HEALTH CARE ACRONYMS

Terms Frequently Used

Acronym	Description
A	
AACVPR	American Association for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
AAMC	Association of American Medical Colleges
AARC	American Association for Respiratory Care
ABI	Acute brain injury
ACC	American College of Cardiology
ACE	Acute Care for the Elderly
ACEI	Ace Inhibitors
ACHE	American College of Healthcare Executives
ACS	American College of Surgeons
ACTION-OI	Operational Benchmarking Database
ACUC	Animal Care and Use Committee
AD	Advanced Directives
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act; American Dental Association
ADC or ADM	automated (medication) dispensing cabinet or machine; a unit based drug distribution system similar to a "teller machine" for medications
ADE	Adverse Drug Events: pediatric and adult
ADG	Ambulatory diagnostic group
ADR	Adverse drug reactions
ADS	Alternative delivery system
AFIB	Atrial Fibrillation
AHA	American Hospital Association
AHCPR	Agency for Health Care Policy and Research
AHEC	Area Health Education Center
AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
ALF	Assisted living facility
ALOS	Average length of stay
AMA	American Medical Association
AMI	Acute Myocardial Infarction
AMP	Average manufacturer's price
ANA	American Nurses Association
AOC	Administrator On Call
APN	Advanced Practice Nurse
APR	Adjusted payment rate
APR-DRG	All payer refined-Diagnosis Related Group
APS	Adult Protective Services
ARDS	Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome - a lung condition that leads to low oxygen levels in the blood.
ARP	Animal Resources Program
ASHP	American Society of HealthSystem Pharmacists, the national hospital pharmacy organization
ASO	Administrative services organization; Administrative services only
AT	Ardmore Tower
Atb	Antibiotic
AWP	Average wholesale price of medications. Commonly used in contracting language in the outpatient setting to determine third party payment rates.
B	
B/S	Blood sugar
BB	Beta-blocker
BB	Black Belt (Six Sigma)
BB	Blood Bank
BC	Bood cultures
BC/BS	Blue Cross/Blue Shield

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Acronym	Description
BCH	Brenner Children's Hospital
BCMA	bar code medication administration, the barcode scanning system used at the point of administration to verify that the right medication is being given to the right patient at the right time.
BH	Behavioral health
BMI	Body Mass Index
BMT	Bone marrow transplant
BSI	Blood-stream infection
BSN	Bachelor of Science in Nursing
C	
CABG	Coronary Arterial Bypass Graph (Bypass Surgery)
CAC	Children's Asthma Care: only Pediatric Core Measure
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
CAP	Capitation
CAP	Community acquired pneumonia
CARF	Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
CAUSE	Center for Antimicrobial Utilization, Stewardship & Epidemiology, the medical center's antimicrobial stewardship service
CBO	Congressional Budget Office
CCC	Comprehensive Cancer Center
CCME	Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence
CCU	Cardiac Care Unit
CDAC	Clinical Data Abstraction Center
CDB	Clinical Database (UHC)
CDC	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
CDU	Clinical Decision Unit
CE	Capital equipment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CHD	Coronary Heart Disease
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
CHRO	Chief Human Resource Officer
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CL	Central line
CLABSI	Central line Associated Bloodstream Infection (or just BSI)
CM	Core measures
CM/CMI	Case mix/case mix index
CME	Continuing Medical Education
CMS	Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CNA	Certified nurse's aid
CNO	Chief Nursing Officer
COA	Council on Accreditation
COB	Coordination of benefits
COE	Center of excellence
CON	Certificate of Need
COO	Chief Operating Officer
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
COR	Clinical Outcomes Report (UHC)
CPHQ	Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPOE	Computerized Prescriber Order Entry, the system prescribers use to place orders electronically
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CPSP	Cancer Patient Support Program

