Continuing Education Review Service

NAB is a national association serving jurisdictions that license, credential, and regulate long-term care administrators. NAB operates the NCERS to provide a standard and uniform method of evaluating the continuing education activities required for maintenance of long-term care administrator licenses.

NACHRI National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions

A national organization composed of children's hospitals and related institutions whose programs are clinical, as opposed to social or custodial.

NAHC National Association of Home Care

The national trade association of home health agencies and hospices.

NBCCEDP National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

NBCCEDP provides screening services, including clinical breast examinations, mammograms, pelvic examinations, and Pap tests, to under-served women. NBCCEDP also funds post-screening diagnostic services. CDC has operated the NBCCEDP since its inception in 1990.

NCCC National Chronic Care Consortium

A group of providers and networks whose mission is to serve as an operational laboratory for enabling innovative health networks to establish prototype systems for better serving persons with chronic conditions.

NCCN National Comprehensive Cancer Network

Established in 1995 to enhance the leadership role of member institutions in the evolving managed care environment, NCCN is a not-for-profit corporation that is an alliance of the world's leading cancer centers.

NCCS National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

A national advocacy organization working on behalf of cancer survivors and others affected by the disease.

NCHS National Center for Health Statistics

A research center within the U.S. Public Health Service.

NCI National Cancer Institute

An agency of the National Institutes of Health that seeks to expand existing scientific knowledge on cancer cause and prevention as well as on the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of cancer patients. *See also: NIH.*

NCLEX-RN National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse

A test of nursing competence. Passing the exam is required of candidates for licensure as a registered nurse by all U.S. state and territorial boards of nursing. The NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-Practical Nurse examinations are developed and owned by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

NCQA National Committee for Quality Assurance

A national organization that accredits quality assurance programs in prepaid managed health care organizations.

NDC National Drug Code

An essential part of an out-of-hospital drug reimbursement program under Medicare, the NDC directory serves as a universal product identifier for human drugs.

NEC Not Elsewhere Classifiable

An abbreviation used in an ICD-9-CM code description that indicates that a more specific category is not provided in the tabular list of codes and no amount of additional information will alter the code.

Network

A formally integrated group of providers working together with a common vision and goal, jointly providing services through an integrated continuum of care. Networks contract with carriers or employers to provide health care services to participants in a specified managed care plan. The contract determines the payment method and rates, utilization controls, and target utilization rates by plan participants.

New York State Department of Family Assistance

Formerly called the Department of Social Services, this agency is responsible for supervising a range of programs that provide cash assistance and support to eligible children, families, and adults.

NGS National Government Services

The contractor that processes Medicare claims for New York State.

NHQI Nursing Home Quality Initiative

A CMS initiative that provides nursing homes with information, education, and technical assistance for quality improvement and that publicly reports quality measures in several nursing home care delivery areas.

NICU Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

A specially equipped hospital unit where premature and critically ill newborns receive intensive medical care.

NIH National Institutes of Health

Institutes under HHS that conduct and support biomedical research into the causes, prevention, and cure of diseases and support development of research resources. The institutes are: the National Cancer Institute; National Eye Institute; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; National Human Genome Research Institute; National Institute on Aging; National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases; National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; National Institute of General Medical Sciences; National Institute of Mental Health; National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; National Institute of Nursing Research; and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

The federal agency that develops and establishes recommendations for occupational health and safety standards.

NLRB National Labor Relations Board

An independent federal agency overseeing labor relations laws including employer and employee rights, unionization, and the prevention and remedy of unfair labor practices.

NMR Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

A non-invasive technique for examining cross-sectional images of the body and measuring tissue biochemistry.

NNYHA Northern New York Healthcare Association

One of the regional affiliates of the Healthcare Association of New York State, made up of health care facilities in the northernmost part of the state.

NORC Naturally Occurring Retirement Community

A demographic term used to describe neighborhoods where at least 40% of the residents are older than 60. NORCs are not planned retirement communities; they are neighborhoods or apartment buildings where large numbers of residents have decided to remain for years and age.

NorMet Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association

A not-for-profit association, allied with the Healthcare Association of New York State, that represents health care facilities in the mid-Hudson Valley area.

NOS Not Otherwise Specified

NOS is an abbreviation used in an ICD-9-CM code description, which indicates that there is a lack of sufficient detail in the statement of the diagnosis or procedure for its assignment to a more specific subdivision.

NP Nurse Practitioner

A registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician.

NPDB National Practitioner Data Bank

A central registry that hospitals must contact to verify the credentials and malpractice history of licensed practitioners applying for privileges at their facilities. Hospitals must inform the NPDB if disciplinary measures are taken against individuals on their staffs.

NPI National Provider Identifier

A HIPAA administrative simplification standard, NPI is a unique, ten-digit identification number for covered health care providers.

