

Glossary

504 Plan

A plan for students with health care needs that lists accommodations related to a child's disability and required by the child so that he or she may participate in the general classroom setting and educational programs. A 504 Plan is supported by the federal law, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

ACA

Affordable Care Act is the name of President Obama's national healthcare act –passed in March 2010. It is also known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. www.healthcare.gov

Accessible

Easy to enter, use, or communicate with. Examples include buildings that are wheelchair accessible or programs with TTY/TDD lines for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Accommodation

Service, provision, or adaptation to meet a specific need. In special education, accommodation refers to the types of services offered to a child so that he or she can fully participate in school.

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

Basic everyday tasks, such as bathing, dressing, toileting, eating, and moving around.

Acute

A description of a disease, condition or illness that comes on quickly, and is short-lived, but can require urgent and/or emergency care.

Acute Care Hospital

A hospital that provides a full range of medical care, usually over the short-term, for sickness or injury.

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act – A federal law which prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, State and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. www.ada.gov

Advocacy

Speaking up or taking action for a person, a group, or a belief. An advocate may help a family resolve problems with a school system or a health insurance plan.

Advocate

An advocate is someone that speaks or pleads on behalf of others. As parents, we are our child's best advocate.

Affiliation

Membership in a group or plan. Your primary care provider (PCP) may be affiliated with a hospital and a health insurance plan.

Apgar Score

This is a score to rate the health and strength of a baby right after birth. It measures heart rate, breathing, color, muscle tone, and reflexes on a scale from 1 to 10.

Appeal

To formally ask or request that a decision be reviewed.

Appropriate

Right, correct, or well matched to the needs of a child or family.

Assessment

A way of collecting information about a child's needs, strengths, and interests, can be done with different testing and evaluation tools. **Can be used to determine whether a person is eligible for a service or benefit.**

Assistive Technology (AT)

Any kind of tool or piece of equipment that helps a person live more independently. AT can be high tech or low-tech.

Attending Physician

The main doctor who is responsible for the care of your child. Also, the experienced doctor who supervises the medical team involved in your child's care.

Baseline

A starting point used to compare observations or data. Baseline physical findings are the results from your child's first physical exam. Baseline vital signs are your child's regular heart rate (pulse), blood pressure, respiratory rate (breathing rate), and body temperature. Baseline neurological status is an assessment of your child's development, cognition, motor skills, and mental health.

Benefit

A service or type of support, usually provided through a government program or health insurance plan.

Block Nursing

See Continuous Nursing Services

Care Coordination

Services are provided in a manner that the family's lifestyle is interrupted as little as possible, and the family's and child's needs are met.

Care Coordinator

A professional who works with the family and the primary care physician and helps to coordinate care among different service providers. This work may also be called case management. A Care Coordinator also helps to arrange needed benefits and services. A Care Coordinator may also be called a Case Manager, Service Coordinator, or Care Manager.

Case Management

A service to help plan and coordinate health care. Case management is often provided by a Care Coordinator or Case Manager.

Case Manager

A person who works with the family to plan for services and who coordinates many service providers. They can also be called a Service Coordinator.

Child Life Specialist

A professional who works in a hospital and plays with children in a way to help them understand the hospital environment. A Child Life Specialist also provides fun activities and entertainment to keep children busy.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)

Children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) are those from birth to 21 years old who have, or are at increased risk for chronic, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions. Generally, these children also need more health and related services than most children.

Chronic

A description of a persistent and long-lasting disease and/or health condition which usually lasts more than three months. It can be on-going –sometimes throughout a persons’ life. The opposite of chronic is acute.

Cognition

The mental process of knowing, including awareness, perception, reasoning, and judgment. The adjective is cognitive.

Community-Based

High quality services necessary to meet the daily needs of the child and his/her family located near their home. **This type of service allows a person to participate fully in their home and community life.**

Confidentiality

Your child’s rights to privacy, which means their records and information, will be shared only with people directly involved in your child’s care, (i.e. medical or educational providers, etc.).

Congenital

Present at, or existing from, the time of birth.

