

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

APPENDIX L

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ASA - Age Standardized Rates : Summary rate that removes the effect of age from comparisons between populations by applying the age/gender specific rates for specific populations to a standard population structure. The rate reflects what the crude rate would be if all populations had the same age structure. The standard population for this report was the 1991 Canadian population.

ALC - Alternate Level of Care: When a non-acute treatment patient occupies an acute care bed, while awaiting placement in another program or facility.

ALOS (Average Length of Stay) – the average number of days of care for

ASIR – Age standardized incident rate

ASMR – Age standardized mortality rate an inpatient treatment episode.

Back office - part of most corporations where tasks dedicated to running the company itself take place. Examples of back office tasks include IT departments that keep the phones and computers running, accounting, and human resources. These tasks are often supported by back office systems such as secure e-commerce software that processes company information (i.e. a database).

BMI – Body mass index

CCAC – Community Care Access Centre

CCHS – Canadian Community Health Survey

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

CIHI – Canadian Institute for Health Information

CIW – Canadian Index of Wellbeing

C-K – Chatham – Kent

CLRD – Chronic lower respiratory disease

CMG - Case Mix Groups – categorization method defining the primary reason for acute care hospital use based on diagnoses and/or procedures provided. CMG is a trademark of CIHI.

CMHA – Canadian Mental Health Association

CNO – College of Nurses of Ontario

Confidence Interval (95% CI) - The range of values around an estimate or rate, within which the true value for the population can be expected to fall. This interval shows the degree of variability in the estimate, where wide intervals reflect a higher degree of variability.

Conservable Days - Hospital inpatient days that could have been avoided.

COPD - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or CLRD- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease - Category of respiratory diseases characterized by blockage or impairment of the alveoli, inhibiting the ability of the lungs to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. Included in this category are bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, bronchiectasis, allergic alveolitis and chronic airway obstruction.

CPRO – Client Profile Database

Crude Rate – Estimate of the proportion of a population effected by a condition during a specific period that has not been adjusted for the age/gender of the population. The numerator is the number of individuals effected and the denominator is the size of the population mid-year

CSS – Community Support Services

CT - Computed Tomography - uses a series of X-rays to create image “slices” (usually about one-slice per millimetre) of a patient’s body. When the images are stacked together by a computer, they can produce a 3-D image useful to diagnosing illness or planning radiation treatment. The wait time target (Priority 4) for CT (Computerized Tomography) is 28 days.

CTC – Children’s Treatment Centre



DAD – Discharge Abstract Database – Collected from hospitals across Canada by the Canadian Institute of Health Information, provides a record of basic demographic, administrative and clinical data for hospital inpatient and day surgery services

DATIS – Drug and Alcohol Treatment Information System

Determinants of Health

1. Income and Social Status
2. Social Support Networks
3. Education and Literacy
4. Employment/Working Conditions
5. Social Environments
6. Physical Environments
7. Personal Health Practices and Coping Skills
8. Healthy Child Development
9. Biology and Genetic Endowment
10. Health Services
11. Gender
12. Culture

DFLE – Disability Free Life Expectancy

DST – Decision Support Team

Divestment - Tier 1 - the process of transfer of governance and operations of a Provincial Psychiatric Hospital to a Public Hospital Board. Tier 2 - the subsequent process of transfer of psychiatric beds and associated services received by a Tier 1 receiving Public Hospital Board. Tier 3 - The process of transfer of former PPH programs and services to a community agency otherwise known as community reinvestment.

ED – Emergency department

eHealth - is a consumer-centered model of health care where stakeholders collaborate utilizing ICTs including Internet technologies to manage health, arrange, deliver, and account for care, and manage the health care system.

EKL – Essex Kent Lambton

ESCLHIN - Abbreviation used to designate the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integrated Network.

Family Health Team - an interdisciplinary team of physicians and other providers such as nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers and dieticians all working together to see more patients and to keep them healthy.

FIM – Financial Information Management

FLS – French Language Service

GP – General Practitioner

HD – Heart Disease

HIT - Hospital Indicator Tool

Health Informatics - The discipline which develops and implements information tools, techniques and technologies to support population health clinical care, health services administration, research and teaching, including decision support and communication.

HSM – Abbreviation used to refer to previous Health System Monitoring reports.

HSRC (Health Services Restructuring Commission) - the agency responsible for setting directives for hospital restructuring (including bed numbers) in Ontario

ICD – International Classification of Disease

ICT - Information and Communications Technology, or technologies - is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning.

IHD - Ischaemic Heart Disease - refers to symptomatic narrowing of the coronary arteries resulting in inadequate flow to the heart muscle, including the diagnoses of acute myocardial infarction, angina pectoris and atherosclerosis.

