



HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide:
Patient Friendly Language for
Consumer User Interfaces, Release 1
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HL7 Informative Document

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Logical Observation Identifiers Names & Codes (LOINC)	Regenstrief Institute
International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes	World Health Organization (WHO)
NUCC Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set	American Medical Association. Please see 222.nucc.org . AMA licensing contact: 312-464-5022 (AMA IP services)

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Introduction

The Implementation Guide (IG) for Patient Friendly Language for Consumer User Interfaces, May 2015 is the result of collaborative efforts between Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

This IG is sponsored by Veterans Affairs (VA) and is the result of a focused effort to provide a patient friendly language/plain language healthcare vocabulary. This vocabulary is targeted specifically toward healthcare consumer user interfaces which create outputs for consumer consumption such as consent directives, reports of disclosures, and notices of privacy practices.

Patients are often uncomfortable with the provided technical/legal security and privacy jargon used in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption. This technical/legal jargon makes it difficult for patients to fully participate in decisions regarding their healthcare (for instance, giving consent for access by providers to share medical information with other providers as needed for coordinating patient care). By using plain language¹ vocabulary that is mapped to technical/legal jargon in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption, we increase the likelihood that patients understand the choices they make while ensuring that their choices are correctly translated across the system.

The existing HL7 Healthcare Privacy and Security Classification System (HCS)² standard contains privacy and security topics. While these topics are expressed using technical jargon in the HCS, healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption need to express them in plain language. This IG provides a mapping of technical/legal security and privacy jargon to suggested plain language vocabulary. This mapping covers HCS topics such as purpose of use, sensitive condition restrictions, opt-in/opt-out, and other privacy- and security-related topics found in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption.

Although not mandatory, it is expected that implementers will use the vocabulary provided in the mapping in order to conform to plain language guidelines. We provide conformance guidance for healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption. Conformance guidance for specific types of healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption can be added as demand dictates.

¹ Plain language is “communication your audience can understand the first time they read or hear it. Language that is plain to one set of readers may not be plain to others. Written material is in plain language if your audience can:

- Find what they need;
- Understand what they find; and
- Use what they find to meet their needs.”

Source: The Plain Language Action and Information Network (PLAIN). Retrieved from <http://www.plainlanguage.gov/whatisPL/index.cfm>

² The HL7 HCS standard “provides a common syntax and semantics standard for interoperable security labels. The HCS leverages the related concepts of “clinical facts ” and security labeling for data segmentation to:

1. Define a normative set of interoperable healthcare security label fields to be assigned as a security label to healthcare information passed between systems within a security domain and,
2. Specify a conforming standard HL7 security label vocabulary.”

Source: HL7 International. Retrieved from http://www.hl7.org/documentcenter/private/standards/v3/PRIV_SEC_CLASS_SYS_R1_2014AUG.pdf

Additionally, this IG seeks to support a Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) consent directive questionnaire. This would increase portability and interoperability of consent directives across healthcare providers.

Purpose

This IG presents patient friendly/plain language that may be useful for incorporation in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption.

Audience

This IG is designed for:

- Clinical and Public Health Laboratories
- Healthcare Institutions (hospitals, long term care, home care, mental health)
- Individual Healthcare Providers
- Electronic Health Record (EHR) and Personal Health Record (PHR) Vendors
- Clinical Decision Support Systems
- Standards Development Organizations (SDOs)
- Public Health Agencies
- HIEs
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Ambulatory providers (physician clinics, dental clinics, mental health/behavioral health, etc.)

Scope

To present a patient friendly/plain language that may be incorporated in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption. Such patient friendly healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption would provide the capability to:

1. Make it possible for patients to better understand choices offered to them by a healthcare user interface output for consumer consumption;
2. Allow for direct interpretation of patient friendly language choices into the technical jargon found in HL7 specifications;
3. Assist with the reporting of disclosures by ensuring that any report of disclosures is presented in a patient friendly manner. Specifically, this will ensure that any report of disclosures containing technical security terms and provenance information is translated into patient friendly language; and
4. Make it possible for patients to better understand informed consents when participating in clinical trials.

Creating a FHIR consent directive resource also falls within this project's scope. This would increase portability and interoperability of consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption such as consent directives across healthcare providers. Note that this IG is intended to be policy agnostic.

Conformance

An implementation is said to be conformant to this HL7 IG when it follows the specified guidelines for writing in patient friendly language.

These guidelines should be followed by implementers when incorporating patient friendly/plain language in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption. Such language uses vocabulary that is simple, plain, and familiar to patients with concise verbiage.

This IG includes a mapping of technical/legal jargon commonly found in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption to vocabulary that is patient friendly. In order to be conformant to this HL7 IG, implementers should also use the suggested plain language vocabulary provided in the mapped table in place of the technical/legal jargon when developing healthcare consumer user interfaces that create outputs for consumer consumption.

In different policy domains, the selection of patient friendly vocabulary might be different. However, when implementers develop HL7-compliant healthcare consumer user interfaces that create outputs for consumer consumption, they should use the suggested plain language vocabulary provided by this IG unless the language is in conflict with language required by legal and regulatory requirements.

Guidelines for how to incorporate patient friendly/plain language in HL7-compliant healthcare user interface outputs for consumer consumption are specified in the next section. Immediately below is a list of the references that directly informed the guidelines. Appendix A contains a full list of references that support this IG.

- Document: *Plain Language Thesaurus for Health Communications, Version 10* (February 2009)
Author: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Marketing
Link: http://www.plainlanguage.gov/populartopics/health_literacy/Thesaurus_V-10.doc

Offers plain language equivalents to medical terms, phrases, and references.

- Document: *Plain Language Toolkit* (revised March 5, 2008)
Author: Group Health Center for Health Studies
Link: <http://www.wapatientssafety.org/downloads/GHC-Plain-Language-Toolkit.pdf>

Provides a word list that contains suggested alternatives to common medical terms and healthcare jargon.

- Document: *The Health Literacy Style Manual* (October 2005)
Author: MAXIMUS Center for Health Literacy
Link: <http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/resources/docs/stylemanual.pdf>

Provides hints and suggestions for developing and improving healthcare-related applications, notices, and other print materials for clients with limited literacy skills.

- Document: *Toolkit for Making Written Material Clear and Effective* (September 2010)
Author: Jeanne McGee (prepared for HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS))
Link: <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/WrittenMaterialsToolkit/index.html>

Provides practical tools and advice on ways to make written material covering CMS programs or health-related topics easier for people with low literacy skills to understand and use.

- Document: *An Introduction to the HIPAA Privacy Rule, Section II – Thesaurus of Plain Language Words and Phrases for HIPAA Notices of Privacy Practices* (January 2005)
Author: Joy Pritts (Georgetown University Health Policy Institute)
Link: <http://www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org/resources/docs/HIPAA2005.pdf>

Provides plain language principles and a thesaurus for making Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Notices more readable.

- Document: *How to Write Easy-to-Read Health Materials* (February 2013)
Author: HHS National Institutes of Health (NIH) U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM)
Link: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/etr.html>

Gives guidelines to assist in creating easy-to-read health materials for audiences who have difficulty reading or understanding information.

Guidelines

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which use language that a patient can easily and quickly understand. Such language is comprehensible to patients at the 6th-8th grade reading comprehension level.

- These outputs should use common, everyday words and phrases that can be found in language thesauruses and word lists to replace or define technical/legal jargon.

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which use active voice.

- Readers more easily follow text when it's clear who is taking the action. The subject of the sentence takes the action expressed by the verb.
- An example of writing in active voice is: "We ask questions about your sharing preferences to protect your privacy."

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which are written in a conversational style.

- Write in the first person or second person, using pronouns such as "I," "we," and "you." This encourages the use of active voice and will be clearer and more engaging to the patient.

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which are written in concise sentences.

- Vary the length of your sentences, which should average 15 words or less. This will ensure that your healthcare consumer user interface output flows smoothly.

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which use reader friendly formatting.

- Ensure the headings stand out by using large font, bold, or other emphasis (the font size should be two points greater than the text that follows). As measured vertically from the baseline of the character, the font size should be 5/8 inch (16 mm) minimum and 2 inches (51 mm) maximum based on the height of the uppercase letter "I."³
- Use headings that provide a meaningful description of the content of different sections.
- Break up chunks of information. Take long lists embedded in sentences and convert them into bulleted lists with one point per line. Number the lists if order is important.

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which are organized in a way that places the most important information first.

- Put the most important information first.
- If your patients need to follow a process, make sure that the steps are in chronological order.
- Clearly explain what your patients need to do and when they need to do it. For instance, include specific due dates if there is a deadline.

The healthcare consumer user interface should create outputs for consumer consumption which use language that is sensitive to the patients' special needs and ability of interpretation.

- Ensure your healthcare consumer user interface output meets the special needs of your patients. In the U.S., this means following all the requirements for Section 508 compliance⁴ to meet the needs of patients with disabilities such as visually impaired individuals.