NPO *Nihil Per Os*

This Latin term meaning “nothing by mouth” is a directive a physician gives a patient to refrain from eating, commonly during a fasting period before surgery.

NQF National Quality Forum

A not-for-profit membership organization created to develop and implement a national strategy for health care quality measurement and reporting.

NSC National Safety Council

A national non-governmental organization composed of individuals interested in promoting accident reduction by gathering and distributing information to the public about the causes of accidents and ways to prevent them.

NSHC Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council

An affiliate of the Healthcare Association of New York State, NSHC is a not-for-profit association that provides advocacy, representation, and education to hospitals and health care facilities on Long Island.

NYAHS New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

A trade association representing many non-profit and public nursing homes and affiliated long-term health care services.

NYCRR New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations

The official compilation of state codes, rules, and regulations.

NYeC New York eHealth Collaborative

A public-private partnership founded by health care leaders, with leadership and support from DOH, to serve as a focal point for health care stakeholders to build consensus on state health information technology (IT) policy priorities, and collaborate on state and regional health IT implementation efforts.

NYHCRA New York Health Care Reform Act

The legislation that deregulated New York State’s hospital inpatient financing system for most payers effective January 1, 1997 and established a public goods financing mechanism to reimburse hospitals for a portion of their uncompensated care and graduate medical education expenses. It also established funding for the state’s Child Health Plus program, various other insurance demonstration projects, and quality and primary care initiatives.

NYHIMA New York Health Information Management Association

An association of health information professionals who manage medical records.

NYHPA New York Health Plan Association

A trade association based in Albany representing New York's managed care organizations.

NYONE New York Organization of Nurse Executives

A professional organization providing support and development for nurses who design, facilitate, influence, and manage health care systems in New York State. *See also: AONE.*

NYPHRM New York Prospective Hospital Reimbursement Methodology

The inpatient hospital financing system that was implemented on January 1, 1983 and expired on December 31, 1996.

NYPORTS New York Patient Occurrence Reporting and Tracking System

New York hospitals report adverse patient events to NYPORTS, which is operated by DOH. Implemented in 1998, NYPORTS does not risk-adjust data by patient severity, but is designed to help hospitals improve quality of care by sharing information and using the information to look at ways to improve care.

NYSACHO New York State Association of County Health Officials

A statewide association representing each of the 58 local health departments in New York. The membership includes health commissioners, public health directors, deputy commissioners, environmental health directors, and directors of patient services.

NYS-CARES

Formally known as New York State Creating Alternatives in Residential Environments and Services, NYS-CARES is a five-year plan established in 1999 to virtually eliminate the waiting list for out-of-home placements for people with developmental disabilities by making residential services available and adding more opportunities and choices for individuals with developmental disabilities.

NYSCHP New York State Community Health Partnership

A collaboration of public and private sector groups to improve the health and well being of New York's communities.

NYSHFA New York State Health Facilities Association

A trade association primarily composed of investor-owned long-term care facilities in New York State.

NYSHIPP New York State Health Insurance Partnership Program

A program funded through the New York Health Care Reform Act that subsidizes the purchase of group health insurance for small businesses.

NYSNA New York State Nurses Association

A membership organization of registered, professional nurses that also serves as a collective bargaining unit.

NYSPHA New York State Public Health Association

An organization functioning to initiate, endorse, and support legislation and regulatory changes that promote health concepts and concerns.

OASAS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

A New York State agency with oversight of the state's alcohol and substance abuse services system. The public and private service systems provide a continuum of care from medical detoxification to long-term residential settings for those individuals who have chemical dependency disorders.

OASIS Outcome and Assessment Information Set

A tool for home health agencies to measure individual patient outcomes and to identify opportunities to improve performance and patient satisfaction. It is used in mandatory reporting to CMS.

OAT Office for Advancement of Telehealth

A federal office within the Health Resources and Services Administration created to serve as a catalyst for the wider adoption of advanced technologies in providing health care services and education. OAT offers a grant program to develop telehealth.

OBQI Outcome-Based Quality Improvement

An approach to quality improvement in health care based on patient outcomes.

OCE Outpatient Code Editor

A software package that identifies data inconsistencies on outpatient claims and examines the type of patient and the procedures performed to determine if the services are covered by Medicare and if the diagnostic and procedural information on the claim is clinically reasonable and may be paid.

OCR Office of Civil Rights

A federal agency responsible for enforcing civil rights laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap in the areas of voting, education, housing, employment, credit, the use of public accommodations, and in the administration of federally assisted programs.

ODBC Open Database Connectivity

A standard that enables any computer application to communicate with any database.

OHS Office of Homeland Security

Federal agency established in 2001 whose mission is to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks.