Conservatorship

Conservatorship is a court process and legally binding. It makes an adult (or adults) legally responsible for the financial decisions of a person who is unable to make financial decisions for himself or herself.

Continuous Nursing Services

Skilled one-to-one nursing provided by a licensed or registered nurse for more than 2 hours per day. Sometimes called block nursing, private duty nursing, or shift nursing.

Co-payment

Also called co-pay or co-insurance. A set amount of money a person pays towards a covered medical expense. A co-pay is usually paid during an office visit or for a prescription.

CSH

Children's Special Health – A state program to assist children who have special health care needs. <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/mch/index-4/>

Coverage

The services or items provided or paid for, usually by a health insurance plan.

DDD

Developmental Disabilities Division, a Division of the WY Department of Health, which now, through reorganization, is under the Behavioral Health Division and called Developmental Disabilities Section. <https://health.wyo.gov/behavioralhealth/dd/>

Developmental Delay

This term refers to when a child does not reach developmental milestones (such as walking or talking) within the same time range as most other children. Developmental delays may be generalized (all milestones), or they may show up in just one or two milestones. Developmental disability usually refers to a general delay, and to chronic conditions appearing in childhood which result from mental or physical impairment. Often this means major and life-long limitations in everyday functioning. See Impairment.

DFS

Department of Family Services, a state governmental agency. <http://dfsweb.wyo.gov/>

Diagnosis

The identification of the nature and cause of symptoms, often providing the name of a condition or illness.

Dietary Supplements

Extra calories, vitamins, minerals, proteins, or other nutrients. Usually taken in the form of pills, powders, or drinks. Also called dietary additives.

Disability

The result of any physical or mental condition that affects a person's ability to develop, achieve or function.

Discharge Planning

A plan for continuing care after your child has a hospital stay. Another goal of discharge planning is to help the health care team make sure your child has the resources that he/she needs in their community.

DME

Durable Medical Equipment – Health care equipment that can be used over and over again (e.g., hospital beds, ventilators, I.V. Poles, wheelchairs, and walkers).

Due Process

Due process is an important element of the state and federal legal systems. It gives you the legal right to be notified and to be heard if certain benefits or services are denied to you or your child. For example, there are regulations that make sure that parents can challenge the State's decisions about their children's eligibility for Early Intervention or special education services.

EDHI

(WY) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention is designed to ensure that all infants, toddlers and preschoolers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate follow up and intervention. <https://www.wyomingehdi.org/>

EI

Early Intervention – is a range of services design to intervene during early stages of an infant and toddler's development to enhance their development to minimize their potential for developmental delays. **Birth to age 3.**

Elective Procedure

A medical test, procedure, or surgery that is not an emergency. Usually, a person and doctor decide and plan the procedure together in advance.

Eligible

Meeting specific requirements to qualify for a program or service.

Emergency Information Form for Children with Special Needs

The form is filled out by your child's primary care provider (PCP) and gives emergency providers the information they need to properly care for your child.

Emergency Response Plan

An emergency plan created by you and your child's primary care provider. An Emergency Response Plan includes: medical information about your child, the name(s) of your child's PCP and other important providers, where your child should be taken in an emergency, and treatment that should be provided to your child in certain situations.

Enrollment

The process of joining a health insurance plan. People enroll in health plans through their employers, through professional associations or clubs, through public benefits programs, or as individuals.

Entitlement

A service or benefit that an eligible person has a right to receive.

EPSDT

Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment is the child health component of Medicaid. Required in every state, it is designed to improve the health of low-income children, by financing appropriate and necessary pediatric services.

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/epsdt/index.html>

Evaluation

A way of collecting information about a child's needs, strengths, and interests. **In medicine, it may be a checkup, a study, or a series of tests used to determine the current status of a patient or a condition.**

Family Centered Care

Services are delivered in a way that respects the central role of the family as caregiver, advocate, and decision-maker for the child.

Family Support Services

Services to meet the needs of family members. Examples include: respite care, parent networks, equipment exchanges, advocacy services, support groups, information and training, and any other assistance that enhances family life and participation in the community. See also Family Centered Care.

