



Closing the Language Gap:
A CPT Dictionary for Community Members and Physicians
Compiled by Elizabeth Sterba, MS

CPT-wide Terms

AAFP (American Academy of Family Physicians): The national association of family doctors. It is one of the largest national medical organizations, with more than 94,000 members in 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Until October 3, 1971, it was known as the American Academy of General Practice. The name was changed in order to reflect more accurately the changing nature of primary health care.

The Academy was founded in 1947 to promote and maintain high quality standards for family doctors who are providing continuing comprehensive health care to the public. Realizing that the family doctor's effectiveness depends on sound, up-to-date continuing education, the founders wrote into the Bylaws the requirement that members in the Active membership category must complete a minimum of 150 hours of approved continuing education every three years to retain membership. This requirement may be met through continuing education programs, publication or presentation of original scientific papers, medical school or postgraduate teaching, residency training, etc. Accurate and current records are kept to ensure that individual requirements are met; if they are not, the member is dropped from the rolls. The requirement, unique at its time of origin, has, through the years, become a standard for an increasing number of other medical groups. *Source:* <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/aboutus/theaafp/aafpfacts.html>

AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics): Founded in 1930 as a not-for-profit organization. The founding members, a group of 60 physicians who specialized in children's health, chose the name American Academy of Pediatrics to reflect their commitment to the interests of children and the pediatric specialty. The action demanded that the medical community acknowledge the difference between adult and child care.

Since 1930, the AAP has grown to a membership of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists. The AAP staff, 350 dedicated individuals, works on behalf of children's health at offices in Elk Grove Village, IL, and Washington, DC. While the purpose of the AAP has not changed in more than 70 years, the environment in which the AAP serves children and members has changed with the times. A Board of Directors, consisting of district chairs elected by AAP members in 10 geographic districts, oversees the governance of the AAP. AAP chapters are organized groups of pediatricians and other health care professionals working to achieve AAP goals in their communities. There are 59 chapters in the United States and 7 chapters in Canada. *Source:* <http://www.aap.org/75/profile/history.pdf>

ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development): Instead of focusing on a community's needs, deficiencies and problems, asset-based community development helps them become stronger and more self-reliant by discovering, mapping and mobilizing all their local assets. Few people realize how many assets any community has: (1) the skills of its citizens, from youth to disabled people, from thriving professionals to starving artists; (2) the dedication of its citizens associations -- churches, culture groups, clubs, neighborhood associations; and (3) the resources of its formal institutions -- businesses, schools, libraries, community colleges, hospitals, parks, social service agencies. *Source:* <http://www.co-intelligence.org/P-assetbasedcommdev.html>

ACP (American College of Physicians, Internal Medicine): The American College of Physicians (ACP) is a national organization of internists — physicians who specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illnesses in adults. ACP is the largest medical-specialty organization and second-largest physician group in the United States. Its membership of 129,000 includes internists, internal medicine subspecialists, and medical students, residents, and fellows. *Source:* http://www.acponline.org/about_acpl

CATCH (Community Access To Child Health): national program of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) designed to improve access to health care by supporting pediatricians and communities that are involved in community-based efforts for children. The CATCH Program began in 1991 under a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Provides Pediatricians with training, technical assistance, peer networking opportunities and funding opportunities. *Source: <http://www.aap.org/catch/>*

CPT: Communities & Physicians Together. A partnership between the Departments of Pediatrics, Family & Community Medicine and Internal Medicine at UC Davis Medical Center; Sacramento ENRICHES; and seven grassroots, community based organizations, all dedicated to engaging future physicians in hands-on community experiences.

Sustainability: the quality of a development effort wherein the results/benefits of that effort continue to perpetuate themselves after the initial external inputs have been removed. *Source: http://www.hcpartnership.org/Publications/comm_mob/htmlDocs/glossary.htm*

Symposium: a convivial party; a social gathering at which there is free interchange of ideas; a formal meeting at which several specialists deliver short addresses on a topic or on related topics. *Source: www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/Glossary.pdf*

Community Terms

Advocacy: is the act or process of defending or maintaining a cause or proposal. The strategic presentation of information to a targeted audience in order to persuade that audience to action. Advocacy is often directed towards media groups and legislators, and differs from outreach in that it seeks to educate and influence those whose decisions either prevent or perpetuate disparities in health care and health education, not those who are affected by such decisions. *Sources: envision.ca/templates/profile.asp and http://www.connecticuthealth.org/glossary/glossary.htm#*

Affordable: (as in “affordable health care” or “affordable housing”) – 1. [In health care] care which is reasonably priced for an individual or family such that care is financially available; care that is subsidized for those with very low incomes; 2. [In housing] The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines “housing affordability” as paying no more than 30% of an individual’s or family’s adjusted gross income on housing and related costs (rent/mortgage plus essential utilities). *Source: www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/Glossary.pdf*