Olmstead Decision

Olmstead v. L.C. is a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision that requires states to provide community services to allow disabled patients to live in a minimally restrictive environment.

OMB Office of Management and Budget

The federal office responsible for reviewing the organizational structure and management procedures of the executive branch, supervising and controlling the administration of the budget, and keeping the President informed of the progress of activities by agencies of the government with respect to work proposed, initiated, and completed.

OMH Office of Mental Health

An autonomous office within the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene responsible for the operation of state-run mental health services and the regulation of services for the mentally impaired provided through community services and hospitals.

OMRDD Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

An autonomous office within the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene responsible for the development of comprehensive plans, programs, and services in the areas of research, prevention and care, treatment, rehabilitation, education, and training of the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

ONCHIT Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

This office was established in 2003 to accelerate nationwide implementation of health information technology.

OPD Outpatient Department

Hospital department that provides non-emergency ambulatory care, as contrasted with formal admission to a hospital and inpatient care.

OPH Office of Public Health

A division of DOH, OPH is responsible for all traditional public health activities including research, disease prevention and control, environmental health, and coordination of local public health activities.

OPMC Office of Professional Medical Conduct

A division of DOH charged with conducting investigations of alleged misconduct by physicians.

OPO Organ Procurement Organization

An organization that keeps records of persons needing organ transplants and donor organs available, and matches the two.

OR Operating Room

Hospital suite in which surgery requiring anesthesia is performed.

ORHP Office of Rural Health Policy

Established by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration in 1987, ORHP promotes better health care service in rural America.

ORYX

A part of The Joint Commission accreditation process that includes performance standards.

OSCAR Online Survey, Certification, and Reporting

A federal database that includes Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing homes, results of on-site visits, and a summary of nursing home resident characteristics.

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration

A division of the federal Department of Labor, established by legislation, to promulgate and enforce workplace safety and health standards.

Outcomes

Measures of medical care quality in which the standard of judgment is the attainment of a specified result or outcome.

Outlier

Outlier is a term that describes a patient whose hospital stay is unusually long or whose costs for hospital care are unusually high compared to other patients with the same diagnosis or condition. Under Medicare, additional payments are made for outliers meeting certain conditions.

Out-of-Network

Services received from a provider who does not participate with the enrollee's health plan.

Out-of-Pocket Costs

The portion of health care costs that are required to be paid by the enrollee (i.e., copayments, deductibles, coinsurance).

P

PA Physician's Assistant

A person certified to provide basic medical services, usually under the supervision of a licensed physician.

PAC Products of Ambulatory Care

Selective Medicaid reimbursement program for outpatient clinical services.

PAC-PRD Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 established this demonstration to test a standardized patient assessment tool for use both by acute care hospitals at discharge and by post-acute settings, at both admission and discharge. The project includes a post-acute care payment reform demonstration to examine differences in costs and outcomes for post-acute care patients of similar case mix who use different types of post-acute care providers.

PACE Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

A comprehensive federal program providing both medical and supportive care tailored to the specific, changing needs of the frail elderly.

Palliative Care

Palliative care is primarily directed at providing relief to a terminally ill person through symptom management and pain management. The goal is not to cure, but to provide comfort and maintain the highest possible quality of life for as long as life remains.

Part 86

Commonly refers to the administrative rules and regulations of the State Commissioner of Health that relate to health care provider reimbursement.

Part 405

Commonly refers to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 42, Part 405, which includes Medicare regulations for continuing care, dialysis, and other specified providers.

Participating Provider

A provider who contracts with a health care plan to provide certain services to all or some of the plan's members. Payment may be predetermined or fee-for-service.

PASARR Pre-Admission Screening and Annual Resident Review

A federally mandated screening of all suspected mentally impaired or mentally retarded individuals seeking admission to a nursing home.

Patient Representative

A hospital employee who serves as a liaison between the patient and the hospital if problems or complaints arise. This employee may also be known as a patient advocate, consumer advocate, or ombudsman.

Payer

A public or private organization that pays for or underwrites health care coverage expenses.

Pay for Performance

A financial incentive program that pays health care providers based on performance in quality and efficiency measures.

PBM Pharmacy Benefit Management

A third-party administrator for prescription drug programs.

PC Personal Care

A service that provides assistance with walking, personal hygiene, mobility, feeding, meal preparation, light housekeeping, etc., for people who require such support services based on a medical need.

PCA Personal Care Assistant

PCAs assist in caring for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and institutions for the aged or disabled. PCA tasks include assisting nursing staff to lift and turn bedridden patients and helping patients with activities of daily living.

PCI Percutaneous Coronary Intervention

Also called angioplasty, PCI encompasses a variety of procedures used to treat patients with diseased arteries of the heart. Typically, PCI is performed by threading a slender balloon-tipped catheter to a trouble spot in an artery of the heart. The balloon is then inflated, compressing the plaque and widening the narrowed coronary artery so that blood can flow more easily.