³ This font size guideline appears in Section 703.2.5 Character Height of the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design* document which was retrieved from http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAStandards_prt.pdf

⁴ "Under Section 508 (29 U.S.C. '794 d), (U.S. federal) agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others."

Source: U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Governmentwide Policy, IT Accessibility & Workforce Division. Retrieved from <http://www.section508.gov/section508-laws>

Vocabulary Mapping

The table below maps technical/legal jargon commonly found in healthcare consumer user interface outputs for consumer consumption to vocabulary that is patient friendly (see the suggested plain language provided in the second column). Most of the plain language suggestions were determined from careful consideration of the plain language alternatives provided by the HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus (fifth column), CDC Plain Language Thesaurus (sixth column), and GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit (seventh column). HL7 subject matter experts (SMEs) made additional plain language suggestions, and these are found in the third column. Definitions of technical privacy and security jargon found in the HL7 HCS standard are provided in the fourth column. The table also includes suggested plain language for the HCS jargon (in the second column).

Appendix B contains examples of how to use the patient friendly vocabulary and guidelines specified in this IG to translate language commonly found in consent directives to patient friendly language. This appendix objectively measures the “patient friendliness” of each example by using the Flesch Reading Ease test and Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level test. Note: these tests are available in Microsoft Word through the “Show readability statistics” feature.

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
42 CFR Part 2	Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records		Definition: Non-disclosure of health information relating to health care paid for by a federally assisted substance abuse program without patient consent. Description: 42 CFR Part 2 stipulates the right of an individual who has applied for or been given			

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
			diagnosis or treatment for alcohol or drug abuse at a federally assisted program			
abscess	sore				sore, wound, infection	
abdomen	belly area				stomach, stomach area, belly, tummy, abdominal	stomach, tummy, belly
...abide by...	...agree to...			...agree to...		
ability	skill				skill, are able, can	
abolish	get rid of	remove			end, do away with, get rid of	
abrasion	scrape				cut, scratch, scrape	scrape, scratch
absenteeism	how often you miss (i.e., work or school)				missing work or school, how often you miss work or school	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
absorption	take in	soak up			take in, soak up	take in fluids, soak up
abstain from	don't					don't, don't use, don't have, go without
accelerate	speed up				hurry, speed up, make worse, make more severe	
accessible	available	reachable			available, on hand, understandable, usable (handicapped)	
accommodate	agree to			meet/agree to	house, let stay with, give shelter, adjust, adapt	
accompany	go with			include	go with, take with (medicine)	go (along) with, come with
accomplish	do				do, finish	carry out, do
accordingly	for that reason					so, for that reason, as a result

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
accounting of disclosure	A record of each instance of sharing of a patient's health information outside of a health plan		Definition: Custodian system must make available to an information subject upon request an accounting of certain disclosures of the individual's protected health information over a period of time. Policy may dictate that the accounting include information about the information disclosed, the date of disclosure, the identification of the receiver, the purpose of the disclosure, the time in which the disclosing entity must provide a response and the time period for which accountings of disclosure can be requested.			

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
accreditation	accreditation		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting activities related to meeting accreditation criteria.			
accrediting agency	licensing agency	certifying agency		...reviewing agency; licensing agency...		
accrue	gain					add, gain, build up
accumulate	add up				add up, gather, collect	add, build up, collect, gather
accurate	exact				true, right, correct	correct, exact, right
acellular vaccine	a vaccine that only contains part of the virus				a vaccine that only contains part of the virus	
acknowledged	recognized			accepted, recognized; approved		

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
acquire	get					get
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome-AIDS	a disease that makes it hard for your body to fight diseases				a disease that makes it hard for your body to fight diseases	
activate	start					begin, start
active immunity	being able to fight off a specific disease				being able to fight off a specific disease once you have had that disease	
acute	sudden				sudden start, short term, quick	sudden, new, recent; intense flare-up; serious pain; short-term
addictive	habit-forming					habit-forming
additional	more				extra, added, more	added, extra, more, other
address	discuss					talk about, discuss
adequate	enough				enough, the right amount	enough
adhere	follow				stick, follow	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
adjacent	next to				beside, next to, near, touching	next to, by
adjuvant	something added to a vaccine to make it work better				something added to a vaccine to make it work better	
administer	give				give, manage, take care of	give
advantageous	helpful					helpful, useful
adverse event	bad reaction	undesirable experience, unexpected reaction		injuries; bad reactions	something bad that happens, bad reaction, unexpected or unwanted effects	
adverse health effect	bad side effect				bad side effect, bad reaction	
adverse	harmful				bad, dangerous, hurtful, harmful	harmful, bad
adversely impact	hurt					hurt, set back

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
advise	tell				tell, warn, say	
advocacy	support				support, fighting on behalf of, arguing for support	
advocate	support				fight for, support, support person	
aerobic exercise	exercise that gets your heart pumping				exercise; slow and steady exercise like walking, running, biking, swimming, etc.; exercise that helps your heart stay healthy and work better; exercise that gets your heart	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					pumping; exercise that makes you breath faster	
aerobic	needs oxygen				needs oxygen	
aerosol	spray				spray, mist	
affirmative	yes					yes, positive
...after the delivery of treatment...	...after you've been treated...			...after you've been treated...		
agency	partner				others, other groups, partner	
aggravate	make worse				make worse, harm, anger, hurt	make worse
aggregate	combined				taken together, looked at all together, total, sum, combined	all together, added together, combined
aggressive	fast growing				pushy, dangerous,	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					gets worse fast, fast growing	
agitation	restlessness					anxiety, restlessness, nervousness
ailment	sickness					sickness, illness, health problem complaint
airways	tubes that take air in				windpipe, breathing, tubes that take air in from the nose and mouth to the lungs, pathway from nose and mouth to lungs, air tubes	
alcohol	alcohol					
alienate	turn away from				push away, put by itself, turn away from, set apart	
all demographic information	all of a patient's personal		Policy for handling all demographic			

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
(sensitivity)	information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		information about an information subject, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to all demographic about an information subject, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			
allergen	something that causes allergies				something like pollen that causes the body to react by sneezing or forming a rash; something that causes an allergic reaction	something that causes allergies

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
allergic	the body's reaction to something, like pollen, resulting in sneezing, sniffing, a rash, etc.				the body's reaction to something, like pollen, resulting in sneezing, sniffing, a rash, etc.	
allergic reaction	allergic reaction				bad reaction, possibly deadly reaction, allergy, problem	
allergic rhinitis	hay fever					hay fever
allergist	allergy doctor				allergy doctor	
allergy	intolerance to a substance				reaction, itch, rash, hives, breathing problem	
alleviate	make better				lessen, ease, soften, improve, make better	ease, decrease, lessen
allocate	divide	make smaller, make even				divide, give based on a plan

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
allow	let					let
alopecia	hair loss				hair loss, balding, loss of hair	hair loss
alteration	change				change, shift, adjustment	
alternate	take turns				take turns, one and then the other, rotate	
alternative	another choice			choice	option, another choice, other, different way, another option, different, another way	choice, option
alveoli	tiny air sacs in the lungs				tiny air sacs in the lungs	
amalgam or amalgam fillings	silver-colored fillings used to fill cavities in teeth				silver-colored fillings, mixture of mercury,	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					silver, tin, copper and sometimes other metals used to fill cavities in teeth	
amalgamate	put together				put together, join, combine, unite	
ambulate	walk				walk, move around	walk
ambulatory	able to walk				can walk, mobile, able to move about, walking, able to walk	able to walk
ameliorate	make better				make better, improve, lessen, ease	improve, get better, make better
amend	change			change	change, change later on,	change

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					adjust, fix	
amnesia	forgetfulness				forgetfulness, memory loss, not being able to remember	
amniocentesis	test for a baby's health before it's born				test for a baby's health before it's born	
amniotic fluid	fluid surrounding unborn baby in womb				water, fluid surrounding unborn baby in womb	
amphetamines		A class of drugs that may be prescribed for managing conditions affecting the nervous system, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and excessive				

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		daytime sleepiness. For example, Adderall.				
amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	Lou Gehrig's Disease				Lou Gehrig's Disease, motor neuron disease	
anaerobic exercise	muscle-building exercise like weight lifting				exercise, fast-burst exercise, muscle-building exercise like weight lifting	
anaerobic	without oxygen				needs lack of oxygen, without oxygen	
analgesic	pain reliever				pain reliever, aspirin, Advil, or Tylenol	pain killer, pain reliever
analyze	study					look at, study, examine

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
anaphylaxis	shock				shock, a sudden and severe allergic reaction, stop breathing, poisoning, life threatening allergic reaction	shock or serious allergic reaction
anemia	tired				tired, low iron, a low blood count	
anesthesia	drug that puts you to sleep				numbing drug, drug that puts you to sleep or puts you under	
anesthetic (general)	a drug that puts you to sleep					a drug that puts you to sleep
anesthetic (local)	a drug that numbs an area of your body					a drug that numbs an area of your body
angina (or angina pectoris)	chest pain				chest pain	chest pain