Genetic Disease or Disorder

A disease that passes by gene from parent to child. **A trait that is hereditary, passed down, or affected by genes.**

Gestation

The time that a baby is carried in the uterus during pregnancy. Babies are expected to be born after 10 months or 40 weeks gestation. A premature baby is born before 37 weeks gestation. See Premature.

Grievance

A complaint about or dissatisfaction with a service or benefit.

Guardianship

Guardianship is a court process and legally binding. It makes an adult (or adults) legally responsible for the personal and financial decisions of a person who is unable to make these decisions alone. A guardian may or may not be a relative. Parental rights may or may not be terminated. Guardianship can be temporary or permanent, partial or complete.

Head Circumference

The measurement of length around your child's head. It helps to assess growth and development.

Health Care Professionals

Workers who have healthcare skills (Including nurses, doctors, social workers, physical therapists, pharmacists and so on).

Health Care Proxy

Someone legally designated to make medical decisions in the event that a person cannot make them for him or herself.

Health Care Provider

Any professional who provides a health care service (such as a doctor, nurse, or therapist).

Health Insurance

A type of insurance that pays for covered health care costs. Primary health insurance is the main plan that covers most health care costs. Secondary health insurance is the additional insurance that covers costs not paid for by the primary health insurance plan.

Healthlink (Wyoming Department of Health)

Healthlink is an online application and screening tool for Medicaid and Kid Care CHIP health insurance programs. www.wesystem.wyo.gov

HMO

Health Maintenance Organization – A medical insurance program which gives care through specified doctors and hospitals. Members pay a fixed prepaid premium.

Home Health Aide

A professional who provides home care services, including: personal care services; simple dressing changes or help with medications that do not require the skills of a nurse; help with special activities and therapies; and routine care of prosthetic and orthotic devices.

Hospice Care

The special kind of health care focused on life-limiting illness. It can be provided in the home and outside of the home in hospitals or hospice centers. Hospice care may include any of the home health services, but also usually includes both counseling services and palliative care nursing. Palliative care is focused on preserving patient comfort and dignity in the face of terminal disease.

IDEA

Stands for *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* of 2004, the federal law for specially designed supports and related services (special education) in schools. A student must meet specific criteria, covering a broad range of different disabling conditions, to qualify for IDEA supports and services to help them benefit from their education. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>; <http://IDEA.ed.gov>

IEP

Individualized Education Program – a plan developed by a team which includes the family and the child as appropriate, for each student, according to their individual needs. The IEP is required by law for all students receiving special education services. It outlines your child's educational goals and any services or supports your child needs to meet those goals.

IFSP

Individual Family Service Plan – A written plan for children with disabilities from birth to 3 years old and their family. Developed with the family and the team, the IFSP outlines services and goals of the family. It can include services from human services departments and public and private agencies.

IHP

Individualized (School) Health Plan is a formal written agreement developed by a team of school staff, in partnership with the student's family, the student, and the student's health care provider(s).

Immunization

A substance (usually given in the form of a shot) that protects a person from viruses and bacteria. Also called a vaccine.

Impairment

An injury, deficit, or disability.

Inclusion

In the schools, inclusion or inclusive education means that all children learn together in the same schools and classrooms. Services and supports for children with special needs are built into regular school and classroom activities. See Mainstreaming.

LRE

Least Restrictive Environment – This means a child with special health care needs is educated as much as possible with children who do not have special health care needs. The school program must meet all of the child's educational needs in the most appropriate setting as decided upon by the IEP team. Other words used for LRE are "Mainstream", "Integration", and "Inclusion"

Mainstreaming

Programs and policies to include people with disabilities in regular programs and services, such as education. See Inclusion.

Mandate

Something that is required by law. For example, free public education is a mandate.

Medical Emergency

A serious medical condition that results from injury, sickness or mental illness, which is sudden and severe and requires immediate treatment.

Medical Fellow

A doctor who has finished medical school and residency, and is spending 3 or more years learning to be a specialty doctor.