PCR Polymerase Chain Reaction

A common method of creating copies of specific fragments of DNA. It is used to test newborns for human immunodeficiency virus.

PCTA Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty

Angioplasty is the inflation of a small balloon within the coronary artery to alleviate buildups that restrict normal blood flow. Percutaneous means access to the blood vessel is made through the skin, and transluminal means the procedure is performed within the blood vessel.

PDSA Plan-Do-Study-Act

A quality improvement methodology based on breaking down change into manageable chunks by testing change on a micro level and analyzing the results to validate improvement before implementing across the organization.

PE Pulmonary Embolism

Occurs when clots break off from vein walls and travel through the heart to the pulmonary arteries.

Peer Review

The evaluation of quality of total health care provided by medical staff with equivalent training.

PEL Permissible Exposure Limits

Refers to environmental levels of toxic and hazardous chemicals.

PERB Public Employee Relations Board

A state entity that mediates labor disputes between public employees and public employers.

Per Diem Cost

The amount of cost for each day of service in a hospital or health care facility.

PERS Personal Emergency Response System

Emergency response communication device used in the home so that help can be summoned in case of emergency.

PET Positron Emission Tomography

PET imaging shows the chemical functioning of organs and tissues and is particularly useful for the detection of cancer, coronary artery disease, and brain disease.

PHC Public Health Council

A body established in the New York State Constitution, empowered to adopt and amend rules and regulations in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Public Health Law and to provide for approvals, revocations, limitations, or annulment of new health care facilities.

PHO Physician Hospital Organization

An alliance of physicians and hospitals organized to provide services on a contractual basis to employer groups and insurers. The PHO serves as a negotiating, contracting, and marketing unit.

PHP Partial Hospitalized Program

Also known as “day treatment,” PHP is an intermediate level of care for mental illness. These are full-day programs within a psychiatric hospital or behavioral health department of a hospital.

PHS Public Health Service

Part of HHS, it promotes the protection and advancement of health, establishes national health policy, maintains cooperative international health-related agreements and programs, administers programs to develop health resources and improve delivery of health services, works to prevent and control communicable diseases, provides scientific information, and develops education for health professions.

PHSP Prepaid Health Service Plan

An entity that receives a special purpose certificate of authority under Section 4403-a of the New York Public Health Law to operate a health maintenance organization (HMO) primarily comprised of Medicaid enrollees. PHSPs must adhere to most of the certification and regulatory requirements applied to commercial HMOs, although the Commissioner of Health is given the authority to waive certain requirements.

PI Performance Improvement

In health care, PI refers to the use of concurrent systems to improve quality. PI programs usually use tools such as task forces, statistical studies, cross-functional teams, process charts, etc.

PIA Personal Incidental Allowance

Income allowance for the incidental needs of an institutionalized resident.

PICC Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter

A form of intravenous access that can be used for a prolonged period, e.g., for long chemotherapy regimens, extended antibiotic therapy, or total parenteral nutrition. A PICC is inserted in a peripheral vein and then advanced through larger veins until the tip rests near the heart.

PIP Periodic Interim Payment

Federal program that refers to the equal payments on a regular basis from an intermediary for the cost of treating eligible patients for the purpose of smoothing out cash flow (generally not available to larger facilities but available to rural facilities that are under 100 beds).

Play or Pay

A system where employers can either provide health insurance to employees or pay a tax to fund public health insurance for the uninsured.

PM&R Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Medical treatment focused on restoring function to patients with acute and chronic pain and musculoskeletal problems; people who have experienced catastrophic events resulting in paraplegia, quadriplegia, or traumatic brain injury; and individuals who have had strokes, orthopedic injuries, or neurologic disorders.

PMPM Per Member Per Month

The ratio of health care service or cost divided into the number of members in a particular capitated group on a monthly basis.

POA Present on Admission

A condition that was present when the patient was admitted to a hospital.

POA Power of Attorney

A health care power of attorney is a document that allows a person to appoint someone to make health care decisions if the person becomes incapacitated.

POD Point of Distribution

A term used to describe the local sites within New York where antibiotics, vaccines, and other medical supplies could be quickly distributed in the event of a public health emergency.

POE Point of Entry

An access point where consumers enter the health care system.

POS Point-of-Service

A hybrid managed care plan that offers enrolled members a choice when seeking services: They can use providers either within the plan or outside it. Enrolled members generally have to pay for out-of-plan services and wait for reimbursement. The choice of type of provider is made at the time service is needed, not at the time the health care plan is chosen.

PPA Preferred Provider Arrangement

Similar to a PPO, except purchasers selectively contract directly with a provider, usually without benefit of a comprehensive administrative entity like a PPO.