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annual	each year				yearly, every year, once every year, once a year, each year	
annually	yearly				yearly, every year, once every year, once a year, each year	
anomaly	exception	special case, unusual, rare, unusual event			defect, change, difference, unusual, exception	
anonymize	remove information that could possibly identify a person		Definition: Custodian system must remove any information that could result in identifying the information subject.			
anorexia	eating disorder				eating disorder, too thin, not hungry	
anterior	front					front
anterior teeth	front teeth				front teeth	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
antibiotic	drug that fights bacteria				drug, medicine, drug that fights bacteria, infection-fighting medicine, medicine that fights infection	
antibody	cells that fight infection				your body's way to fight off infections, infection-fighting cells, cells that fight infection	
anticipate	expect					expect
anticoagulant	blood thinner					blood thinner
anti-depressants		A class of drugs prescribed for managing the blues, being down, or extreme sadness.				
antifungal agent	drug to treat fungus infections				drug to treat	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					fungus infections	
antigen	germ				germ, bacteria, virus, poison, something in your body that your body tries to fight off, something that helps your body fight disease	
anti-inflammatory	helps swelling go down				a drug to reduce swelling, something that reduces swelling and pain, aspirin, cortisone, a drug that brings down the swelling;	helps swelling go down

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					drug that prevents swelling	
antiphospholipid	a test to see if you're at risk for blood clots				antibody test; a test to see if you're at risk for blood clots	
antiviral	drug that fights viruses				medicine, drug that fights viruses	
anti-virus medicine	drug that fights viruses like the flu				medicine, drug that fight viruses like the flu	
anxiety	worry				fear, worry	
apparent	clear					clear, plain, show up
appellant	name				name, name of the person, you, person making an appeal	
aphasic	not able to talk or				not able to	

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	understand words				talk or understand words	
applicant	your name				your name, name of the person, person who is applying	
apply	put on				use, put on, rub onto, sign up for	
appreciate, appreciation	thank				thank, be grateful	thankful, thanks
advise	inform					inform, tell
appropriate	proper				take, take over, a good fit, proper, right	correct, proper, right
...appropriate government authority...	...government department...			...government department ...		
approximate	about				about, guess, around, near, close, estimate,	about, around, roughly

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					bring together	
aptitude	skill				ability, skill, gift, talent	
aqueous	watery				watery	
arguably	maybe				maybe, perhaps, possibly, could be	
arrhythmia	irregular heartbeat				irregular heartbeat, skipped heartbeat, heart problem	irregular heartbeat, when the heart doesn't have a steady beat
arteriosclerosis (or atherosclerosis)	hardening of the arteries					hardening of the arteries
arthralgia	pain in your joints				pain, pain in your joints	
arthritis	disease of the joints that causes swelling, pain, heat, and a sense of stiffness				pain in joints; disease of the joints that causes swelling, pain, heat, and a sense of stiffness	

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articulate	say					say, state, tell
ascertain	find out				find, find out, learn, make certain	find out, learn
ascorbic acid	vitamin C					vitamin C
asphyxiate, asphyxiation	choke				choke, smother, suffocate	choke(ing), suffocate(tion)
aspirate, aspiration	fluid in the lungs				choke, breathe in a fluid, take out fluid or tissue to test	fluid in the lungs
assay	lab test					lab test
assess	sum up				review, sum up, evaluate, to determine value, find	learn about, study
assessment (the evaluation itself)	evaluation					review, quiz, rating, report, test, interview
assessment (the outcome of the assessment)	report					review, quiz, rating, report, test, interview
assist, assistance	help			help	help, aid	help, aid
associated with	linked to					linked to, related

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						to
association	group				group, relation, organization	
...as soon as reasonably practicable...	...as soon as we can...			...as soon as we can...		...as soon as reasonably practicable...
asymptomatic	without symptoms					without symptoms
at the present time	right now				now, right now	
ataxic	not able to coordinate movement				not able to coordinate movement	
atherosclerosis	hardening of the arteries				hardening of the arteries, clogged blood vessels	
atopic dermatitis	itchy red rash					itchy red rash
attack	begin to harm				violent start, suddenly overcome by a	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					disease, begin to harm	
attain	meet a goal					meet a goal, get
attempt	try				try, effort	try
attenuated vaccine	vaccine that has a weakened form of the virus in it				vaccine, vaccine that has a weakened form of the virus in it	
attire	clothing				clothes, clothing, to dress, wear	
attorney	lawyer			lawyer		
audit	review		Definition: Custodian system must monitor systems to ensure that all users are authorized to operate on information objects.	review; inspect; look at		review, inspect, look at
audit trail	log that reviews and keeps information on users and their activity		Definition: Custodian system must monitor and maintain retrievable log for each user			

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			and operation on information.			
aural	hearing					hearing
authentic	original				original, real, true, actual	
authority	trusted source				trusted source, trusted person, official, power	
authorization	your written permission			your written permission; your written approval		
authorize	allow				allow, approve, give the power to, let	
...authorized public or private entity to assist in disaster relief	...government agency or charity authorized to help with disaster relief...			...government agency or charity authorized to help with disaster relief...		
...authorizing disclosures	...allow us to share information...			...allow us to share information		

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				...		
autism	illness that makes it hard for someone to talk to other people	withdrawn, no social skills			brain disorder, illness that makes it hard for someone to talk to other people	
autoimmune disease	disease that makes your body attack itself				disease that makes your body attack itself	
autoimmunity	body fighting itself				body fighting itself, rejecting problem with your immune system	
autonomous	independent				free, by itself, independent	
avail	help				help, aid	
available	ready				on hand, at hand, ready, nearby,	

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					handy, ready	
avian flu	bird flu				bird flu	
avoid	do not				do not, shun	
axilla	armpit				armpit	
bacteria	germ				germ	germs
become more familiar	learn more about...				learn more about...	
...before any costs are incurred...	...before we do anything that has a cost attached...			...before we do anything that has a cost attached...		
behavioral health						
beneficial	helpful					helpful, good
benefit (noun)	good effect					good effect, advantage
benefit (verb)	be useful to					help, be useful to
benign	harmless				harmless	isn't harmful, not cancer
bereavement	grief after death				grief after death, loss, sadness, mourning	

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beverage	drink				drink, fluids, liquids	
biannual	twice a year				twice a year, two times every year	
biennial	happening every other year				lasting two years, happening every other year, every two years	
bilateral	on both sides				with both sides considered , two-sided, when both sides get a say, even, balanced; on both sides	on both sides
biological agent	disease, poison, germs, bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc.				disease, poison, germs, bacteria, viruses, fungi	
biofilms (plaque)	stick film with germs on teeth				sticky film with germs	

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					on teeth	
biopsy	sample of tissue from part of the body				take tissue (usually for testing)	sample of tissue from part of the body
bioterrorism	spreading virus or disease to cause fear or hurt				spreading virus or disease to cause fear or hurt	
biota	plants and animals				plants and animals	
blood glucose	blood sugar					blood sugar
blood profile	series of blood tests					series of blood tests
BMI	using your height and weight to measure if you're overweight				body mass index, a measure of body fat based on height and weight, a measure of body fat	using your height and weight to measure if you're overweight
bona fide	real				real, true	
bone density test	bone strength test				bone strength test, a test of how solid and how strong	

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					your bones are; test for osteoporosis is, x-ray test for brittle bones	
bone marrow	area (or the space) inside your bones				area (or the space) inside your bones where blood cells are made	
booster shot	shot to keep you safe from disease				shot you get months or years after your vaccine shot, shot to keep you safe from disease	
brachial neuritis	swelling of the nerves in your arms				swelling of the nerves in your arms	
bradycardia	slow heartbeat				slow heartbeat	slow heartbeat

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breakthrough infection	getting a disease even though you've been protected against it				getting a disease even though you've been protected against it	
breastfeeding	nursing/feeding a baby with milk from the breast				nursing/feeding a baby with milk from the breast	
breech birth	baby born feet or rear-end first				baby born feet or rear-end first	
bronchial tubes	the tubes letting air in and out of the lungs				the tubes letting air in and out of the lungs	
bronchodilator	drug that helps you breathe				medicine, drug that helps you breathe easier	
bruxism	clenching and/or grinding teeth				clenching and/or grinding teeth	
buccal	side of mouth				side of	

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					mouth, inside cheek	
bursitis	swollen, painful joints				swollen, painful joints, disease that causes joint pain	
business information (sensitivity)	business information, including financial information and works produced by the business that may be copyrighted		Policy for handling trade secrets such as financial information or intellectual property, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Since the service class can represent knowledge structures that may be considered a trade or business secret, there is sometimes (though rarely) the need to flag those items as of business level confidentiality.			