Medical Home

Medical home is a partnership between the pediatric health care team and the child and the child's family to assure all the medical and nonmedical needs of the patient are met. It is not a building, house, hospital or home healthcare service, but rather an approach to provide comprehensive primary care that is family-centered. www.medicalhomeinfo.org

Medical Necessity

Standards of medical practice that health plans use to make decisions about the coverage of special services or equipment.

Medical Resident

A doctor who has finished medical school and is spending 3 years learning clinical medicine. A resident is supervised by an attending doctor.

Medical Student

A student in medical school who has not yet received his or her degree. A medical student is supervised by an attending doctor.

Member Service Representative

A health insurance plan employee who can help you with questions about covered services and benefits.

Mental Health Counselor

A provider, usually with an advanced university degree in counseling or psychology, who can counsel you and your child on mental health, mood, behavior, and family issues.

MCH

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) is a section of the WY Department of Health that provides leadership to ensure all Wyoming women, children and families, including those with special health care needs, have access to prevention services and public health programs to create a strong foundation for optimal lifelong health. <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/mch/>

Nurse

A nurse provides and coordinates the hands-on treatment and care of your child. A nurse also assesses symptoms and alerts the doctor to any changes in status by either writing in the medical chart or notifying the doctor immediately.

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced academic and clinical training that provides primary and specialty medical care. A NP diagnoses and manages most common and many chronic illnesses, either independently or as part of a health care team.

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Treatment to help a person develop mental or physical skills for daily living, especially fine motor skills. Examples include dressing, bathing, writing, and using a fork or spoon. Occupational therapy often involves identifying and learning to use equipment that helps people with these activities.

Orthosis

A support or brace for weak joints or muscles.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medicine

Medication that is available without a prescription.

Palliative Care

Care that is provided not to cure, but to keep a patient comfortable. Examples include providing warmth, pain control measures, and appropriate nutrition and medications. See Hospice Care.

Personal Care Attendant (PCA)

An independent caregiver who helps with the activities of daily living.

Pediatric

A branch of medicine dealing with the care of children.

Pediatric Specialist

A pediatrician who has a specialty area of knowledge and skills. Examples are pediatric surgeon, pediatric anesthesiologist, pediatric urologist, pediatric oncologist and neonatologist.

Pediatrician

A doctor who specializes in the care of children.

PHN

Public Health Nurse

Physician's Assistant (PA)

A health care provider specially trained to provide medical care under the supervision of a doctor. A PA can conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and can often write prescriptions.

PIC

Parent Information Center is Wyoming's statewide parent training and information center that provides support, training and referrals to families of children with disabilities and helps them navigate through the maze of special education services under the IDEA. www.wpic.org

PL

Public Law – Federal law that is passed. The number that follows “PL” identifies the law, (i.e. PL 101-476).

Prescription Drug

Medication that is available only with a written order from a medical provider who is licensed to prescribe medications.

Premature

Happening or arriving before the expected or usual time. A premature baby is usually defined as a baby born at least 3 weeks early, after a gestation period of less than 37 weeks.

Sometimes, prematurity means a birth weight of less than 2500 grams (about 5 ½ pounds), regardless of gestational age. See Gestation

Primary Care Provider

A physician or clinician whose practice focuses upon internal medicine, family/general practice, pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology. ← Could be – pediatrician, family physician, specialty physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant

Prior Authorization

Also called prior approval. Getting permission for special services or equipment in advance by the health plan, usually based on medical necessity.

Private Duty Nursing

See Continuous Nursing Services.

Prosthesis

An artificial device to replace a missing part of the body.

Provider Network

A group of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers who work together with a health insurance plan to provide health care services.

Psychiatrist

A medical doctor who can counsel you and your child about mental health, mood, behavior, and family issues. If needed, a psychiatrist prescribes medications that help with mood or behavior.

Psychologist

A provider, usually with a doctorate in psychology, who can counsel you and your child about mental health, mood, behavior, and family issues. A psychologist also does special testing to understand how your child learns, thinks, and feels.

PT

Physical Therapy – is treatment of physical disabilities – usually gross motor – by a physical therapist. It includes the use of massage and exercise to help the person improve the use of bones, muscles, joints, and nerves.