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Acronym	Description
CRM	Clinical Resource Manager
CRNA	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
CRP	Cardiac Rehabilitation Program
CS	Central Services
CSS	Central Sterile Service
CT	Cardiothoracic; computed tomography
CTA	Commit to ACTion: UHC 14 week rapid cycle process improvement activity
CTM	Centralized Telemetry Monitoring
CTOR	Cardiothoracic Operating Room
CTS	Cardiothoracic surgery
CUSP	Comprehensive Unit Based Safety Program
CV	Cardiovascular
CVD	Cardiovascular Disease
CVP	Central venous pressure: a method for measure heart function and/or volume
D	
DBP	Diastolic Blood Pressure
DBS	Deep Brain Stimulator
DC	Discharge
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DHP	Downtown Health Plaza
DHSR	Department of Health Service Regulation (North Carolina only)
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
DNR	Do Not Resuscitate
DOH	Department of Health
DON	Director of Nursing
DOS	Date of service
DRG	Diagnosis Related Groups
DSH	disproportionate share hospital
DSS	Department of Social Services
DSS	Disproportionate Share Hospital
E	
EAP	Employee assistance program
ECG	Electrocardiogram (also EKG)
ECM	Employee campaign manager
ECMO	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
ECP	External Counterpulsation Therapy
ED/ER	Emergency department/emergency room
EDI	Early Detection and Intervention
EDI	Electronic data interchange
EEG	Electroencephalograph
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EKG	Electrocardiogram
EM	Emergency Medicine
EMG	Electromyography
EMR	Electronic medical record
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EMTALA	Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act
EMU	Epilepsy Monitoring Unit
ENT	Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose, & Throat)
EOC	End of case

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Acronym	Description
EP	Evoked Potential
EP	Electrophysiology
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act
ESRD	End stage renal disease
ETT	Endotracheal tube: artifical airway.
Exp	Expected
F	
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FC	Foley catheter
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FFS	Fee for service
FMQAI	Florida's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization
FOSC	Freestanding outpatient surgical center
FP	Family practitioner
FP&C	Facilities Planning and Construction
FSA	Flexible spending account
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FY	Fiscal year
G	
GA	General anesthesia
GAO	General Accounting Office
GCRC	General Clinical Research Center
GCS	Graduated compression stockings (TEDs)
GCS	Glascow coma scale
GI	Gastrointestinal
GLU	Glucose
GOLD	Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease
GON	Gynecological oncology
GPO	Group purchasing organization
GYN	Gynecology
H	
H2H	Hospital to Home
HAI	Hospital-acquired infection/Healthcare Acquired Infection
HAP	Hospital acquired pneumonia.
HCAHPS	Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HCP0A	Healthcare Power of Attorney
HF	Heart Failure
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HI	Hawthorne Inn
HIP	Health Incentive Program
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HLOS	Hospital Length of Stay
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
HMPC	Home Management Plan of Care: discharge pediatric action plan
HOP	House Officer
HQA	Hospital Quality Alliance
HR	Human Resources
HRA	Health Risk Assessment
HWTF	North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund

HEALTH CARE ACRONYMS

Terms Frequently Used

Acronym	Description
I	
ICD 9	International Classification of Diseases – 9th Edition
ICF	Intermediate care facility
ICN	Intensive Care Nursery
ICU LOS	Days spent in the Intensive Care Unit
IDS	Integrated delivery system
IG	Inspector General
IHI	Institute for Healthcare Improvement
IM	Internal Medicine
IMC	Intermediate care
IMN	Intermediate Nursery
IOM	Institute of Medicine
IP	Inpatient
IPA	Individual practice association
IPC	Intermittent pneumatic compression
IPC	Intra-peritoneal chemotherapy
IPF	Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis
IPN	Integrated provider network
IPPS	Inpatient Prospective Payment System
IRB	Institutional Review Board
IS	Information Services
ISN	Integrated service network
ITP	Individualized Treatment Plan
IV	Intravenous
IVF	Intravenous fluids
J	
JCAHO	Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; "The Joint Commission"
JRU	Joint Replacement Unit
JV	Joint venture
K	
KIR	Key Indicator Report (UHC)
L	
LA	Serum lactic acid
LAP	Laparoscopic
LAP	Laparotomy
LOS	Length of stay
LOSI	Length of stay index
LPN	Licensed Practical Nurse
LTC	Long-term Care
LVF	Left ventricular function
LVRS	Lung Volume Reduction Surgery
LVSD	Left ventricular systolic dysfunction
LW	Living Will
M	
M&M	Morbidity and Mortality Review
MAC	Medicare Area Contractor
MAC	Maximum allowable cost
MAP	medication assistance program; assists indigent or underinsured patients with access to medications through pharmaceutical manufacturer programs