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buttocks	butt					butt, backside, rear. Rear end
by means of	using				by, using, with	
by which time	by then				by then; when	
calculate	add up					add up, figure out
calculus	hard crusty deposit on teeth				hard crusty deposit on teeth	
cannabis		Also known as grass, dope, hash, marijuana, pot, weed, etc., these drugs are prepared from various parts of the hemp plant.				
capable, capability	able					able, ability
capacity	size				size, amount something holds, ability, space, number open	
carcinogen	cancer-causing				cancer-causing	cancer

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carcinoma	cancer starting in the skin or organ lining				cancer starting in the skin or organ lining	
cardiac	(of/in/related to) the heart					(of/in/related to) the heart
cardiologist	heart doctor				heart doctor	heart doctor
cardiology	medical department that treats heart				medical department that treats heart problems	
cardiovascular	heart and/or blood vessel				having to do with the heart and blood vessels	heart and /or blood vessel
care management treatment	care management treatment		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for provision of health care coordination.			
caries (dental)	cavities				cavities, tooth decay, holes in teeth	
carpal	wrist					wrist

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carrier	someone who is sick and can get other people sick				someone who is sick and can get other people sick; animal that is sick and can make other animals sick	
cartilage	the smooth covering on the end of bones				the smooth covering on the end of bones	
case fatality ratio	how many people die from a disease				how many people die from a disease	
CAT scan (CT scan)	test that shows inside body parts				test that shows inside body parts, scan, special x-ray, test	
cataracts	a clouding of the eye that makes it hard for people to see				a clouding of the eye that makes it hard for	

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					people to see, cloudy eyesight, cloudy vision, eye disease	
catastrophe	disaster				disaster, tragedy	
category	group					kind, class, group
catheter	a tube for (putting fluids into/taking fluids out of) the body					a tube for (putting fluids into / taking fluids out of) the body
catheterize	put a tube into (part of the body)					put a tube into (part of the body)
causal association	causes your body to react				causes, leads to, can cause, causes your body to react	
cauterize	burn the skin				burn the skin, burn tissue (to stop bleeding)	
caveat	warning					warning; detail to think about
cease	stop				end, stop, quit	stop

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cell culture	tissue sample or a study of the tissue					tissue sample or a study of the tissue
cellulitis	skin infection					skin infection
censure	punish				blame, punish, limit	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	CDC				CDC	
central nervous system (CNS)	brain and spinal cord				brain and spinal cord	brain and spinal cord
cerebral hemorrhage (or cerebral accident or cerebrovascular accident or CVA)	stroke				stroke, bleeding in the brain	stroke, blood clot in the brain
cerebrovascular disease	stroke				stroke	
certify	confirm in writing			confirm in writing		
cerumen	earwax				earwax	
cervix	lower part of the womb				lower part of the womb	
Cesarean delivery	baby born through surgery				C-section, baby born through surgery, cut abdomen	

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					area to get baby out	
cessation	quitting				stopping, quitting, ending	ending, stop, pause
characteristic	feature				mark, trait, feature	
characterize	describe				tell about, describe, define	
chemotherapy	drugs to treat cancer				cancer drug, cancer medicine, cancer treatment	drugs to treat cancer
chest film	chest X-ray					chest X-ray
cholesterol, HDL	type of fat found in the blood; good cholesterol					type of fat found in the blood; HDL is good cholesterol
cholesterol, LDL	type of fat found in the blood; bad cholesterol					type of fat found in the blood; LDL is bad cholesterol
chronic	long term				constant, never ending, does not go away, long term,	lasting a long time, life-long

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					lasting a long time, long-lasting	
chronic disease	disease that lasts for years				long-lasting disease, disease that lasts for years	
chronic health condition	constant health problem				constant health problem, something that effects your health for a long period of time	
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	lung disease, such as asthma or emphysema				lung disease, such as asthma or emphysema	
circulation	blood flow				blood flow, flow of blood through the body	
circumstance	situation				event, situation, facts	

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clade	group of animals that can all get the same disease				group of animals that can all get the same disease	
claim attachment	addition of medical information that supports a request for insurance coverage or payment for health services		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for provision of additional clinical evidence in support of a request for coverage or payment for health services.			
clavicle	collarbone				collar bone	collarbone
cleft lip and/or palate	birth defect(s) that affect the upper lip and roof of the mouth				harelip, birth defect(s) that affect the upper lip and roof of the mouth	
client	customer	patient, consumer, recipient			you, name of person, customer	
clinical	(related to) medical care				work, studies, a	(related to) medical care

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					medical setting that involves patients	
clinical trial	a research study that tests new treatments on patients				clinical research study, medical research study	a research study that tests new treatments on patients
clinical trial research	research study that tests new treatments on patients		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting scientific investigations in accordance with clinical trial protocols to obtain health care knowledge.			
clinical trial treatment	testing new treatments on patients		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for provision of health care within a clinical trial.			
clinically ill	sick				sick, diseased	

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close proximity	nearby				near, nearby, close, close to	
coagulate	clump together				clot, set, clump together	clot, stop flowing
cocaine		Also known as coke, crack, white powder, etc.				
coerce	force				force, make, press	
cognitive	thinking					learning, thinking
cognizant	aware (of)				aware, know about, think of, have learned	aware (of)
coitus	sex					sex
colic	stomach pain				stomach pain, sick, fussy or upset baby	
collaborate with	work with				work together, team up, help each other	work with

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...collaborating with...	...working with...			...working with...		
...collect and maintain...	...get and keep...			...get and keep...		
colon (colorectal)	large intestine					large intestine
colonoscopy	check for colon cancer				check your colon, check your intestines, look inside your intestine, check for colon cancer	an exam of the inside of the large intestine that uses a flexible tube with a lens at the end
comatose	in a coma				in a coma	
combination	mixture				mix, mixture	
combination vaccine	a vaccine that helps stop more than one type of disease				a vaccine that helps stop more than one type of disease	
commence	start				start, begin	begin, start
commitment	promise					promise
committed	promised			promised		
commonly	most often					most often
Common Rule	U.S. federal law that set up a		Definition: U.S. federal laws			

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	system for the review and conduct of proposed human research to make sure that it will be performed ethically		governing research-related privacy policies. Description: U.S. Federal regulations governing the protection of human subjects in research (codified at Subpart A of 45 CFR part 46) that has been adopted by 15 U.S. Federal departments and agencies in an effort to promote uniformity, understanding, and compliance with human subject protections. Existing regulations governing the protection of human subjects in Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-regulated research (21 CFR parts 50, 56, 312, and 812) are separate from the			

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			Common Rule but include similar requirements. Usage Notes: May be associated with an Act or a Role to indicate the legal provision to which the assignment of an Act.confidentialityCode or Role.confidentialtyCode complies.			
communicable	can be passed to other people				catching, can be spread, can be passed to other people, can make other people sick	
communicate	tell			tells, let you know	tell, say, call, write, talk to	write, tell, talk, let you know
...communication source...	...source of information...			...source of information ...		
community immunity	group protection				group	

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	from a disease				protection from a disease	
comparable	almost the same as				like, similar, almost the same as, equal to	
compensate, compensation	pay				make up, pay, reward	pay, give money
competent	skillful				skillful, able, well trained	
complete	finish				finish, fill out, end	finish, do, fill out, take part in
completion	end				end, finish, no more	
the use or disclosure will be made in compliance with the law	Your health information will be used or shared according to the law			Your health information will be used or shared according to the law		
compliance	compliance		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for conducting activities required to meet a mandate.			

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complimentary	free				free	
comply	follow				do, follow, give in, obey, go along with	follow
comply with confidentiality code	comply with confidentiality code		Definition: Custodian security system must retrieve, evaluate, and comply with the information handling directions of the Confidentiality Code associated with an information target.			
comply with consent directive	comply with consent directive		Definition: Custodian security system must retrieve, evaluate, and comply with applicable information subject consent directives.			
comply with jurisdictional privacy policy	comply with jurisdictional privacy policy		Definition: Custodian security system must retrieve, evaluate, and comply with applicable			

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			jurisdictional privacy policies associated with the target information.			
comply with organizational privacy policy	comply with organizational privacy policy		Definition: Custodian security system must retrieve, evaluate, and comply with applicable organizational privacy policies associated with the target information.			
comply with organizational security policy	comply with organizational security policy		Definition: Custodian security system must retrieve, evaluate, and comply with the organizational security policies associated with the target information.			
comply with policy	comply with policy		Definition: Custodian security system must retrieve, evaluate, and comply with applicable policies associated with the target information.			