PPE Personal Protective Equipment

PPE creates a barrier to protect an individual from exposure to toxins, biological organisms, or hazardous materials.

PPO Preferred Provider Organization

A payment arrangement in which employers or insurers contract with hospitals or physicians on a negotiated fee-for-service basis to provide health care services. Subscribers can select any provider for care, but they are given economic or other incentives to use designated hospitals or physicians.

PPRC Physician Payment Review Commission

A bipartisan group that advises Congress on setting Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and other policy issues.

PPS Prospective Payment System

A method used for the majority of Medicare programs, whereby reimbursement for a forthcoming period is determined in advance of that period based on cost, trend factors, etc.

PQRI Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

A voluntary program that provides a financial incentive to physicians and other eligible professionals who successfully report quality data related to covered services provided under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

Premium

The amount paid to a health care plan by an individual (or the individual's representative) for providing coverage under a contract.

PRI Patient Review Instrument

An assessment tool used to classify each nursing facility resident into a patient classification system for reimbursement purposes.

Primary Care

The care provided by family physicians, internists, obstetricians/gynecologists, and pediatricians.

PRM Provider Reimbursement Manual

A CMS publication that informs providers of how costs for services are to be reported to that agency.

PRO Peer Review Organization

PROs are responsible for ongoing review of medical necessity and appropriateness of inpatient care rendered to Medicare patients. *See also: IPRO.*

Provider

A physician, hospital, health professional, nursing home, home health agency, or other individual or organization that delivers health care services to patients.

PRRB Provider Reimbursement Review Board

A body appointed by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide an appeals mechanism for health care providers to whom Medicare fiscal intermediaries deny reimbursement for services under Medicare.

PS&R Provider Statistical and Reimbursement Report

Report of changes, statistics, and payments to a provider for Medicare services rendered to beneficiaries.

PSA Prostate Specific Antigen

PSA is a protein produced by the cells of the prostate gland. When the prostate gland enlarges due to cancer or non-cancerous growth, PSA levels in the blood tend to rise. The PSA test measures the level of PSA in the blood.

PSN Provider Sponsored Network

Formal affiliation of health care providers offering a full range of health care services with strong roots in the community.

PTCA Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty

The use of artery balloon dilation or angioplasty to clear clogged arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle.

PUD Peptic Ulcer Disease

The condition of having open sores in the lining of the stomach or intestine.

PUSH Pressure Ulcer Scale for Healing

A tool developed by the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel to monitor the change in pressure ulcer status over time.

Q

QA Quality Assurance

Activities and programs intended to provide adequate confidence that the quality of patient care will satisfy stated or implied requirements or needs.

QIES Quality Improvement and Evaluation System

CMS system for survey and certification of home health care providers.

QIO Quality Improvement Organization

Designated by CMS, QIOs work with consumers, physicians, hospitals, and other care-givers to refine care delivery systems to make sure patients get the right care at the right time, particularly among under-served populations.

QI Project®

The Quality Indicator Project, started in 1985 by the Maryland Hospital Association, collects data on quality from hospitals on a voluntary basis and provides participants comparative feedback and other assistance with quality improvement.

QM Quality Management

That aspect of the overall management function that determines and implements the quality policy.

R

RAC Recovery Audit Contractor

In 2005, CMS established a three-year demonstration in California, Florida, and New York in which RACs search for improper Medicare payments to health care providers that were not detected through existing program integrity efforts.

RAI Resident Assessment Instrument

A tool to help nursing homes identify residents' needs and strengths and develop an appropriate care plan.

RAP Resident Assessment Protocol

Problem-oriented guides for nursing home care planning that include "trigger" conditions to signal the need for additional assessment and review.

RBRVS Resource-Based Relative Value Scale

A Medicare payment system for physicians started in 1992 that takes into account physician work, expenses, and liability costs.

RCC Reasonable and Customary Charge

A charge for health care that is consistent with the prevailing rate or charge in a certain geographical area for identical or similar services.

RCCAC Ratio of Total Charges by Payer to Total Cost Applied to Cost

A method of allocating a provider's cost to payers or programs based on consumption of resources by each payer's beneficiaries.

RCF Residential Care Facility

A licensed facility that provides room and board in a protective environment, offering a program planned to meet the residents' nutritional and social needs without the direct provision of health services.

RDS Respiratory Distress Syndrome

A disease, especially in premature infants, characterized by distressed breathing.

Recipient

A term commonly used in the Medicaid and Medicare programs for an eligible or enrolled individual who actually receives services from a health care plan during the time in question.

Resident

- (1) A physician in training after medical school graduation. *See also: Intern.*
- (2) An individual in a nursing home, assisted living, or other residential facility.

Respite Care

A program that provides care to impaired adults for a short time to give the family or caregiver relief from caregiving responsibilities.

