

# HEALTHCARE TERMS & ACRONYMS

## FREQUENTLY USED HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY TERMS

---

**Acute Care:** Is a branch of secondary health care where a patient receives active but shortterm treatment for a severe injury or episode of illness, an urgent medical condition, or during recovery from surgery. In medical terms, care for acute health conditions is the opposite from chronic care, or longer term care.

**Ambulatory Care:** Means medical services offered on an outpatient basis without admission in hospital for treatment. However some outpatient services are excluded from ambulatory care. Ambulatory care is delivered by physicians like specialists in family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, gynecology, cardiology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, ophthalmology, and dermatology. Physician offices are the most common site of ambulatory care.

**ACO:** Accountable Care Organization - Cooperative between providers and payers to manage patients' health more effectively and execute against outcomes-based reimbursement. This was component of the ACA.

**ARA:** American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (HITECH described below) was part of this legislation. It was signed into law in 2010 by President Obama to reform healthcare and expand access and insurance coverage to millions.

**CDA:** The Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) is a markup standard developed by the organization Health Level 7 International (HL7) to define the structure of clinical documents such as discharge summaries and progress notes. These documents can include text, images and other types of multimedia.

**CMS:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**CMS 1500:** Claim form used for ambulatory and professional (physician) services. These forms replaced the HCFA 1500 forms, which stood for Healthcare Finance Administration.

**CPT Codes:** Current Procedural Terminology used to describe medical services. 5-digit numbers used on claim forms for billing purposes.

**DRG:** Diagnosis Related Codes typically used in hospitals for billing purposes.

**EHR | EMR:** Electronic Health Records | Electronic Medical Records - Patient medical records in digital format including medical histories, allergies, diagnosis, procedures, vitals. Typical vendors are Epic, Cerner, Meditech, McKesson, Allscripts, Greenway, eClinicalWorks, GE, NextGen, etc.

**GPO:** Group Purchasing Organization, such as Amerinet/Intalere, MedAssets/Vizient, Premier and HealthTrust. These are organizations created to provide hospitals and other providers purchasing power to negotiate preferred pricing with vendors. Some GPOs are actually owned by provider organizations and require strict compliance with GPO pricing, rules, etc.

**HCPCS:** The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS, often pronounced by its acronym as "hics pics") is a set of health care procedure codes based on the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)..

**HIPAA:** Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - Passed in 1996 to simplify healthcare claim submissions, make health insurance more portable and increase privacy and security of patient health information.

**HIS:** Hospital Information System - Typical vendors are Epic, Cerner, Meditech, McKesson, Siemens, Allscripts. Primarily used for billing and claims management, reporting and to manage patient flow and resource use. Often integrated with EHRs, and most current versions of acute care EHRs include these features..

**HITECH:** Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health passed in 2009 as part of the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) to promote the use of Electronic Health Records.

**HL7:** Health Level 7 - Industry standard interface language used specially in the healthcare industry to connect disparate systems.

**HIE:** Health Information Exchange - Networks of providers, typically either sponsored by state funding or private initiatives, used to electronically exchange patient data between and among physicians, hospitals, emergency rooms, and post-acute care settings.

# HEALTHCARE TERMS & ACRONYMS

**ICD9 (and ICD10) Codes:** International Classification of Diseases Version 9 and Version 10 (Version 10 will be replacing 9 in 2014). These codes describe the diagnosis used for billing purposes.

**IDN:** Allintegrated Delivery Networks

**LIS:** Laboratory Information System - Used to manage and record lab orders. Orders and results are often exchanged electronically between hospitals, clinics using EHR and HL7 interfaces.

**Long-Term Care:** A facility that provides rehabilitative, restorative, and/or ongoing skilled nursing care to patients or residents in need of assistance with activities of daily living. Long-term care facilities include nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, inpatient behavioral health facilities, and long-term chronic care hospitals.

**MACRA:** Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act - Recently signed law changing reimbursement for physicians.

**MIPS:** Merit-Based Incentive Payment System - Enacted under MACRA. This new version of physician valuebasedpurchasing will be based on a provider's composite score across four domains: (1) quality measures; (2) efficiency measures (i.e., controls

on total cost of care); (3) meaningful use of electronic health records; and(4) clinical practice improvement activities.

**OCR:** Office for Civil Rights - This is the division of Health and Human Services that is responsible for enforcing HIPAA.

**ONC:** Office of the National Coordinator - This is the division of CMS that is responsible for the Meaningful Use program.

**PACS:** Picture Archiving and Communication Systems - A system based on the universal (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine) standard, which uses a server to store and allow facile access to high-quality radiologic images, including conventional films, CT, MRI, PET scans and other medical images over a network.

**RIS:** Radiology Information System - The primary system used by imaging centers to manage patient flow, schedule modalities and facilitate the diagnostic and administrative functions of the business. This is similar to an EHR..

**UB04:** Universal Billing claim form used for facility (inpatient services) billing.

## TOP ALL COVERED ACRONYMS:

---

**ACC:** All Covered Care

**COS:** Change of Scope

**CSP:** Client Service Plan

**CSR:** Client Service Report

**DPP:** Disaster Preparedness Plan

**DRP:** Disaster Recovery Plan

**EPS:** Email Protection Services - part of All Covered Security

**IPE:** Initial Project Estimate

**KM:** Konica Minolta

**KMBS:** Konica Minolta Business Solutions

**KNE:** Key Network Element (Rmon device)

**MSA:** Master Services Agreement

**NOC:** Network Operations Center

**OCC:** On Call Care

**RMON:** Remote Monitoring

**RSC:** Remote Support Center (Denver and Phoenix)

**SBR:** Strategic Business Review

**SDM:** Service Delivery Model

**SLA:** Service Level Agreement

**SLO:** Service Level Objectives - like an SLA but without the penalties

**SME:** Subject Matter Expert

**SOW:** Statement of Work

**TBA:** Technology & Business Assessment

**TBP:** Technology & Business Plan

**T&M:** Time & Material