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comply with the rule us to do...	obey the rule			obey the rule; doing what it tells		
component	part				part, section	part, section, phase
composite or composite filling	tooth-colored filling				tooth-colored filling	
comprehensive	complete				complete, covers everything important, thorough, all	
compress	squeeze				squeeze, press down on	
comprise	make up				be made up of, include,	form, include, make up
compromised	weakened				weakened	
compulsion	urge				want, urge, desire, drive	
computed tomography	CT scan or imaging test					CT scan or imaging test, 3-D X-ray
conceal(ed)	hide (hidden)					hide (hidden)
conceive	imagine	create			imagine, think up,	

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					become pregnant, create	
concentration	focus				strength, focus	
concerning	about				about, for, on	about, on
conclude	end				end, finish, judge, deem,	
conclusive	final				definite, final, last	
concur	agree				agree, feel the same way	
condition	health problem				a medical problem, a disease, an illness	how you feel, health problem
conditioning	training your body				physical training, training your body, fitness	
conduct(ing)	do				do, carry on, run, lead	do(ing)
congenital	born with				born with, inborn, there at birth	present at birth, born with

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congenital anomaly	birth defect					birth defect
congestive heart failure	when the heart isn't pumping hard enough	heart attack, cardiac arrest				when the heart isn't pumping hard enough
conjugate vaccine	a specific type of vaccine				a specific type of vaccine	
conjunctivitis	pink eye				eye infection, pink eye, swelling and redness around your eyes	pink eye
conscientious	thoughtful				careful, thoughtful, alert	
consequence	result					result
consequently	because of this				so, which means that, as a result	so, because of this, as a result
consider	think about					think about
consistent	stays the same				stays the same	
consolidate	combine					combine, join, put together
conspicuous	obvious				plain to see,	

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					obvious, easy to see	
constitute	make up				made of, form, make up	is, form, make up
construct	build				make, build	make, build, design
consult	talk with				talk with, ask, talk to, see, meet, opinion, discuss	
consume	eat, drink				eat, drink, use up	
contact	talk to				talk to, call, write, talk with, get in touch with, touch	
...contact you at work instead of at home or vice versa...	...contact you at work or home...			...contact you at work or home...		
contagious disease	disease that you can give to other people				illness that spreads to others, disease that you can give to other people	

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contagious	able to make others sick				catching, spreading, able to make others sick, spreadable , a disease that can be spread from one person to another; someone who is sick and might make you sick too	
contain	have				have, keep together, hold	has
contaminant	poison				pollutant, poison, harmful ingredient, harmful chemical	
contaminate	spoil				spoil, infect, dirty, poison, pollute, taint, get	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					dirty	
contemplate	think about				think about, consider, ponder	
contingent upon	if					if
continue to	keep on				keep on, still, remain	go on, keep (on)
contraceptive	birth control				birth control	birth control
contract	agree				arrange, agree, make smaller and shorter	
contract(ing) (a disease)	get(ing) (a disease)					get(ing) (a disease)
contraindication	not recommended				dangerous to give, not good for, when a drug or procedure may be harmful, wrong, opposite	not recommended, can cause a bad reaction, not allowed
contrast medium	dye					dye
contribute	help				help, give,	give, help

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					volunteer	
control	manage				manage, have power over, take care of	
controlled trial	a study that compares one treatment to another treatment					a study that compares one treatment to another treatment
contusion	bruise				bruise	bruise
convene	meet					meet
convenient	handy	works in your favor, saves time, easy			easy to use, on hand, handy, useful	handy, works well
conversion	change					change
convulsion	seizure				seizure, spasm, shaking	seizure, shaking
co-operate	work together				help, work together, assist	
...coordination or management of care...	...coordinating your care			...coordinating your care; making sure you get the care you		

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
				need...		
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, emphysema, a lung disease that makes breathing hard				Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, emphysema, a lung disease that makes breathing hard	
coronary	(in/of/related to) the blood vessels that bring blood to the heart					(in/of/related to) the blood vessels that bring blood to the heart
coronary heart disease	heart disease				heart disease	
coronary thrombosis	heart attack				heart attack, blood clot in a blood vessel in the heart	heart attack
correctional institution	jail			jail or prison		
correlation	linked to					linked to, related to
correspond	match				agree with, match, write,	similar to, be in agreement with

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					email, go with	
corroborate	confirm				confirm, agree with	
corticosteroids	asthma drug				asthma drug, asthma medicine	
cot death	sudden infant death syndrome				SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome	
cough etiquette	how to cough or sneeze				how to cough or sneeze	
countermeasures	drugs to help fight sickness				drugs to help fight sickness; flu shots; vaccines	
...court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process...	...court order...			...court order; legal demand...		
coverage authorization	finding out if a patient is pre-approved to receive coverage under a health plan		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting prior authorization or			

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			predetermination of coverage for services.			
coverage under policy or program	finding out if a patient can receive coverage under a health plan		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting activities related to coverage under a program or policy.			
covered entities	health plans	doctor, hospital, clinic, insurance company		Health plans, health care clearinghouses that process your health information and your health care providers (such as doctors, hospitals and clinics) that have to comply with these privacy rules.		

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
crib death	sudden infant death syndrome				SIDS, sudden infant death syndrome	
criterion	standard				sign, standard	
Crohn's Disease	digestion disease				digestion disease, problem with bowels	
crossbite	upper teeth are biting inside the lower teeth				upper teeth are biting inside the lower teeth	
crown (gold, porcelain or stainless steel)	cap that covers tooth				cap that covers tooth (stainless steel most often used on "baby teeth")	
crucial	very important					very important
cure	make completely better				heal, fix, make better; make completely better	

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currently	now				now, at this moment, right now	now
cushingoid	when a person has the facial signs showing that he or she has taken high doses of corticosteroids (steroid hormones); such signs include a rounded face and increased fat around the neck				signs of high doses of medicine, drug	
cutaneous	skin related				skin related, about the skin, on the surface, skin	(in/of/about/related to) the skin
cyst	pus under your skin				pus under your skin, boil, cancer cells, lump	
cystitis	pain when you pee				bladder infection, pain when you pee	
dander	flakes of skin				flakes of skin, cradle	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					cap	
date of birth information (sensitivity)	patient's date of birth information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to an information subject's date of birth, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an information subject's date of birth, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			
debilitating	weakening					weakening
deceased	dead			dead; died	dead, passed away, died	
decedent	a dead person		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for handling deceased patient			

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			matters.			
deciduous tooth	baby tooth				baby tooth	
decision	choice					choice, option
decompose	rot				decay, rot, break down	
decontaminate	kill germs				clean, kill germs, disinfect, purify, sterilize	
decrease	reduce				take less, cut back, drop, lower, fall, lessen, make less	lower, reduce
deem	consider					think, believe, consider
deep vein thrombosis	a blood clot deep in the vein					a blood clot deep in the vein
deficiency	not enough				lack, not enough	not enough
deficient	not enough				lacking, not enough, poor	
deficit	shortage					shortage
deformity	not a normal shape				a change from the normal	

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					shape, not normal, not a normal shape, oddly shaped	
degeneration, degenerative	worsen				weaken, worsen, decline, decay, droop	getting or gets worse
dehydrate	need water				need water, water loss, remove water, remove water	
...de-identified information...	...information that does not identify you or tell who you are...			...information that does not identify you or tell who you are...		
de-identify	remove information from data in order to prevent a person from being identified		Definition: Custodian system must strip information of data that would allow the identification of the source of the			

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			information or the information subject.			
delete	remove					remove, take out, cut, drop
delete after use	remove information after use so that it cannot be used again		Definition: Custodian system must remove target information from access after use.			
deltoid	muscle in upper arm				arm muscle, muscle in upper arm	
dementia	memory loss that gets worse over time				memory loss that gets worse over time, Alzheimer's	
Demographic	personal information			Personal statistics; personal information		
demonstrate	show				prove, show	prove, show
demyelinating disorder	nerve disease				nerve disease	
dental caries	cavities				cavities, tooth decay, holes in	

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					teeth	
dental implant	fake tooth drilled into jaw bone				fake tooth drilled into jaw bone	
dental sealant (pit and fissure sealant)	thin layer of plastic painted onto teeth to prevent decay				thin layer of plastic painted onto teeth to prevent decay	
dentin	main bone-like part of a tooth				main bone-like part of a tooth	
deoxygenated	without oxygen				no oxygen, without oxygen	
depart	leave					leave
deplete	empty				empty, take all of, reduce, sap, lessen	
dermal	skin related				related to the skin, skin related	
dermatologist	skin doctor				skin doctor	
dermatology	study of the skin				skin doctor's office, study of the skin	

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describing	tell about					tell about
designate	name				call, label, name	choose, name, select, appoint
...designee of this facility...	...employee who has been identified			...employee who has been identified; employee that we have identified		
detect	find				find, discover	find (out)
deteriorate	get worse				get worse, fall apart, become unusable,	
determine	decide			decide(s)	figure out, decide, find out, test	decide, find (out), learn (if)
detrimental	harmful				bad, harmful, dangerous	harmful, bad
develop	create				create, change, grow	occur, start to get, happen
developmental disability	physical or mental disability				physical or mental disability, challenged, learning	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					problem	
deviate	take a different path				stray, change, take a different path	
diabetes	disease with too much sugar in the blood				diabetes, disease with too much sugar in the blood, problem with making food into energy	
diabetic	person who has diabetes				person with diabetes	person who has diabetes
diagnose	find out the problem or condition				test, find out, figure out, learn cause, name	(find the) problem or condition
diagnosis	find out the cause of a problem or condition				finding out the cause of an illness, condition, disease,	(find the) problem or condition

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					medical answer	
diagnostic procedure	a test to look for a problem					a test to look for a problem
diaphoresis	sweating					sweating
diarrhea diseases	diarrhea				diarrhea	
difficulties	problems				problems, trouble	problems, trouble
diffuse	widespread					widespread, scattered
digit	finger or toe					finger or toe
dilate	become wider				become wider, become larger, become bigger, open	
dilator	something used to make something				something used to make something become larger, wider, or bigger	
dilute	add liquid				weaken, make weaker, add liquid,	add liquid, make less strong

