

PFAC Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition	PFAC
ADVANCED DIRECTIVES	Are legal papers that let you state ahead of time what types of treatments you would like from your doctors and loved ones when you cannot tell them yourself.	Ambulatory
BHC	Abbreviation for Behavioral Health Consultant, a trained psychologist that provides brief behavioral interventions as a member of a primary care team.	Ambulatory
COMPLAINT	What a patient feels needs immediate attention.	Ambulatory
CONCERN	Condition or event that makes the patient worry about his or her health.	Ambulatory
DIAGNOSIS	the process of determining which disease or condition explains the person's symptoms or signs.	Ambulatory
DO	Abbreviation for Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, a fully trained physician that practices a more holistic approach and provides manual medicine therapies such as spinal manipulation and massage as part of treatment.	Ambulatory
LVN	Abbreviation for Licensed Vocational Nurse, is state-certified and has been trained to care for the sick.	Ambulatory
MA	Abbreviation for Medical Assistant, who is cross-trained to perform administrative and clinical duties, and works along physicians.	Ambulatory
MD	Abbreviation for Medical Doctor, a physician that has been trained in allopathic medicine, focused on remedies for diseases.	Ambulatory
MEDICAL NECESSITY	Health care services or supplies needed to diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms that meet evidence-based standards of clinical care.	Ambulatory
MENTAL HEALTH	a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with and learn from the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.	Ambulatory
NP	Abbreviation for Nurse Practitioner, is a nurse with graduate training, can serve as a primary care provider.	Ambulatory
PA	Abbreviation for Physician Assistant, can provide a wide range of services in collaboration with an MD or a DO, can serve as a primary care provider.	Ambulatory
PCP	Abbreviation for Primary Care Provider, a health care professional who practices family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics. PCPs are our first stop for medical care. Most of them are physicians, but nurse practitioners and physician assistants can also be PCPs.	Ambulatory
PRIMARY CARE	Medical care that 1. is the patient's first contact when ill, 2. builds long term relationships, 3. cares for the whole person, at all ages and for all diseases, 4. coordinates the care of specialists and hospitals.	Ambulatory

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PRIOR AUTHORIZATION	The decision by your health insurance that a health care service, treatment plan, prescription drug or durable medical equipment is medically necessary.	Ambulatory
RN	Abbreviation for Registered Nurse, has graduated from a nursing program and passed a state board examination.	Ambulatory
SPIRITUAL CARE	SPIRITUAL CARE: To make sure someone has access to spiritual resources in times of crisis or concern. These resources can be persons, practices, places, and/or objects that help the person reestablish meaning and purpose in their life.	Ambulatory
SPIRITUAL HEALTH:	having purpose in life. To act based on our values, to have those values respected and to be at peace with ourselves and others.	Ambulatory
STIGMA:	the disapproval of, or discrimination against an individual or group, based on perceivable characteristics that serve to distinguish them from other members of society.	Ambulatory
STORY OF ILLNESS	a narrative of a person's illness from the first symptom to the present, including how the person interprets the illness, and the effect the illness has in the person's life.	Ambulatory
TREATMENT	medical care given to a person for a specific disease or injury.	Ambulatory
Admission	Being placed in the hospital for a serious health condition or elective surgery or procedure	Inpatient
Advanced Directive	A legal document stating your medical wishes for care in the event you are unable to make these decisions yourself.	Inpatient
AKI	An acute injury to the kidney that may be from a variety of different reasons. It may designate another person of your choice to make these medical decisions when needed.	Inpatient
Angiogram/Angio	A vascular study that involves injecting intravenous contrast through an IV and taking images to see if there are any blockages in arteries (blood vessels)	Inpatient
Angioplasty	A procedure to open blockages in arteries or blood vessels	Inpatient
Attending	A physician who is responsible for the overall care of a patient in the hospital	Inpatient
CABG/Coronary Artery Bypass Graft	Heart surgery to open blood vessels and/or place a graft in the heart to improve blood flow.	Inpatient
Cardiology/Cards	A group of physicians that specialize in conditions of the heart	Inpatient
Carelink	A county funded low-income payment program for health care in the University Health System	Inpatient
Case Manager	A registered nurse that manages patient's needs inside and out side of the hospital. Helps prepare for discharge	Inpatient
Chaplain	A member of the clergy	Inpatient
Clear liquid diet	A diet consisting only of liquids you can see through such as jello, broth, weak tea, water	Inpatient
Colonoscopy/C-Scope	A procedure that involves putting a camera through the rectum into the colon/bowel to look for abnormalities such as bleeding, polyps, and cancer	Inpatient