Assets-based approach: an approach in which community members inventory their community strengths and resources so that they can use and build on those strengths and resources to address a health or other issue. *Source: http://www.hcpartnership.org/Publications/comm_mob/htmlDocs/glossary.htm*

Board of Directors: (also called a “Board”); governing body of a nonprofit or for-profit corporation; the board has specific legal and ethical responsibilities to the organization. *Source: <http://www.createthefuture.com/Glossary.htm>*

CBO: Community-Based Organization. A private non-profit organization which is representative of a community or significant segments of a community and which provides educational or related services to individuals in the community. *Source: www.state.nj.us/njded/grants/glossary.shtml*

Community: a distinct group within a population defined by a shared geographic, ethnic, or ideological identity. One community may be distinguished from another by a variety of criteria, including physical, historical, legal, cultural, socioeconomic, or self-imposed distinctions. *Source: http://www.connecticuthealth.org/glossary/glossary.htm#*

Community-based: takes place at the physical geographic locations of community centers and homes, rather than in traditional health care setting such as hospitals and clinics. *Source: http://www.connecticuthealth.org/glossary/glossary.htm#*

Community capacity: the skills, knowledge, and expertise of community members which individually and collectively constitute a community's ability to identify and address its needs. *Source:* http://www.hcpartnership.org/Publications/comm_mob/htmlDocs/glossary.htm

Community Development: Refers to the process of facilitating the community's awareness of the factors and forces that affect its health and quality of life, and ultimately helping to empower the community with the skills needed to take control over and improve those conditions. It involves helping communities to identify issues of concern and facilitating their efforts to bring about change in these areas. *Source:* <http://www.biaq.com.au/Be-Real/content/glossary.htm>

Goal: broad, general statement about what will be accomplished by a project and how it will be done. *Source:* http://wphf.med.wisc.edu/how_to_apply/glossary.php

Grant: Money given by a government or by a foundation or charity. A grant is usually given for the accomplishment of specific activities or goals. *Source:* <http://www.ddc.wa.gov/Glossary.htm>

Grassroots: The involvement of common citizens. People or society at a local level, rather than at the center of major political activity. *Sources:* www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationTermsTrivia.aspx and www.edu.gov.nf/cal/curriculum/teched/resources/glos-biodiversity.html

Holistic care: comprehensive approach to service delivery and treatment where coordination of client's needs and total care takes priority. *Source:* <http://www.biaq.com.au/Be-Real/content/glossary.htm>

HUD: Housing & Urban Development. The primary governmental agency responsible for providing affordable housing opportunities and for administering Stewart B. McKinney Homelessness Assistance Act programs. Key programs include Public Housing, the Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) program, the Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS, the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and others. *Source:* www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/Glossary.pdf

IEP: Individual Education Plan. The written plan documenting eligibility, programs and services for special education students. Physicians may recommend or require these for patients and should be in touch with patients' school officials if an IEP is in place. *Source:* <http://www.ddc.wa.gov/Glossary.htm>

Indicator: quantitative or qualitative measure that provides a basis for assessing achievement, change, or performance over time. *Source:* http://wphf.med.wisc.edu/how_to_apply/glossary.php

Living Wage: a wage sufficient for a worker and family to subsist comfortably. *Source:* www.nhchc.org/Advocacy/Glossary.pdf

MDT: Multidisciplinary Team. Any team of three or more persons involved in the provision of services, treatment, or both, to a child and the child's family and who meet to assess the progress on the treatment/service plan. *Source:* www.policy.okdhs.org/ch75/Chapter_75-6/340-75-6/340_75-6-4._Definitions.htm

Non-profit: may refer to an organization or the entire sector. Non-profit means not conducted or maintained for the purpose of making a profit. Instead, it operates to serve a public good. Any net earnings by a non-profit organization are used by the organization for the purposes of which it was established. As an entire sector, non-profits include hospitals, universities, trade organizations, voluntary associations and religious organizations. *Source:* envision.ca/templates/profile.asp

Objectives: Concrete, specific, measurable project accomplishments. *Source:* http://wphf.med.wisc.edu/how_to_apply/glossary.php

Outcome: The result of project activities, often expressed in terms of changes in behavior, norms, decision-making, knowledge, attitudes, capacities, motivations, skills, or conditions on individuals, families, households, organizations, systems, or communities. Together, the full set of project outcomes should achieve the overall

project goal. Source: http://wphf.med.wisc.edu/how_to_apply/glossary.php

RFP/RFA: Request for Proposal/Request for Application: the funder's request that includes the guidelines (instructions) and forms necessary for the applicant to submit a proposal for funding. Source: www.broward.k12.fl.us/grants/html/resources/definitions.html