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Acronym	Description
MCA	Middle cerebral artery
MCCA	Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act
MCE	Medical care evaluation studies
MCO	Managed care organization
MCR	Medicare Cost Report
MD	Medical doctor
MDI/DPI	Metered Dose Inhaler/Dry Powder Inhaler
MEG	Magnetoencephalography imaging
MET	Medical Emergency Team
MGMA	Medical group management association
MHA	Masters in Health Administration
MI	Mortality Index
MI	Myocardial infarction
MICU	Medical ICU
MIS	Management information systems
MLP	Mid Level Provider
MOF	Multiple Organ Failure - progressive condition involving combined failure of the lungs, liver, kidneys and clotting mechanisms.
MOST	Medical Order for Scope of Treatment
MPH	Masters of Public Health
MR	Medical record
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MRN	Medical Record Number
MRSA	Methcillin-resistant staph aureus
MS-DRG	Medical Severity Diagnosis Related Group
MSO	Management Services Organization
MTD	Month to Date

N	
NAHQ	National Association for Healthcare Quality
NCAHQ	North Carolina Association for Healthcare Quality
NCBON	North Carolina Board of Nursing
NCB0P	North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, the state pharmacy board
NCCCN	North Carolina Community Care Network
NCIOM	North Carolina Institute of Medicine
NCPP	North Carolina Prevention Partners
NCSRC	North Carolina Society for Respiratory Care
NDC	National Drug Code, a unique drug identifier based on the manufacturer, drug and package size
NHPPD	Nursing hours per patient day
NHSN	National Health Safety Network
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NNP	Neonatal Nurse Practitioner
NP	Nurse Practitioner
NPSG	National Patient Safety Goal (full compliance is a requirement for accreditation by The Joint Commission)
NQF	National Quality Forum
NRC	Nutrition Research Center (Nutrition Building)
NSI	Nurse-sensitive indicators
NSQIP	National Surgical Quality Improvement Program
NSU	Neurosurgery
NT	North Tower
NUBC	National Uniform Billing Committee
NUS	Neuroultrasound

HEALTH CARE ACRONYMS

Terms Frequently Used

Acronym	Description
NWAHEC	Northwest Area Health Education Center
NWCCN	Northwest Community Care Network
O	
O2Sat	Oxygen Saturation: meauring reflecting arterial oxygenation: i.e. if the patient is getting enough oxygen in their blood.
OB	Obstetrics
OCCC	Outpatient Comprehensive Cancer Center
ODB	Operational Benchmarking Database
OP	Outpatient
OPD	Outpatient Department /Clinics
0PDSC	Outpatient Prescription Drug Subcommittee (of P&T), a multidisciplinary committee composed of representatives from pharmacy, human resources and medical staff who review and evaluate various data in order to make evidence based decisions regarding the medical center's health plan
OPO	Organ procurement organization
OPPS	Outpatient Prospective Payment System
OR	Operating room
ORT	Orthopedics
OSH	Outside hospital
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OT	Occupational Therapist
P	
P&T	Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
P4P	Pay for Performance
PA	Physician Assistant
PACU	Post Anesthesia Care Unit
PAL	Physicians' Access Line
PAP	Patient Assistance Program
PBM	prescription benefits manager, a third party administrator of the medical center's prescription benefits plan
pc	Packed red blood cells.
PCI	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
PDC	Piedmont Dialysis Center
PEIT	Patient Experience Improvement Team
PET	Positron Emission Tomography
PHS	Public Health Services
PIC	Physiological Instability Criteria: used to identify patients with critical vital signs that need emergency intervention: i.e. Rapid Response Team
PICU	Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
PIMC	Pediatric Intermediate Care
PMPM	Per member per month
PN	Pneumonia
PNA	Pneumonia
POA	Present on Admission
POD	Post-operative day
POO	Point of Origin
PPO	Preferred provider organization
PPS	Prospective payment system
PQRI	Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
PR & M	Public Relations & Marketing
PRO	Peer review organization
ProPAC	Prospective Payment Assessment Commission