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					make less strong	
dimension	size, width, height or length				size, width, height or length	
diminish(ed)	become less				make smaller, become less, take less, ebb	go down, decrease, less (of), lower
diminutive	small				small, tiny, very little, petite	
diplopia	double vision				double vision	
directed to	told				told	
directory	directory		Definition: To perform one or more operation operations on information used to manage a patient directory. Examples: Facility, enterprise, payer, or health information exchange patient directory.			
disaster	disaster		Definition: To perform one or			

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			more operations on information used for provision of immediately needed health care to a population of living subjects located in a disaster zone.			
discharge	going home				going home, leaving	
disclose	share			share; give; tell	show, tell, uncover	share, tell, show
...disclosures we will make...	...information we will share...			...information we will share...		
discoid	shaped like a disk				shaped like a disk, round and flat	
discoloration	change in color				change in color, not the color it normally is, odd color	change in color
disconnect	separate					unhook, separate, divide
discontinue	stop				stop, end, quit	drop, stop
discover	find (out)					find (out), learn if

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discrepancy	error					conflict, difference, error, split
discuss	talk about				talk about, talk with, talk over	
disease	illness				illness, sickness	
disguise	hide				hide	
disorder	medical problem				condition, illness, medical problem	
display	show				show	
dissemination (disseminate)	distribute				spread, distribute, send out, make available	give, share, send, pass on, (spread out)
distal	back of				back of	
distinguish	tell apart				tell apart, set apart	
distribute	hand out				hand out, give, spread, mail	
diuretic	drug that makes you pee more					drug that makes you urinate (or pee) more

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diverticulitis	when your large intestine is swollen or infected					when your large intestine is swollen or infected
DNA	genes				genes	
domicile	home				home, house	
donate	give				to give	give
donation	gift		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation.		gift, present	
don't be alarmed	don't worry				don't worry	
dose	amount				amount of medicine, chemical, or radiation; amount, size	
double blind	a study where the researchers and the participants do not know the drug the participant is getting					a study where the researchers and the participants do not know the drug the participant is getting

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bandage	bandage					bandage
drink (alcoholic)		any drink containing alcohol such as beer, malt liquor, wine, or hard liquor (e.g., gin, rum, vodka, whiskey)				
drowsy	sleepy				sleepy	
drug						
due to the fact that...	because				because, due to	because
dust	powdery dirt				fine, dry earth, powdery dirt	
dwelling	home				home, house	
dysarthria	slurred speech				slurred speech	
dysfunction	not working					not working
dysmenorrhea	painful period cramps					painful period cramps
dyspepsia	heartburn				indigestion, heartburn	heartburn
dysphagia	trouble swallowing				swallowing disorder, swallowing problem	trouble swallowing

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dyspnea	trouble breathing					trouble breathing
early childhood caries (ECC)	tooth decay in infants				baby bottle tooth decay, tooth decay in infants	
echocardiography, echocardiogram	pictures of the heart					pictures of the heart
economical	cheap				cheap, low cost, low priced	
edema	swelling				swelling	swelling
edentulous	no teeth				no teeth	
effect	cause				result, cause	
effective	works well				works well, good, strong	
effective date	...takes effect on...			...takes effect on...		
efficacy	how well (a treatment) works					how well (a treatment) works
efficacy rate	how well something works				how well something works	
EHR (Electronic Health Record)	digitally formatted medical record				synonyms with EMR (Electronic Medical	

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					Record) which is a digitally formatted medical record	
EKG	heart test				heart test, test of your heart	
elect	choose					choose, pick
electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG)	heart test				heart test, EKG	
electrolytes	salts in the blood that control the balance of fluids in the body				blood salts, a type of necessary salt found in blood	salts in the blood that control the balance of fluids in the body
elevate	make higher				raise, lift, make higher	high, higher, raise
eligibility determination	finding out if patients can receive coverage under a health plan based on their financial status, disability status, etc.		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for conducting eligibility determination for coverage in a program or policy. May entail review of financial status			

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			or disability assessment.			
eligibility verification	checking to see if a patient is actually covered by a health plan		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for conducting eligibility verification of coverage in a program or policy. May entail provider contacting coverage source (e.g., government health program such as workers compensation or health plan) for confirmation of enrollment, eligibility for specific services, and any applicable copays.			
eliminate	get rid of				stop, end, drop, get rid of	get rid of, remove, cut, end, go to the bathroom
elucidate	explain					explain
emaciated	starving				very thin, starving	

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embolism	blood clot				blood clot	lump of blood, clot
embolist/embolus	clot that blocks a blood vessel or artery					clot that blocks a blood vessel or artery
embryo	unborn baby (up to 12 weeks)				unborn baby (up to 12 weeks)	
emergency	emergency				emergency , urgent, threat, disaster, crisis	
emergency only	emergency only		Definition: Opt-in to disclosure of health information for emergency only consent directive. Description: This general consent directive specifically limits disclosure of health information for purpose of emergency treatment. Additional parameters may further limit the disclosure to specific users,			

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			roles, duration, types of information, and impose uses obligations.			
emergency treatment	emergency treatment		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for provision of immediately needed health care for an emergent condition.			
emesis	throwing up					throwing up, vomiting
emphasize	point out				stress, point out, highlight	
emphysema	a lung disease				a lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	
empirical evidence	proof					proof
employ	use					use
...employee review activities...	...employee review (evaluations)...			...employee review (evaluations		

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)...		
...employees, staff and other hospital work personnel...	...people who work at the hospital...			...hospital personnel; people who work at the hospital...		
employer information (sensitivity)	patient's employer information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to an employer which is deemed classified to protect an employee who is the information subject, and which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an employer, such as law enforcement or national security, the identity of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of an information subject who is an			

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			employee.			
employment	work	job				work
EMR (Electronic Medical Record)	computer medical record				chart, medical records, computer medical record; medical record in a digital format	
enable	allow			...allow; make possible...		allow, let
enamel	hard covering on outside of tooth				hard covering on outside of tooth	
encephalitis	swelling of the brain				swollen brain, brain swelling, swelling of the brain	
encephalopathy	brain dysfunction				brain dysfunction	
encounter	meeting					meet, meeting
encourage	urge				urge	urge
encrypt	making data unreadable and		Definition: Custodian system			

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	unusable to make sure that only the people who are supposed to be participating in a transfer of data are able to do so		<p>must render information unreadable by algorithmically transforming plaintext into ciphertext.</p> <p>Description: A mathematical transposition of a file or data stream so that it cannot be deciphered at the receiving end without the proper key. Encryption is a security feature that assures that only the parties who are supposed to be participating in a videoconference or data transfer are able to do so. It can include a password, public and private keys, or a complex combination of all. (Per Infoway.)</p>			
encrypt at rest	making data		Definition:			

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	unreadable and unusable while the data is in storage		Custodian system must render information unreadable and unusable by algorithmically transforming plaintext into ciphertext when "at rest" or in storage.			
encrypt in transit	making data unreadable and unusable when the data being transferred from a starting point to an endpoint		Definition: Custodian system must render information unreadable and unusable by algorithmically transforming plaintext into ciphertext while "in transit" or being transported by any means.			
encrypt in use	making data unreadable and unusable when the data is being used by a user		Definition: Custodian system must render information unreadable and unusable by algorithmically transforming			

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			plaintext into ciphertext while in use such that operations permitted on the target information are limited by the license granted to the end user.			
endeavor	try				try, attempt	try
endocrine	hormone system				hormone system	
endodontic	treatment of root canal for diseased nerve				treatment of root canal for diseased nerve in tooth	
endometrium	lining of the uterus					lining of the uterus
enhance	improve				add to, improve	
enlarge	get bigger					get bigger
enroll	join					be in, join
enrollment	the process of adding patients to a health plan, which may include recording their personal		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for enrolling a covered party in a			

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	information and insurance benefit choices		program or policy. May entail recording of covered party's and any dependent's demographic information and benefit choices.			
ensue	happen next					follow(ing), occur after, happen next
ensure	make sure			...make sure...		make sure
entities	organizations			facilities; institutions; organizations		
enumerate	count					count
enuresis	problems controlling urine					problems controlling urine, bladder control problems
environment	all the things around you in your daily life				all the things around you in your daily life, at home and at work, world around you, your	

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					home	
environmental control	removing harmful things from your home				removing harmful things from your home and work; doing something to improve the space you live in and the air you breathe	
epidemic	widespread sickness				disease that most people get, widespread sickness	
epidemiologist	scientist who studies diseases					scientist who studies diseases
epidemiology	disease study				disease study	
epidermis	skin				skin	
episode	attack				event, set amount of time, attack, brief time	bout or attack

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epizootic	widespread disease in animals				widespread disease in animals	
equilibrium	balance				balance	balance
equitable	fair					fair
equivalent of	equal to				equal to	equal, the same as
eradicate	get rid of					get rid of
erosions	small holes in teeth or bones				small pits, small holes in teeth or bones	
eruption (skin)	rash or breakout					rash or breakout
erythematosis	red rash on the face				red rash on the face	
escalate	make worse				worsen, make worse, get worse, increase, grow, rise	
especially	mostly					mainly, mostly
ESR	a blood test				a blood test	
establish	set up					set up; also, show, prove
...established protocols...	...has rules...			...has rules...		
estrogen	woman's hormone				female hormone,	

