

HEALTHCARE TERMS GLOSSARY

Healthcare Clinical Terms

Title & Acronym	Description
American Hospital Association (AHA)	National organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities.
American Nurses Association (ANA)	Professional organization to advance and protect the profession of nursing.
American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)	A Subsidiary of American Nurses Association (ANA), the organization promotes excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs.
American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)	A subsidiary of the American Hospital Association, AONE provides leadership, professional development, advocacy and research to advance nursing practice and patient care, promote nursing leadership excellence and shape public policy for health care nationwide.
Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)	Advanced practice registered nurses who hold a master's or doctoral degree in a specialized area of nursing practice.
Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)	Advanced practice registered nurses who hold a master's or doctoral degree in a specialized area of nursing practice.
Evidenced Based Practice (EBP)	Conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in decision making as it relates to the care of the patient.
Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)	Authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to survey all hospitals for compliance with the Medicare Conditions of Participation and Coverage.
Hours Per Patient Day (HPPD)	Amount of man-hours required to care for patients in hospitals tracking the total number of direct nursing care hours (RNs, LPNs and PCTs), compared to number of patients in the hospital. A higher number may indicate that a hospital provides a higher level of patient care.
High Reliability Organization (HRO)	An organization that has succeeded in avoiding catastrophes in an environment where normal accidents can be expected due to risk factors and complexity
Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)	Independent not-for-profit organization is a leading innovator, convener, partner, and driver of results in health and health care improvement.
The Joint Commission (JC)	The Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. JC accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.
Magnet Designation	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC's) program to recognize healthcare organizations that provide nursing excellence.
Medical Terminology	Click on link to access medical dictionary, common abbreviations, and tutorial regarding understanding medical terminology. www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/medlineplusdictionary.html
National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI)	ANA established database to gather unit-level nursing sensitive indicator information / supply hospitals with performance reports that allow administrators to compare their data with national averages, percentile rankings, and other important information.
National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)	CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network is the nation's most widely used healthcare-associated infection tracking system. NHSN provides facilities, states, regions, and the nation with data needed to identify problem areas, measure progress of prevention efforts, and ultimately eliminate healthcare-associated infections.
National League of Nursing (NLN)	NLN is the premier organization for nurse faculty and leaders in nursing education / offers professional development, networking opportunities, testing services, nursing research grants, and public policy initiatives.
Nursing Sensitive Indicators (NSI)	ANA identified critical nursing sensitive indicators for acute care settings e.g. pressure ulcers, patient falls, staffing mix, nurse satisfaction, and patient satisfaction in various areas.
Patient Safety Organization (PSO)	Group, institution or association that improves medical care by reducing medical errors. Common functions of patient safety organizations are data collection and analysis, reporting, education, funding and advocacy.
Root Cause Analysis (RCA)	Method of problem solving used for identifying the root causes of faults or problems.
Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation	Technique that can be used to facilitate prompt and appropriate communication. This model has gained popularity in healthcare settings, especially amongst professions such as nursing.
Stark Law	Prohibits a physician or immediate family member who has a financial relationship with an entity from referring a Medicare or Medicaid patient to the entity for health services.