

# Glossary

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- Used in the book to mean any emergency call (911)** The emergency calling number of the United States is recognized world over thanks to Hollywood movies. These vary, for example, 000 is used in Australia and 108 in India.
- Asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL)** A data communication technology that enables faster data transmission over copper telephone lines than a conventional voiceband modem can provide.
- Artificial intelligence (AI)** Using computer processing to make decisions.
- Augmented reality/virtual reality (AR/VR)** Three-dimensional emulation—VR (see in the succeeding text), AR creates perceptions from 2D images. A mixed form (MR) is a combination.
- Application Program Interface (API)**
- Kilo or megabytes per second [(k/M) bps]** Transmission data speeds. In a typical network environment, upload, that is, data being sent away from a local to remote site and download—that is, the reverse speeds vary with the latter being faster.
- Compact Disc (CD)** A portable storage medium that can be used to record, store and play back audio, video and other data in digital form. It has a capacity of 80 minutes of audio, or 650 megabytes to 700 MB of data.
- Computer-aided design/manufacture (CAD/CAM)** AI in the publishing and manufacturing domain.
- Capital expenditure (CAPEX)** One-time fixed costs initially required to start a particular project. Hardware, software, land acquisition are examples.
- Clinical decision support systems (CDSS)** AI aiding a clinician in day-to-day work, DDSS or diagnostic decision support system is the most common form.
- Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM)** A device to continuously monitor Blood Glucose levels report the same on a realtime basis.
- The Internet cloud (Cloud)** A near infinite set of connected server computers where all possible information is stored on a private or public basis with a capability to be viewed almost anywhere anytime.
- Clinico pathology conference (CPC)** Academic interaction between clinicians and pathologists following a diagnosis is obtained by the latter.
- Chronic pulmonary obstructive disease (COPD)**
- Computerized provider order entry (CPOE)** A type of CDSS that analyses prescriptive advice and checks for over or under dosage, mismatched drugs, interactions, redundancy etc.
- Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM)** International standard for communication of biomedical diagnostic and therapeutic information in disciplines that use digital images and associated data.
- Digital Versatile Disc (DVD)** An advanced form of the compact disc which allows between 4 to 18 Gb of data. It is more commonly understood as Digital Video Disc as it was largely used for playing high definition movies.
- Data, information, knowledge, wisdom (DIKW)** Information science of flow processes in computer systems—explained fully in Chapter 1.
- Diplomate National Board (DNB)** a medical specialty specific certification program in India.
- Electro cardiogram (ECG)**

**Emergency room (ER)** Hospital wing where incoming serious cases are first seen -also called casualty or **Emergency Department (ED)**.

**Electroencephalogram (EEG)**

**Electronic health record (EHR)** EMR and EHR are interchangeable terms—explained in Chapter 3.

**Electronic medical record (EMR)**

**Fast Health Interchange Resource (FHIR)** The latest version of HL7 is FHIR (pronounced “fire”). It allows interoperability between electronic Patient Administration Systems (PAS), Electronic Practice Management (EPM) systems, Laboratory Information Systems (LIS), Dietary, Pharmacy and Billing systems, and electronic medical record (EMR) or electronic health record (EHR) systems.

**General practitioner (GP)** The term FP for family practitioner is also used.

**Global positioning system (GPS)** Online maps guiding traffic. Can guide public health requirements. It helped extract persons stuck under buildings during the Haiti earthquake.

**Health information exchange (HIE)** A virtual place holder for sharing health-related information.

**Home HealthCare (HHC)** Care provision at the patients home delivered through various devices.

**Hospital (Management &) Information System also Health Information and Management System [H(M)IS]** Comprehensive software solutions used in epidemiology and public health. Where H pertains to hospitals, it includes solutions that manage all the services within the hospital including an EMR.

**Healthcare Information Management Systems and Societies (HIMSS)** Organization which classifies and certifies hospitals for various levels of EMR adoption. The highest level is 7 ([www.himss.org](http://www.himss.org)).

**Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** Active in the United States, similar rules required in India—IT Act is not specific to healthcare.

**Healthcare information technology (HIT)** IT solutions pertaining to health also known as HCIT.

**Health Level Seven (HL7)** With a name based on the seventh or (health-related) application layer networking, [HL7.org](http://HL7.org) is a not-for-profit organization supported by hardware and software vendors to allow computers to talk to each other.

**Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)** The language that lead to the birth of the Internet. Developed by Tim Berners Lee, it enabled seamless document sharing through a network of computers. HTML5 contains added audio and video.