Restraint

Any physical or chemical way to stop a patient from being free to move.

RFP Request for Proposal

A notice sent by a government or sponsoring organization indicating the availability of grant monies and the type of project these monies are available for; this notice is sent to prospective applicants who can then respond with a proposal of how they would implement and administer the specified project.

RHC Rural Health Clinic

A clinic located in a rural and medically under-served community with Medicare payment on a cost-related basis for outpatient physician and certain non-physician services.

RHCF Residential Health Care Facility

A residential health care facility is for people who need some help with daily living activities, but do not require nursing care. These facilities provide housing, 24-hour protective oversight, and assistance with such daily activities as dressing, meals, bathing, and medication reminders.

RHIO Regional Health Information Organization

A group of interested health care stakeholders who collaborate to develop the financing, business rules, technology, and governance structure necessary to permit providers and health care systems to electronically share patient information in a defined community or region.

RHQDAPU Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update

This initiative requires hospitals to submit data for specific quality measures for health conditions common among people with Medicare, and which typically result in hospitalization. Hospitals that do not participate in RHQDAPU receive a reduction in their Medicare annual inpatient payment update.

Risk

In health plans, risk is a possibility of financial shortfall due to a variety of factors including: individuals in a health plan require more services than predicted, costs are not managed as well as predicted, or contracts fail to provide adequate revenue.

RN Registered Nurse

One who has graduated from a college or university program of nursing education and has been licensed by the state.

ROI Return on Investment

ROI analysis is used to build a financial business case. The term means that decision makers evaluate the investment by comparing the magnitude and timing of expected gains to the investment costs.

RRC Regional Resource Center

Hospitals designated by the state to utilize the state's Hospital Emergency Response Data System in preparation for potential acts of terrorism and to develop regional plans to address the potential for an increased surge capacity of acutely ill patients presenting to emergency departments in the event of a disaster.

RRC Rural Referral Center

A Medicare designation for a rural tertiary hospital that receives referrals from surrounding small primary care hospitals. An acute care hospital can be classified as an RRC if it meets several criteria pertaining to location, bed size, and referral patterns.

RRHA Rochester Regional Healthcare Association

A not-for-profit association, allied with the Healthcare Association of New York State, that represents health care facilities in the Rochester area.

RRT Rapid Response Team

A multidisciplinary team that responds to a call for action and immediately brings critical care expertise to the patient's bedside.

RUGs Resource Utilization Groups

A nursing home resident classification case mix reimbursement methodology that allows payment rates to vary based on patient characteristics and treatments that affect resource use.

RWJF Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

An independent foundation that identifies and pursues new opportunities to address persistent health problems and to respond to significant emerging problems.

S

SAPA State Administrative Procedures Act

The state law that governs the regulatory promulgation process.

Sarbanes-Oxley

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 implemented dramatic changes to federal securities law and redesigned federal regulation of public company corporate governance and reporting obligations. It significantly tightened accountability standards for directors and officers, auditors, securities analysts, and legal counsel. Although it does not directly apply to non-profit entities, regulators are using its principles in scrutinizing non-profit corporate governance.

SARS Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

A viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus, called SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV).

SBAR Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation

A technique for effectively communicating critical information to other members of a health care team. SBAR can also help develop teamwork and foster a culture of patient safety.

SBS Strategic Benefit Services

A d/b/a of HANYS Benefit Services, SBS offers non-health care employers a wide range of insured and self-insured employee benefit plan services, 401(k) and 403(b) retirement plan products and services, and selected investment advisory services to retirement, endowment, and foundation assets.

SCH Sole Community Hospital

Under the Medicare program, a SCH is a hospital that is more than 50 miles from any similar hospital or is the exclusive provider of services to at least 75% of its service area populations or has been designated as an SCH under previous rules.

SCHIP State Children's Health Insurance Program

SCHIP is a federal program that provides funding to states, including New York, to provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children up to 200% of the federal poverty level. States may provide this coverage by expanding Medicaid or by expanding or creating a state children's health insurance program.

SCIP Surgical Care Improvement Project

A national quality partnership of organizations focused on improving surgical care by significantly reducing surgical complications.

Secondary Coverage

The plan that has the responsibility for payment of any eligible charges not covered by the primary coverage.

Section 1115 Waiver

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to authorize experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that, in the judgment of the Secretary, are likely to promote the objectives of the Medicaid statute.

Section 508 Reclassification

In addition to normal hospital wage index reclassifications granted by the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board, certain hospitals were granted special one-time appeals under Section 508 of the MMA.

SED State Education Department

The state agency responsible for licensing and certifying health care professionals, among other things.

SEIU Service Employees International Union

Representing 2 million members in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico, SEIU is the largest health care union, the largest property services union, and the second-largest public employees union.

