

GLOSSARY

This glossary and acronym list was developed by Certified Healthcare Interior Designers (CHIDs) as a resource for individuals working in or entering the field of healthcare interior design. It is intended for general reference only. Familiarity with these terms does not guarantee a passing score on the CHID examination.

COMMON HEALTHCARE ACRONYMS AND TERMS	
All	Airborne Infection Isolation room
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
AHJ	Authority Having Jurisdiction
ALF	Assisted Living Facility
Patient of Size	A person whose height, body width, weight, and weight distribution throughout the body requires increased space for care and mobilization as well as for use of expanded-capacity devices, equipment, furniture, technology, and supplies. Note: Such patients are not necessarily receiving bariatric care, thus, the term “patient of size” is often used in place of obese, morbidly obese, or bariatric.
Behavioral Health	The scientific study of the emotions, behaviors and biology relating to a person’s mental well-being, their ability to function in everyday life
BHUC	Behavioral Health Urgent Care
CCRC	Continuing Care Retirement Community
CRI	Color Rendering Index
DCF	Durable Coated Fabric: a non-porous coated upholstery fabric commonly provided as polyurethane, silicone, thermoplastic elastomer and/or vinyl
Dialysis	An invasive treatment that diverts and filters the blood of a patient whose kidneys are not able to perform this function; it requires the patient to be immobilized and connected to a dialysis machine
Durable Coated Fabric/DCOF	Non-porous coated fabric, commonly known as polyurethane, silicone or vinyl. Dynamic Coefficient of Friction
EmPATH	Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing
EMR	Electronic medical records
EPD	Environmental Product Declaration
Fabric	All upholstery fabrics are generically referred to as “fabric”, regardless of their material composition
FBC	Facility Based Crisis
FF&E	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment
Functional Program	A record of the key environment of care considerations and facility functional and operational parameters that drive the space program for a project.
HEPA	High Efficiency Particulate Air
HPD	Health Product Declarations
HVAC	Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning
ICRA	Infection Control Risk Assessment

ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IEQ	Indoor Environmental Quality
Infusion	The process of receiving medicines through intravenous lines
IPD	Integrated Project Delivery
LDR	Labor-Delivery-Recovery
LDRP	Labor-Delivery-Recovery-Postpartum
Memo Tag	Fabric memo samples are typically provided with an attached manufacturer's product label containing information about material composition, properties, and testing. While manufacturers and suppliers call this a "Sample Ticket", these terms are used interchangeably
MOB	Medical Office Building
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NRC	Noise Reduction Coefficient, a term used to evaluate the ability of a material to either reflect or absorb sound, rating typically noted as 0.00 to 1.00. A material that reflects all sound would rate 0.00, while a material that absorbs all sound would rate 1.00
PRTF	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
RAD/ONC	Radiation & Oncology
Restricted Area	An area which requires specific clothing and preparation
RF Shielding	A technique used to create a barrier to prevent the passage of radio waves, electromagnetic and electrostatic fields preventing interference from distorting images.
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SRA	Safety Risk Assessment
STC	Sound Transmission Class, the measurement used to calculate effectiveness of soundproofing materials in reducing sound transmission between rooms, it is measured roughly by the decibel (dB) reduction in noise a material or partition can provide
Woven Textile Fabric	Formed by weaving or interlacing two or more threads at right angles to one another, often created on a loom
WOW	Workstation on Wheels

ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

ACA	Affordable Care Act
ADA	American with Disabilities Act
ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ASHE	American Society of Healthcare Engineering
ASTM	American Society for Testing of Materials

BIFMA	Business and Institutional Furniture Manufactures Association
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CHD	The Center for Health Design
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
DOH	Department of Health
FGI	Facilities Guidelines Institute publishes the Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities
HCAHPS	Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
IBC	International Building Code
IES	Illuminating Engineering Society
IWBI	International WELL Building Institute
TJC	The Joint Commission: An independent, non-profit organization that accredits and certifies healthcare organizations.
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
NIHD	Nursing Institute for Healthcare Design
NIOSH	The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NFPA	National Fire Protection Agency
NSF	National Sanitation Foundation
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Planetree	Planetree.org
The Greenhouse Project	An American national non-profit organization dedicated to creating caring homes for meaningful lives for elders, where residents have private rooms and bathrooms and can move freely through the home. It is based on the philosophy seeking to reverse enforced dependency by creating intentional communities of 7-10 elders, designed to foster late-life development and growth.

PLANNING CONCEPTS

Environment of Care: any site where patients are treated, whose objective is to provide a safe, functional, and effective environment for patients, staff members, and others

Evidence-based design: the process of basing decisions about the built environment on credible research to achieve the best possible outcomes

Household model/Small house model: long-term care homes adopt a person-centered approach that shapes the physical environment, organizational structure, and interpersonal relationships to create a home-like atmosphere, while providing elders with clear opportunities to direct their own lives

Patient-centered care: respectful of, and responsive to, individual patient preferences, needs and values, ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions

Wayfinding concepts: information systems which guide people through a high stress physical environment, enhancing their understanding and spatial experience, while contributing to a sense

of well-being, safety, and security

WELL Building Standard (WELL): Applies the science of how physical and social environments affect human health, well-being, and performance. WELL, v2 includes a set of strategies – backed by the latest scientific research – that aim to advance human health through design interventions and operational protocols and policies and foster a culture of health and well-being.