Referral

An authorization by a health care provider or health insurance plan for a person to receive care (often specialty care) from another provider. Each health plan has its own rules about referrals. Most plans have their own networks of specialists.

Respite Care

A service that provides temporary care to a child by any trained caregiver. For example, a respite care worker could be another family member, friend, or a professional caregiver. Respite care can take place in out-of-home and in-home settings for any length of time, depending on the needs of the family and available resources.

Screening

The use of basic, standardized procedures to test health, hearing, vision, development, behavior, and other factors to identify children with, or at risk of, disabilities or special health care needs.

Second Opinion

An evaluation by a second provider, other than your child's regular provider. You may want your child to get a second opinion if a health provider gives you a new diagnosis or tells you that your child needs a certain treatment or surgery. You may want to know if another provider agrees with the decision. Most health plans will pay for you to get a second opinion.

Section 504

A federal law that protects the rights of people with disabilities from discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal funds. See 504 Plan.

Service Coordinator

A person who works with the family to plan for services and who communicates with many service providers (Also called Case Manager).

Service Date

A term used by health insurance plans for the date of an appointment, treatment, or test.

Skilled Nursing

Care and treatment by a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). A nurse can provide teaching and support, perform a skilled procedure, or provide a specific therapy.

Social Worker

An individual, usually with an advanced university degree in social work, who provides counseling and aid to individuals about mental health, mood, behavior, and family issues. A social worker can also help connect you and your child with other services in your community.

Special Health Care Needs

A term used to describe persons with one or more mental, emotional, or physical conditions that limit their capacity to participate in everyday activities.

Speech and Language Therapy

Treatment of conditions affecting the voice, speech, swallowing, and written communication. Speech therapy helps children who have language or speech impairments with their communication skills.

Special Education (SPED)

Special education is specially designed instruction and related services that meet the unique needs of an eligible student with a disability or a specific service need that is necessary to allow the student with a disability to access the general curriculum. The purpose of special education is to allow the student to successfully develop his or her individual educational potential. Special education is free through the public school system.

Specialist

A doctor or other health care provider with "special" training in a certain area of medical care.

Specialty Care

Care from a doctor or other health care provider who has special training and experience in treating certain body systems or conditions.

SSI

Supplemental Security Income – A cash assistance federal program that pays benefits to children with disabilities under age 18 whose families have limited income or resources. You can get more information by calling 1-800-722-1213 or www.ssa.gov/pgm/ssi.htm

Syndrome

A group of symptoms or characteristics that occur together, but have not yet been classified as a disease.

Tertiary Care Center

A hospital that provides specialized inpatient and outpatient care.

Title V

Title V of the Social Security Act is the federal law that provides funding in a block grant to each state to ensure the health and welfare of woman and children. In Wyoming, services provided through MCH are funded through the Title V block grant as well as the state general fund. www.amchp.org/abouttitlev/pages/default.aspx

Transition

The process of moving from one stage of life or type of service to another. For children with special health care needs, transition usually refers to process of growing older and becoming more independent in areas of health care, employment, living, and recreation. Children in Early Intervention (EI) also experience transition when leaving EI and moving to school services.

TTY (Text Telephone)

A TTY, also called TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf), is a special device that lets people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired use the telephone to communicate, by allowing them to type messages back and forth to one another instead of talking and listening. A TTY is required at both ends of the conversation in order to communicate.

Urgent Care

Care given in situations that require immediate treatment but are usually not life-threatening, such as an ear infection, sprained ankle, or flu-like symptoms.

Utilization Management

A process where health care professionals review planned hospital admissions, surgery, and other procedures to make sure they are necessary and appropriate. (See Chapter 7.)

Vendor

A provider, supplier, or seller. For example, a durable medical equipment (DME) vendor is the company that provides your child with equipment.

WIC

Women, Infants and Children is a Special Supplemental Nutrition Program through the Department of Health that serves to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious supplemental foods, health and nutrition screening and education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare. <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/wic/>

WY F2F

Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center helps provide families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) greater access to evidence-based and cost-effective health information, family supports, and training in order to promote optimal health and patient engagement in health care decision making.

<http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/f2f/index.html>