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Terms Frequently Used

Acronym	Description
PRP	Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program
PSCIP	Pediatric Surgical Care Improvement Project: Adult SCIP project modified for pediatric patients
PSIT	Patient Satisfaction Improvement Team
PSN	Patient Safety Network
PSO	Patient Safety Organization
PT	Physical Therapy; Physical Therapist
PT SAT	Patient Satisfaction
PTA	Prior to admission
PTRP	Piedmont Triad Research Park
PulR	Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program
PWP	Personal Wellness Profile
Q	
QI	Quality improvement
QIO	Quality Improvement Organization
QNET	QualityNet - Vendor and Data Warehouse for CMS
QRC	Quality Resource Center
R	
RD	Registered Dietitian
RFID	Radio frequency identification device
RJCST	Richard Janeway Clinical Sciences Tower
RN	Registered Nurse
ROM	Risk of mortality
RRT	Rapid Response Team
RT	Reynolds Tower
RTLS/PCTS	Real Time Location System/Patient Care Technology System
RWJ	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Rx	Prescription
S	
SAB	Spinal anesthesia; subarachnoid block
SBP	Systolic Blood Pressure: the top number of blood pressure reflects the pressure when the heart is contracting
SCCC	Southeast Cancer Control Consortium
SCIP	Surgical Care Improvement Project
SICU	Surgical ICU
SNF	Skilled nursing facility
SOI	Severity of illness
S0T0	Scope of Treatment Order
SRC	Service Response Center
SS	Severe Sepsis - sepsis with at least one Acute Organ Dysfunction. Includes Septic Shock requiring vasopressors.
SSI	Surgical Site Infection
STEMI	ST Elevation Myocardial Infarct (Heart Attack)
STS	Society for Thoracic Surgery
SUR	Surgery
SWOT	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
TEFRA	Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982
T	
TA	Technology assessment
TB	Tuberculosis

HEALTH CARE ACRONYMS

Terms Frequently Used

Acronym	Description
Temp	Temperature
THR	Total hip replacement
TJC	The Joint Commission
TJR	Total joint replacement
TKR	Total knee replacement
TPA	Third party administrator
TQM	Total quality management
Trache	Tracheostomy: artifical airway
TSI	Translational Science Institute
U	
UB	Uniform billing
UC	Urinary catheter; umbilical catheter
UC	Usual and customary
UCR	Usual, customary and reasonable
UDA	University Dental Associates
UHC	University HealthSystem Consortium
UIMA	University Internal Medicine Associates
UM	Utilization management
UR	Utilization review
URAC	Utilization Review Accreditation Commission
USP	United States Pharmacopeia
UTD	Unable to determine
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
UW	United Way
V	
VA	Veterans Administration
VAD	Ventricular Assist Device
VAP	Ventilator Associated Pneumonia
VAS	Vascular surgery
Vent Days	Number of days the patient is on the ventilator
VFP	Venous foot pumps
VOM	Vermont Oxford Network
VP	Vice President
VRE	Vancomycin-resistant enterococcus
VTE	Venous thromboembolism
W	
WAC	wholesale acquisition cost
WE	Winston East
WFUHS	Wake Forest University Health Sciences
WFUP	Wake Forest University Physicians
WFUSM	Wake Forest University School of Medicine
WHO	World Health Organization
XYZ	
YTD	Year to date