Self-Insurance

A health care plan that is funded with an employer's or group's own resources without purchasing insurance. Such a plan may be self-administered or may contract with a third-party administrator.

SEMO New York State Emergency Management Office

A government entity that coordinates emergency management services for New York State by providing leadership; planning; education; and resources to protect lives, property, and the environment.

Service Area

The geographic area within which a particular health care plan is licensed to do business, usually identified by county.

SFY State Fiscal Year

New York's SFY runs from April 1 through March 31.

Shadow Pricing

In health care, establishing rates for a managed care plan just under those of indemnity plans in an effort to make the managed care organization competitive while maximizing revenues.

SHAEF State Hospital Association Executives Forum

A forum for state hospital executives to meet and discuss issues of common concern, under the auspices of the American Hospital Association.

SHIN-NY Statewide Health Information Network for New York

The technical component of New York's health information infrastructure; currently in development.

SHRPC State Hospital Review and Planning Council

An advisory body to DOH responsible for approval of regulations on reimbursement, health codes, major medical equipment, and recommendations on Certificate of Need applications.

SHSMD Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development

Affiliated with the American Hospital Association, SHSMD is an organization comprised of health care professionals responsible for strategy development and implementation in a wide array of health care organizations.

SID State Insurance Department

The state agency responsible for licensing and oversight of all insurance companies operating in the state, including health plans and health maintenance organizations.

SIW Service Intensity Weight

A relative measurement of resources necessary to treat patients assigned to Diagnosis Related Groups.

Skilled Nursing Care

Nursing or other rehabilitative services provided under the direction of a physician or an approved professional.

SLIPA Supplementary Low Income Patient Adjustment

A Medicaid inpatient rate adjustment provided to hospitals with 35% more Medicaid and self-pay patients.

SNF Skilled Nursing Facility

A residential health care facility providing care to a primarily elderly population requiring high levels of medical, social, and/or rehabilitation services.

SNP Special Needs Plan

A state-certified program that provides services to a specific group with special needs.

SOFA State Office for the Aging

The state agency created in response to the Older Americans Act; its aim is to improve the welfare of elderly persons.

SPARCS Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System

A DOH-operated data system that collects financial and medical information on patients admitted to all hospitals in New York State. These data are used for planning, reimbursement, and monitoring the patient population.

SSA Social Security Administration

The agency of HHS that administers a national program of contributory social insurance whereby workers and employers pay contributions that are pooled in special trust funds.

SSI Supplemental Security Income

A federally supported and administered benefit program for eligible individuals or couples who are 65 years of age and older, or who are certified blind or disabled (at any age).

SSI Surgical Site Infection

An infection that develops as a result of a surgical operation.

Stark Act

Named after U.S. Representative Pete Stark, this law prohibits referrals to entities with which the referring physician has a financial relationship.

STEL Short-Term Exposure Limit

Standard set by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration for occupational exposure to toxic and hazardous chemicals.

STEMI ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction

A heart attack confirmed by a test that measures certain markers in the blood that signal damage to the heart caused by a heart attack.

Stop-Loss Insurance

Coverage purchased by an organization to provide protection from losses resulting from claims in excess of a specified dollar amount, either in total, per member, per year, or some other measure.

Stop-Loss Provision

A provision in a managed care contract where the payer agrees to reimburse the provider for certain services when the costs exceed a specified amount.

Sub-Acute Care

Sub-acute care falls between acute hospital care and traditional nursing home care. Compared to acute care, subacute care is less diagnostically oriented, yet is more intensive and of shorter duration than skilled nursing facility care.

Swing Bed

A bed in a hospital that can be used for patients receiving either acute or post-acute care.

Surgicenter

A freestanding medical facility specializing in outpatient or same-day surgical procedures.



TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

A federal block grant that funds welfare services to adults and children.

TB Tuberculosis

An infectious disease of human beings and animals caused by the tubercle bacillus and characterized by the formation of tubercles in the lung and other tissues of the body.

TBI Traumatic Brain Injury

An injury to the brain that can result in a number of outcomes including motor and/or cognitive disabilities, coma, or death.

TCU Transitional Care Unit

A unit in a hospital or rehabilitation hospital for patients over age 65 whose complex care needs require an extended length of stay because the patient is no longer critical but is not stable enough for transfer.

TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

A device that uses typed input and output, usually with a visual text display, to enable individuals with hearing or speech impairments to communicate over a telecommunications network.

Teaching Hospital

A hospital that has an accredited medical residency training program; typically affiliated with a medical school.

TEFRA Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982

The federal law that established certain base rates for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. A TEFRA rate is a ceiling payment rate per discharge for Medicare and Medicaid.