Social capital: (also known as "community connectedness") refers to social networks and the norms of reciprocity that arise from them. A growing body of hard-nosed literature over the last several years shows that social capital, and the trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation associated with it, enables many important individual and social goods. Communities with higher levels of social capital are likely to have higher educational achievement, better performing governmental institutions, faster economic growth, and less crime and violence. And the people living in these communities are likely to be happier, healthier, and to have a longer life expectancy. Source: <http://uclacc.ucla.edu/commglossary.php>

Social entrepreneur: someone who uses the methods of business entrepreneurs to achieve social goals, such as creating new jobs or helping disadvantaged communities. Source: <http://www.kauffman.org/>

Socioeconomic status: A relative position in the community as determined by occupation, income and amount of education. Source: <http://www.biaq.com.au/Be-Real/content/glossary.htm>

RESIDENCY TERMS

Thank you to Lindsey Albrecht, MD, for her contributions to this section.

Attending: The physician in charge of supervising the residents. This person has completed residency and possibly subspecialty training. We also call them "faculty members."

Block: A four-week period of training time, spent on a "rotation". There are 13 of these in a given calendar year at UC Davis. For example one resident might do their ward rotation during block 1, while another resident might do their ward rotation in block 4. The Block is the hospital's system of scheduling Residents not just in pediatrics but in all of the subspecialties, so that the hospital can run smoothly. Residents do not usually get to choose on which Block they do what, and the two weeks of vacation that they get each year are assigned to them as well, through the block system.

Call: A person is considered to be "on call" when they are assigned to admit any new patients to the hospital. Traditionally, this period of call lasted 30 hours and included spending the night in the hospital (yes, all in one shift!). However, in recent years, the increments of time to be on call have gotten shorter on some of the rotations (though not all). Residents still work when they are not on call.

Clinic: A place where kids come to have appointments with their doctor that is outside the hospital. Every resident has one afternoon a week of clinic time where they take care of general problems that a child may have (needing vaccines, poor growth, etc.).

ER: The emergency room, or emergency department. It is another place that all pediatrics residents rotate through.

Grand Rounds: The weekly departmental conference, which occurs on Friday mornings in Pediatrics and Tuesday afternoons in Family & Community Medicine. These are attended by almost everyone in the department and many community members as well. Each year, all of the third year residents are required to present a topic of their choice during grand rounds (a one hour talk that requires intensive research and provokes a lot of anxiety!).

Inpatient care: Care that requires a stay in the hospital.

Intern: The confusing name given to a resident in the first year of residency (perhaps to make it clear to all that they are relatively inexperienced!). We also call these people "R1s" (meaning 1st year resident).

NICU: The neonatal intensive care unit. This is a place for the sickest newborn babies, often those that are born prematurely. It tends to be one of the busiest areas of pediatrics!

Noon Conference: The daily resident teaching conference, which lasts from noon to 1pm. Faculty members (or "attendings") lecture on important topics. It is also a time to hold meetings of various sorts. CPT hosts four "Quarterly" noon conferences, where Residents get a chance to visit with their Collaborative Coordinators. In addition, CPT hosts a series of noon conferences on community-medicine related topics.

Outpatient care: Like an appointment or visit to the clinic or doctor's office.

PICU: The pediatric intensive care unit. Critically ill children (but not usually newborns) are taken care of here. They often require ventilators ("breathing machines") and other aggressive methods of care. This is also a very busy place in the hospital!

Primary care: In the health sector generally, 'primary care' services are provided in the community by generalist providers who are not specialists in a particular area of health intervention
Source: <http://www.biaq.com.au/Be-Real/content/glossary.htm>

Resident: Immediately following four years of Medical School, a physician goes into residency, or training in a particular subspecialty (ie: dermatology, internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery, etc.). Length of residency depends on the particular subspecialty, but most (including pediatrics) are 3-year programs.

Rotation: Residency is divided into various segments which are called "rotations." This allows pediatric residents to receive standardized training in all of the areas of pediatrics (ie: the Ward, NICU, PICU). Each resident rotates through the various experiences in a different order, since their training is also staffing the hospital. Pediatric residents only rotate through pediatric specific rotations and do not undergo training in areas such as surgery or psychiatry.

Senior: In pediatrics, a second (R2) or a third year (R3) resident. These residents help supervise the interns in addition to completing their training through practicing on patients.

Ward: The setting of inpatient care. Hospitalized children are cared for by a team of people in this setting (ie nurses, residents, attendings, medical students).