



Healthcare Terminology

A Three-Part Series: Part II

• • • About U.S. Government Healthcare Agencies

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR)

Part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the AHCPR is the lead agency charged with supporting research designed to improve the quality of health care, reduce its cost, and broaden access to essential services.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Working with states and other partners, CDC provides a system of health surveillance to monitor and prevent disease outbreaks (including bioterrorism), implement disease prevention strategies, and maintain national health statistics. The CDC provides for immunization services, workplace safety, and environmental disease prevention. CDC also guards against international disease transmission, with personnel stationed in more than 25 foreign countries.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which provide health care to about one in every four Americans. Medicare provides health insurance for more than 42.1 million elderly and disabled Americans. Medicaid, a joint federal-state program, provides health coverage for some 44.7 million low-income persons, including 21.9 million children, and nursing home coverage for low-income elderly. CMS also administers the State Children's Health Insurance Program that covers more than 4.2 million children. The agency was originally established as the Health Care Financing Administration in 1977.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

The DHHS is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The Department includes more than 300 programs, and its FY 2005 budget is \$581 billion. DHHS funds the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The FDA assures the safety of foods and cosmetics, and the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals, biological products, and medical devices – products that represent almost 25 cents out of every dollar in U.S. consumer spending.

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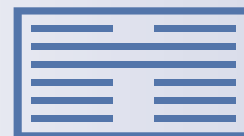
877-540-9788 (toll free in North America) or 305-594-9291 ext 2265 | email: payerpartner@hygeia.net

CLIENT SERVICES

888-249-4342 (toll free in North America) or 416-595-1094

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

877-540-9788 (toll free in North America or 305-594-9291 | email: info@hygeia.net



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Editor: Michele I. Andwele