Telehealth

The use of electronic communication networks for the transmission of information and data focused on health promotion, disease prevention, and the public's overall health including patient/community education and information, population-based data collection and management, and linkages for health care resources and referrals.

Telemedicine

The practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, transfer of medical data, and health education, using interactive audio, video, or data communications.

Tertiary Care

Complex, highly specialized, and high-cost technology-based medical services, e.g., heart, lung, or liver transplants, etc., performed in a hospital by specialized physicians.

TPA Third-Party Administrator

An independent entity that administers health plan benefits, claims, utilization review, etc., for a self-insured plan. The TPA does not assume any risk.

TQI Total Quality Improvement

A continuous quality improvement system directed from the top, but empowering employees and focusing on systemic problems.

Transitional Care

Transitional care serves those who have been discharged from the hospital but still require short-term rehabilitation and special care in order to make the transition from hospital to home.

Trend Factor

An adjustment factor to represent the predicted change in the level of costs for services from one period to another due to inflation and utilization increases.

Triage

The classification of sick or injured persons according to severity to direct care and ensure the efficient use of medical resources.

TrOOP True Out of Pocket

The amount that Medicare beneficiaries must pay out of pocket to be eligible for catastrophic coverage under Part D of Medicare.



UB-92

The uniform billing form used by providers to bill institutional services (inpatient, outpatient, nursing home, home health, etc.) to all payers.

UCDS Uniform Clinical Data Set

System adopted for coding and abstracting Medicare patient information used by peer review organizations to identify and analyze patterns of care nationwide.

UCR Usual, Customary, and Reasonable Fees

Health insurance plans pay a physician's full charge if it does not exceed the usual charge, does not exceed the amount customarily charged for the service by other physicians in the area, or is otherwise deemed reasonable.

UDS Universal Data Set

Format mandated by the federal government for submission of institutional billing information; New York State has additional fields that incorporate additional payer and Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System data requirements.

UHDDS Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set

A defined set of data that give a minimum description of a hospital episode or admission; recommended upon discharge for all hospital stays reimbursed under Medicare and Medicaid.

UHF United Hospital Fund

A non-profit organization that is a source of philanthropic aid and leadership for the New York City health care community. UHF provides information services, continuing education programs, health policy forums, and statistical and policy-oriented publications.

UM Utilization Management

A systematic means for reviewing and controlling patients' use of medical care services and providers' use of medical care resources.

Uncompensated Care

Services rendered for which the provider is not reimbursed or remunerated.

Universal Coverage

A health system where every citizen of a state or nation is guaranteed health insurance coverage.

UR Utilization Review

The evaluation of the necessity, appropriateness, and efficacy of the use of medical services, procedures, and facilities. UR can be performed by a utilization review committee, peer review organization, peer review group, public agency, provider, or managed care plan.

URAC Utilization Review Accreditation Commission

A non-profit corporation dedicated to improving the quality of utilization review in health care.

Utilization

For a managed care plan, utilization is commonly measured per thousand members or per member per month. Some common utilization measures are days/1,000, discharges/1,000, visits/1,000, and procedures/1,000. Generally, utilization numbers are annual. Utilization measures are used to project future use, measure trends in use rates, and establish sub-capitation rates.

V

VAP Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia

An infection that develops from a patient breathing by way of mechanical ventilation.

VBP Value-Based Purchasing

Also referred to as pay-for-performance (P4P), this modification to the current Medicare payment system would link provider reimbursement rates to reporting and performance on select quality of care measures.

Ventilator

A mechanical device that assists or replaces the natural mechanism for breathing.

VHA Voluntary Hospitals of America

A national organization that manages the health insurance plans of non-profit hospitals, their affiliates, and physicians.

VNA Visiting Nurses Association

A non-profit health agency that provides nursing services in the home, using nurses and other personnel as home health aides trained to give bedside personal care.

VRE Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*

A group of bacterial species that is resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin. *Enterococci* can be found in the digestive and urinary tracts of some humans. VRE are particularly dangerous to immunocompromised individuals.

VTE Venous Thromboembolism

A condition in which a blood clot (thrombus) forms in a vein. Blood flow through the affected vein can be limited by the clot, causing swelling and pain.

W

Waiver

Term used to refer to a variety of exceptions or variances allowed to circumvent federal rules.

WCB Workers' Compensation Board

A body established to administer the Workers' Compensation laws that cover injured workers and volunteer firemen and establish the schedule of medical fees for payment to physicians and hospital outpatient ancillary services.

WEF Wage Equalization Factor

Used in Medicaid methodology to adjust salary and fringe benefit prices so that cost comparisons can be made.

WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

A federal program that works to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.

WNYHA Western New York Healthcare Association

An affiliate of the Healthcare Association of New York State, WNYHA is a not-for-profit association that provides advocacy, representation, and education to hospitals and health care facilities in Western New York.

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