**International Classification for Diseases (ICD)** Promoted by WHO, ICD started as a classification of the causes of death, but later morbidities were also added. Currently version 10 is being used globally. Version 11 is under development.

**Information and communication technology (ICT)** IT is data creation and processing, while C is about transmission and sharing. See Chapter 4.

**Intensive care unit (ICU)**

**Integrated healthcare enterprise (IHE)** An organization that is helping collaborations between health organizations.

**International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO)** A not-for-profit association based in Denmark. It owns, maintains, and distributes SNOMED CT.

**Internet of things (IoT)** When devices talk to each other without involving humans.

**Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)** A set of communication standards allowing simultaneous digital transmission of voice, video, data, and other network services using standard telecommunication equipment.

**International Standards for Organization (ISO)** The specific technical committee (TC) for standards pertaining to telehealth and HIT is TC 215. TC 62 that works with medical devices is aligned closely.

- Internet Protocol security (IPSec)**
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** India's equivalent to NASA.
- Information (and communication) technology (IT)** See ICT earlier.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
- Intravenous Tissue-Type Plasminogen Activator IV tPA** Used for emergency clot dissolution as treatment of thrombotic events leading to stroke etc.
- Local area network (LAN)** Sharing digital information within an institution, home, or workplace using wired or wireless media.
- Minimal access surgery (MAS)** Doing surgery through natural orifices or small incisions—examples are laparoscopic and endoscopic approaches.
- Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS)** Largely replaced now by WhatsApp and WeChat that allows more options and is cheaper.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** An official legally binding agreement between two or more parties regarding a particular work plan.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** Official agency from the United States that is doing space exploration and research.
- Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)** As opposed to communicable diseases—which (do not) have a transmissible pathogen.
- Nurse practitioner (NP)** Person providing care at the subprimary level. In ideal conditions, they should be trained nurses, but the same is being provided by many others—so the term is used here in a generic sense.
- Operating expenditure (OPEX)** Running or recurrent costs of—consumables, salaries, and rent are examples.
- Operating room/operation theater (OR/OT)** The dedicated location or room within a healthcare facility where procedures are performed.
- Picture Archiving and Compression System (PACS)** Filmless recording of medical images done through digitization. These are stored in hard disks and can be viewed from anywhere after being allowed access.
- Primary care provider (PCP)** Generally the GP can also be the nurse practitioners based on regulations in various locations.
- Primary HealthCare (PHC)** First level care.
- Primary Healthcare Center (PHC)** A government facility providing first level care.
- Personal health record (PHR)** An EHR under direct control of the patient.
- Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** Mental affects after going through a traumatic event like war or natural disaster. Telehealth has an important role.
- Representational State Transfer (RESTful)** An API that uses HTTP requests to GET, PUT, POST and DELETE data.
- Software as a service (SaaS)** Internet cloud-based platforms on a pay-per-use mode. The application runs on the server which you access during the same.
- Society for Administration of Telemedicine and Healthcare Informatics (SATHI)** A not-for-profit doing telemedicine projects in India—[www.sathi.org](http://www.sathi.org).
- Store and forward (S&F)** A form of asynchronous telehealth where information is collected, stored, and then forwarded or used for health support.
- Short messaging service (SMS)** The oldest and still the commonest method to send text through mobile phones.
- Systematized Nomenclature in Medicine (SNOMED)** A semantic standard—a collection of health terminologies and phrases which transcends cultural and language barriers also called SNOMED CT with CT for Clinical Terminology.
- Standard Operating Protocol(s) [SOP(s)]** Guideline on the best method to be followed for any identified issue. SOPs are prescribed for disease management too, for example, an emergency triage.
- Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)** The most common protocol used for data sharing and internet.

**Universal Serial Bus (USB)** The most common method for physical transfer of data between computer systems and peripherals. A memory stick uses a USB connection but is nevertheless called a USB (drive).

**Unique Health (or Hospital) Identity (UHID)** Records are indexed and later traced based on the UHID.

**Video conferencing (VC)** Face-to-face video telephone call. Can be one to one or multipoint.

**Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP)** Internet telephony which uses data streams (codecs) rather than analog signals. Interestingly includes video telephony too.

**Virtual reality (VR)** Simulation of real-time experience through computers or holography.

**Wide area network (WAN)** Information sharing across a wide area or even a country but within the same institution.

**World Health Organization (WHO)**