IHSP – Integrated Health Service Plan

IMG – International Medical Graduate



IMU – Information Management Unit

Incidence Rate – number of new cases of disease in the population. The numerator is the number of new cases during a defined period divided by the total population at risk during the period.

IT - Information (Systems) Technology - The branch of engineering that deals with the use of computers and telecommunications to retrieve and store and transmit information

JPPC – Joint Policy & Planning Committee

Level of Care – Categorization of hospital care according to the degree of medical and/or technological specialization necessary to treat the case (primary, secondary, tertiary, or quaternary).

LHIN – Local Health Integration Network

LICO – Low Income Cut-Off, as defined by Statistics Canada

LTC – Long Term Care

MRI - Magnetic Resonance Imaging - high-quality images of areas inside the body are generated by the use a strong magnetic field and radio-waves. MRI is especially useful in imaging the brain, spine, the soft tissue of joints, and the inside of bones, abdomen and pelvis and can discover cancer and other diseases. The wait time target (Priority 4) for MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is 28 days.

Management of Technology - the planning, development and implementation of technological capabilities, for the purpose of attaining the strategic and operational goals of organizations.

MCSS – Ministry of Community and Social Services

MCYS – Ministry of Children and Youth Services

MNRH – May not require hospitalization.

MOHLTC – Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

NACRS – National Ambulatory Care Reporting System – collected from hospitals across Canada by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, provides a record of demographic, clinical and administrative data related to patient visits to hospital and community based ambulatory care – emergency visits and day procedures.

NP – Nurse Practitioner

OHIP – Ontario Health Insurance Plan

OT – Occupational Therapy

PA – Planning area: used in this document to define geographic areas within ESC LHIN, e.g. Chatham/Kent, Essex, and Lambton.

Patient Days – the total number of days spent in hospital by patients.

PCC (Program Cluster Category) - Each category is based on the CMG for a case and are used to identify the specific hospital program area responsible for care (obstetrics, cardiology, psychiatry etc) such that a CMG can only be assigned to one PCC.

PDST – Planning Decision Support Tool

PHPDP – Provincial Health Planning Database

PHU – Public Health Unit

Prevalence Rate – The total number of individuals who have a condition at a particular time divided by the total population at risk for the condition.

PT - Physiotherapy

PYLL (Potential Years of Life Lost) – the number of years not lived by an individual who dies prior to the average life expectancy.

Rate – Measure of the probability of occurrence of an event, calculated as the number of events divided by the population at risk

RCC – Regional Cancer Centre

RMWT (Recommended Maximum Waiting Time) – The estimated maximum recommended waiting period for bypass surgery counted from the date a patient is accepted for surgery; used by the Cardiac Care Network to monitor access to surgery based on the seriousness of the patient’s condition.



RN(EC) – Registered Nurse Extended Class have advanced knowledge and decision making skills in health assessment, diagnosis, therapeutics (including pharmacological, complementary and counselling interventions), health care management and community development and planning.

RUGs – Resource Utilization Groups

Separation – a case treated in hospital resulting in a discharge, death, sign out or transfer to another facility, from any general or allied specialty hospital.

Sentinel Events – Incidents of unnecessary disease, disability or untimely deaths due to conditions that are preventable or for which there are effective treatments that should prevent disability or death. Increases in rates may signal that the quality of care or prevention efforts may need to be improved.

SEC – Socioeconomic Status

Shared Services - Shared Services are defined as the consolidation of common corporate administrative systems and functions among departments and agencies to improve efficiency, effectiveness and lower costs of service delivery.

Statistical Significance – An inference that a result is unlikely to have occurred due to chance alone.

SWLHIN – Southwest Local Health Integration Network

Systems Approach - an approach to analysis based on the belief that the component parts of a system will act differently when isolated from their environment. It includes viewing systems in a holistic manner. Systems thinking recognizes that all human activity systems are open systems, therefore, they are affected by the environment in which they exist. Systems thinking recognizes that in complex systems, events are separated by distance and time, therefore, small catalytic events can cause large changes in the system. Systems thinking acknowledges that a change in one area of a system can adversely affect another area of the system, thus, it promotes organizational communication at all levels in order to avoid the silo effect.

Technology - A process, technique, or methodology – embodied in a product design or in a manufacturing or service process – which transforms inputs of labour, capital, information, material and energy into outputs of greater value.

TTP – Time To Placement, in days

Wait Times - Refer to wait times for five key health services: cancer surgery, cardiac surgery, cataract surgery, hip & knee replacement and MRI and CT scans. These five areas are central to the Ontario government's wait time strategy.

WECB - Windsor Essex Community Branch

WHO - World Health Organization

WMS - Withdrawal Management Service