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					woman's hormone	
etiology	the cause of				the cause of	cause
evaluate	rate			measure; rate		look at, study, measure, rate
evidence of	proof of					proof of, signs of
evident	clear				plain to see, visible, seen	clear, plain, show up
exacerbate	make worse				worsen, make worse	make worse
examination	exam			exam		exam
examine	study					look at, study
...except as described...	...except...			...except...		
...exceptions, restrictions, and limits...	...limits...			...limits...		
excess rate	how many people become seriously sick				how many people become seriously sick during a pandemic	
excessive	too much				too much, more than	

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					needed	
excise	cut out				cut out, cut off	remove by cutting, cut out
...exercise your rights...	...use your rights...			...use your rights...		
exert	work hard				work hard, push, struggle, exercise	
exertion	effort				effort, work	
exhale	breathe out				breathe out	breathe out
exhibit	show				show, display	show
expectorate	spit				spit, cough, spit out	
expedite, expeditious	speed up					speed up, make (something) go faster, make (something easier), fast, quick
expend	spend					spend
experience	go through				feel, have, go through	feel, go through, have
...experienced adverse events...	...been injured or hurt...			...been injured or hurt...		
expertise	knowledge				knowledge, skill, know-how, training	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
expire, expiration	end (date)					end (date), run out
explicit	clear					plain, clear
exposure	come in contact with				around, been around, contact, come in contact with	
expressive language	speaking				speaking, saying words or sentences	
extend	make longer				make longer	
extensive	widespread					a lot (of), widespread, throughout the body
external	outside (the body)					outside (the body)
extremely	very				very	
exude	ooze					ooze
facilitate	make easier				make easier, help	help, ease, make (something) easier
...facility planning and marketing...	...business planning...			...business planning...		
factor	cause				cause, reason	

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failed to	did not				did not	did not
...family can be notified about your condition, status and location...	...your family can be told about your health and where you are...			...your family can be told about your health and where you are...		
family history	health information about your close relatives				health information about your close relatives	
...family member or personal representative	...family member who is your legal representative for healthcare...			...family member who is your legal representative for healthcare ...		
fallacy	myth	not true			error, myth, not true	
family requested	when a family member of a patient is allowed by the patient to make an information request on the patient		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information in response to a request by a family member authorized by the patient.			

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fast	go without any food or drink				go without any food or drink, not eat or drink anything	
fatigue	tired				tired, weak feeling of the whole body, feeling tired all over	
feasible	possible				possible, doable, workable, can be done, can do	can be done, possible, workable
febrile	fever				caused by a fever, feverish	fever
femur	thigh bone					thigh bone, bone that connects the hip and knee
fertility	ability to have a baby				ability to have a baby	
fetus	unborn baby				unborn baby (12 weeks to birth)	unborn baby

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...file a written complaint...	...write or email a letter of complaint...			...write or email a letter of complaint...		
...filing a complaint...	...complaining...			...complaining...		
finalize	finish				complete, end, finish, settle	complete, finish
flare	a period of time when symptoms of a disease are worse				a period of time when symptoms of a disease are worse, when your disease hurts more	
flexible	stretch easily				moving easily, stretch easily, bend and stretch without hurting; bendable, able to bend	
fluctuate	go back and forth				change, rise and	

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					fall, go back and forth from high to low, not steady	
following	after				after	
forfeit	give up					give up, lose
formulate	work out					work out, form, make
...for the purpose...	...to...			...to...		
forward	send					send
fracture(d)	break				break	break, (broken)
fraud	fraud		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for fraud detection and prevention processes.			
frequently	often				often, commonly, normally, regularly, many times	often, a lot
fructose	fruit sugar					fruit sugar
function	role					act, role, work
fundamental	basic				basic, real	basic
furnish	give					give, send
gamete	sex cell, egg or				sex cell,	

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	sperm				egg or sperm	
gastric	(of/in/related to) the stomach					(of/in/related to) the stomach
gastroenterologist	doctor who treats problems with digestion					doctor who treats problems with digestion
gastroesophageal reflux (GERD=gastroesophageal reflux disease)	heartburn					heartburn
gender and sexual orientation information (sensitivity)	patient's gender and sexual orientation information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to an information subject's gender and sexual orientation, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an information subject's gender and sexual orientation, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being,			

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			or safety of that subject.			
general anesthesia	put to "sleep"				put to "sleep"	
generalized	widespread					widespread
generation time	time needed for disease to spread from one person to another				time needed for disease to spread from one person to another	
genetic disease information (sensitivity)	patient's disease information related to their family's traits that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling genetic disease information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to genetic disease information that is deemed sensitive.			
genetics	science or study of family traits				family traits, science or study of	

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					family traits, study of blood relatives	
genital area	privates				genital area, privates, [name specific reproductive body parts]	
Genital Herpes Simplex	Herpes (sores) in the genital area				Herpes (sores) in the genital area	
gerontological	age-related					age-related, (related to)aging
gestation	pregnancy				pregnancy	pregnancy
gingiva	gums				gums	
gingivectomy	gum surgery				gum surgery, remove or reshape gums to remove space between teeth and gums	

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gingivitis	inflammation of the gums				inflammation of the gums	
GI specialist	doctor who treats problems with digestion					doctor who treats problems with digestion
glaucoma	eye disease				eye disease, increased eye pressure; an eye disease that can lead to blindness	
glucose	sugar				sugar, energy, blood sugar	sugar
government	government		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used within government processes.			
gradually	over time				slowly, over time	slowly, over time
gravid	pregnant				pregnant	
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	a disease that makes it hard to				GBS; a disease	

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	move				that makes it hard to move	
gynecologist	doctor trained in women's health					doctor trained in women's health
H5N1	bird flu virus				bird flu virus	
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	a lung disease				a lung disease	
hallucinate	see things that are not there				see things that are not there	
hallucinogens		Substances that falsely disturb or exaggerate a person's hearing and vision. They also disturb a person's emotions, judgment, and memory.				
hand hygiene	hand washing				hand washing	
hazard	harmful				hazard, harmful, danger	
hazardous	not safe				harmful, bad,	dangerous, not safe

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					dangerous, risky	
hazardous waste	harmful trash like used needles, bloody tissues, etc.				harmful trash like used needles, bloody tissues, etc.	
healthcare marketing	marketing our services and selling a patient's information		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for marketing services and products related to health care.			
healthcare operations	running our practice, improving patient care, and contacting a patient when necessary		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for conducting administrative and contractual activities related to the provision of health care.	...healthcare operations, including management of organization or facility...		
healthcare payment	billing and getting payment from a patient's health plan		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for			

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			conducting financial or contractual activities related to payment for provision of health care.			
healthcare professionals	doctors, nurses; and others who care for you			...people who care for you; doctors, nurses; and others who care for you		
healthcare research	healthcare research		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting scientific investigations to obtain health care knowledge.			
...health information we have is incorrect...	...health information is wrong...			...health information is wrong...		
We may disclose protected health information to a <i>health oversight agency</i> for activities authorized by law,	We can share your health information with agencies that audit, investigate, and inspect			We can share your health information with agencies		

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such as audits, investigations, and inspections	health programs for the public's health.			that audit, investigate, and inspect health programs for the public's health.		
...health record is physical property...	...health record belongs to...			...health record belongs to...		
hearing impairment	hearing loss or deafness					hearing loss or deafness
heart failure	heart isn't pumping hard enough					heart isn't pumping hard enough
hematocrit (hct)	amount of red blood cells in the blood				amount of red blood cells in the blood	amount of red blood cells in the blood
hematocrit test	a test that counts your red blood cells				blood test, a test that counts your red blood cells	
hematological	related to blood				related to blood, related to the blood and blood	

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					forming organs	
hematoma	bruise					bruise
hematuria	blood in the urine				blood in the urine	
hemodialysis	use of a machine to clean your blood				use of a machine to clean your blood	
hemoglobin A1C	a test to show your blood sugar levels over the last three months				a test to show your blood sugar levels over the last 3 months	
hemorrhage	heavy bleeding					heavy bleeding
hence	so					so
hepatic	related to the liver				related to the liver	(of/in/related to) the liver
hepatitis A	liver disease that you get from drinking bad water or eating bad food				disease that you get from drinking bad water or eating bad food, impaired liver	

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hepatitis B	liver disease that you get from someone else's blood or from unsafe sex				disease that you get from someone else's blood or from unsafe sex, impaired liver	
hepatitis C	liver disease that you get from someone else's blood or unsafe sex				liver disease that you get from someone else's blood or unsafe sex, impaired liver	
hepatitis D	liver disease that can only be found in your blood if you also have hepatitis B				virus that can only be found in your blood if you also have hepatitis B, impaired liver	