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Consult	A formal discussion and request for recommendations from a specialist regarding any health issue	Inpatient
Contrast	A medication used to see abnormalities on procedures such as x-rays, CTs, MRIs, heart studies	Inpatient
CT/Computed Tomography	A radiology study that is able to see soft tissue and bones	Inpatient
Diagnosis	The condition of which you are being treated	Inpatient
Dialysis	A treatment for people whose kidneys are failing that removes wastes and toxin that are built up in the blood when the kidneys are unable to filter any longer.	Inpatient
Dietary restrictions	A diet based on a certain kinds of foods that should be avoided or limited	Inpatient
Discharge	Being sent home for the hospital	Inpatient
DME/Durable medical equipment	Items such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and bedside commodes	Inpatient
ECF/Extended care facility	A broad term for placement facilities including Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), Long term acute care (LTACs), nursing homes	Inpatient
Echo/Echocardiography	An ultrasound that checks how your heart's and valves are pumping blood through your heart.	Inpatient
EGD	Procedure that visualizes the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum (first part of small intestine) using a camera called an endoscope	Inpatient
EMR/Electronic Medical Record	An electronic version of a patient's medical record that can be seen by all providers caring for the patient	Inpatient
Endoscopy	Procedure using a camera called an endoscope that visualizes inside the body	Inpatient
ENT/Ear Nose & Throat/Otolaryngology	A physician that specializes in disease and surgery of the ear, nose and throat.	Inpatient
ER or ED/Emergency Room or Emergency Department	An area in the hospital equipped for treatment of seriously or injured people often brought in by ambulance	Inpatient
Faculty	Clinical providers who participate in education of students, residents, and fellows. Often the term "faculty" is used to refer to attending physicians at UHS.	Inpatient
Family	Anyone someone sees as their close support system.	Inpatient
Fellow	A licensed physician who has finished residency and elects to pursue further training in a subspecialty.	Inpatient
Foley	Catheter that is inserted into the bladder to drain urine	Inpatient
Full liquid diet	A diet consisting of only liquids with everything in a clear liquid diet plus thicker soups and milk-based liquids	Inpatient
Funding	Money provided by a organization or government for a particular purpose	Inpatient
Holistic approach	Care that not only address medical needs, however addresses the patient as a whole by considering physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.	Inpatient

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Home health	Health care provided by a professional caregiver in your home. Can be nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, or provider	Inpatient
Hospice	Care provided for people with a terminal illness (when treatment options are no longer successful) to make them as comfortable as possible	Inpatient
ICU/Intensive Care Unit	A critical care unit that provides treatment to those very ill. Patients need very close monitoring by the nurses and doctors.	Inpatient
Infusion	A method of putting fluids, including medications, into the bloodstream	Inpatient
Intern	A physician who has just graduated from medical school and now is in their first year of receiving further training in a chosen medical field.	Inpatient
Inpatient	Care provided in the hospital	Inpatient
IRF/Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility	Inpatient rehab facility (IRF) is a rehabilitation facility that provides intense rehabilitation 3 hours a day for up to 5-6 days a week.	Inpatient
IV/Intravenous Catheter	A thin, flexible tube inserted into a vein to give fluids, blood transfusions, chemotherapy and other medications through the vein.	Inpatient
LCDC/Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor	Professional consulted for drug and alcohol and abuse	Inpatient
LTAC/Long Term Acute Care	Acute care facility for patients requiring extensive hospitalization	Inpatient
LVN/Licensed Vocational Nurse	A nurse with a focus on providing safe, compassionate, and focused nursing care to patients with predictable health care needs. Provides care under the supervision of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant or physician.	Inpatient
MICU/Medical Intensive Care Unit	A critical care unit that provides treatment to those very ill	Inpatient
Midline	An IV that is about 3-8 inches and longer than a regular IV and shorter than a PICC line	Inpatient
MPOA/Medical Power of Attorney	A legal document that allows a person to select someone else to make health decisions on their behalf.	Inpatient
MRI/Magnetic Resonance Imaging	A radiology study utilizing magnetic fields and radiowaves that may be done in order to evaluate soft tissues, bones and blood vessels	Inpatient
Neuro/Neurology	A group of physicians that specialize in conditions of the brain and spinal cord	Inpatient
Neurosurgery	A group of physicians that specialize in surgery of the brain and spinal cord	Inpatient
NPO	Nothing taken by mouth	Inpatient
Nurse Practitioner/NP	A registered nurse with advanced training who can diagnose and treat patients in collaboration with a physician in Texas.	Inpatient
O2	Oxygen	Inpatient

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Observation	When the provider expects hospital stay to be less than 48 hours	Inpatient
Ortho/Orthopedics	A group of physicians that specializes in conditions of the muscles, joints, and bones	Inpatient
OT	Occupational Therapy - care provided by therapists who help you perform activities of daily living such as brushing teeth, tying shoes, bathing/showering	Inpatient
Outpatient	Care provided in a clinic	Inpatient
Palliative	Specialized medical care for serious illnesses focused on improving quality of life and relieving symptoms	PEDI
Patient Advocate	Professional who provides a link between patients and the hospital allowing patients to voice concerns and helping solve problems	PEDI
PCP	Primary care provider - healthcare professional who practices general medicine and provides routine checkups and non-emergency medical care	PEDI
PA/Physician Assistant	A medical provider that can diagnose and treat patients under the supervision of a physician.	PEDI
Perioperatively	The time around surgery including before, during and after surgery.	PEDI
PICC line	Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter - An IV line that is placed in your arm and that delivers IV (intravenous) medication in the large blood vessels. This line is close to your heart.	PEDI
PT	Physical Therapy - care provided by therapists who guide patients through exercises using equipment to help them regain their strength or improve physical abilities	PEDI
Resident	A physician who has graduated from medical school and now is receiving further training in a chosen medical field.	PEDI