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hepatitis E	liver disease that you get from drinking bad water or from eating bad food				disease that you get from drinking bad water or from eating bad food, a disease not found in the United States, impaired liver	
herd immunity	group protection from disease				group protection from disease, community immunity	
hereby	Do Not Use			Do Not Use		
heritable, hereditary	traits that are passed down in families					genetic, traits that are passed down in families
herpes simplex type 1	cold sore				cold sores, virus	cold sore
herpes simplex type 2	Herpes				cold sores, virus	herpes
herpes zoster	shingles				shingles, a disease that causes	shingles

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					painful sores on your skin	
heterogeneous	mixed					different, mixed
high risk	good chance something will happen				dangerous, good chance something will happen	
highly	will probably				very probably, most likely, will probably happen	
HIPAA notice of privacy practices	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) notice of privacy practices		Definition: Notification of HIPAA Privacy Practices. Description: The U.S. Public Law 104-191 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule (45 CFR Part 164 Subpart E) permits access, use and disclosure of certain personal			

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			health information (PHI as defined under the law) for purposes of Treatment, Payment, and Operations, and requires that the provider ask that patients acknowledge the Provider's Notice of Privacy Practices as permitted conduct under the law. Usage Notes: May be associated with an Act or a Role to indicate the legal provision to which the assignment of an Act.confidentialityCode or Role.confidentialtyCode complies.			
HIPAA psychotherapy notes	A mental health professional's notes on the conversation held during a private		Definition: Authorization that must be obtained for disclosure of psychotherapy			

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	or group counseling session; these notes are kept separate from the rest of the patient's medical record		notes. Description: The U.S. Public Law 104-191 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule (45 CFR Part 164 Section 164.508) requires authorization for certain uses and disclosure of psychotherapy notes. Usage Notes: May be associated with an Act or a Role to indicate the legal provision to which the assignment of an Act.confidentialityCode or Role.confidentialtyCode complies.			
HIPAA self-pay	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rule that		Definition: Non-disclosure of health information to a health plan relating			

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	allows patients who have paid for health care services out of pocket in full to not share health information with a health plan		<p>to health care items or services for which an individual pays out of pocket in full.</p> <p>Description: Section 13405(a) of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) stipulates the right of an individual to have disclosures regarding certain health care items or services for which the individual pays out of pocket in full restricted from a health plan.</p> <p>Usage Notes: May be associated with an Act or a Role to indicate the legal provision to which the assignment of an Act.confidentialityC ode or</p>			

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			Role.confidentialty Code complies.			
hirsutism	unwanted hair growth					unwanted hair growth
HIV/AIDS information (sensitivity)	HIV/AIDS information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling HIV or AIDS information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to HIV or AIDS information that is deemed sensitive.			
hives	red, itchy swellings on your skin				rash; red, itchy swellings on your skin	
Hodgkin's disease	lymph node cancer				lymph node cancer	
home and community based services						
homogeneous	same					same or similar
homologous	alike				similar,	

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					like, alike	
honor	abide by			follow, abide by		
hormone	chemical, natural or manmade chemical that affects your growth				chemical, natural or manmade chemical that affects your growth, chemicals that help different parts of your body know how they should work	
We may use and disclose medical information about you for <i>hospital operations</i>.	We may share your medical information to run the hospital.			We may share your medical information to run the hospital.		
host	person				person; animal	
however	but					but
HPAI	a dangerous bird flu				a dangerous bird flu	

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HPV	a virus that may cause cervical and/or oral cancer				a virus that may cause cervical and/or oral cancer	
human approval	human approval		Definition: Custodian system must require human review and approval for permission requested.			
human resource compartment	access and use of an information technology (IT) resource is limited to members of the human resources (HR) department		A security category label field value, which indicates that access and use of an IT resource is restricted to members of human resources department or workflow			
humidify	to moisten air				to moisten air	
hyperglycemia	high blood sugar				high blood sugar	
hyperlipidemia	high cholesterol				high cholesterol	
hyperopia	farsighted(ness)					farsighted(ness)
hypertensive heart disease	high blood pressure				high blood pressure	

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hypersensitivity	very sensitive to				strong reaction	very sensitive to
hypertension	high blood pressure				high blood pressure	blood pressure that is too high
hyperthyroidism	overactive thyroid					overactive thyroid, too much thyroid hormone
hypoglycemia	low blood sugar				low blood sugar	
hyposensitivity	weak reaction				weak reaction	
hypotension	low blood pressure				low blood pressure	blood pressure that is too low
hypothesis	idea being tested					idea being tested
hypothyroidism	underactive thyroid					underactive thyroid, not enough thyroid hormone
hypoxia	not enough oxygen in the blood					not enough oxygen in the blood
hysterectomy	surgery to remove the womb				surgery to remove the womb	
identical	same				same, exactly the same, similar, alike	same, exactly alike

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...identifiable information...	...personal information that can identify you...			...personal information that can identify you...		
identified	found					found
identify	found(out)					found(out), pinpoint, name, show
...identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person...	...to identify or find someone who is a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person			...to identify or find someone who is a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person		
idiopathic	we do not know what causes it	unknown cause				we do not know what causes it
illness rate or clinical attack rate	number of sick people				number of sick people; (Use a ratio like “3 in every 10 New Yorkers are sick” or a	

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					percentage like “30 percent of all Floridians are sick.”)	
illustrate	show				show, draw, picture	
immediately	right away				at once, right away, now	right away, now, at once
immerse	cover in				put completely in, completely cover	cover in, dip in
immune globulin	something in your blood that helps fight disease				something in your blood that helps fight disease	
immune	protected from				protected from, resistant to	
immunity	protection from disease				protection from disease, ability to fight off an illness	

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immunization	getting a shot				getting a vaccine (shot); vaccine, vaccination	
immunize	to protect against disease				to protect against disease, usually by a shot	
immunological	related to the immune system				related to the immune system	
immunosuppression	when your body can't fight disease				when your body can't fight disease	
immunotherapy	medical treatment that helps your body fight off diseases				medical treatment that helps your body fight off diseases	treatment to make the immune system work better (boost immune system)
impact	change					change, affect
impaction	teeth pressing together				teeth pressing together, teeth not visible above gum	

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					line	
impaired	something is wrong				not normal/something is wrong	
impede	slow				get in the way, slow	slow, make it harder to
imperative	important				important, pressing, urgent	
imperceptible	hard to see				hard to see, hidden; can't be seen	
implant	put into the body					put into the body
implement	start				start, begin, put into action; carry out;	carry out, put in place, start
impotent, impotence	when a man either cannot get or cannot keep an erection					when a man either cannot get or cannot keep an erection
inability	not able to				not able to	
in addition	also					also, too, and
...in an emergency situation...	...in an emergency...			...in an emergency ...		

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incapacitate	make it hard or impossible to do					make it hard or impossible to do
inception	beginning					start, beginning
incidence	number of new cases					number of new cases, how many times it occurs
incision	cut					cut, slit
including	along with					along with, like, such as
incomplete	lacking			lacking		
incorrect	wrong			wrong		wrong, not right
increase, increased	raise					raise, higher
...Indian Health Service facility	...Indian Health Service / IHS clinic or hospital...			...Indian Health Service / IHS clinic or hospital...		
indicate	tell us			tell us		mean, show, suggest, tell us, fill in, write down
indication	sign					sign, symptom
...individually identifiable health information...	...information about your healthcare that identifies you...			...information about your healthcare that identifies you...		
individual(s)	patient(s)			patient(s)		
...individual right...	...a person's			...a		

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	right...			person's right...		
ineffectual	does not work					does not work, useless, of no use
in excess of	more than				more than	
inevitable	will happen				likely, will happen	
infection	illness					illness, sickness, disease
infectious (disease)	passed from one person to the next					passed from one person to the next
infertile	not able to get pregnant					not able to get pregnant
inflammation	painful swelling					swelling, painful swelling
influence	affect					affect
inform	tell					tell
...information is kept by or for the hospital...	...hospital keeps the information...			...hospital keeps the information ...		
...information on or accompanying the bill...	...information with your bill...			...information with your bill...		
informed consent	deciding to get a certain treatment or be in a research study after thinking about the pros	when a person agrees to a proposal after getting all the facts that help him or her				deciding to get a certain treatment or be in a research study after thinking about the pros

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	and cons (risks and benefits)	make a decision				and cons (risks and benefits)
infusion	putting a substance into the body through the blood					putting a substance into the body through the blood
ingest	eat or drink					eat or drink
inhalants		Substances that a person take into the body by way of the nose and mouth (through the lungs).				
inhale	breathe in					breathe in
inhibit	stop					stop
inhibitor	drug that slows down or stops something from happening					drug that slows down or stops something from happening
initial	first					first
initiate	start					begin, start
injection	shot					shot

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in lieu of	instead (of)					instead (of)
...inmate of a correctional institution...	...prisoner...			...prisoner ...		
innovation	new idea					new idea, new way
inquire	ask					ask
insert	put into				put, put into	
inspect and receive a copy	get a copy...ask for a copy...see and get a copy			get a copy...ask for a copy...see and get a copy		
institute	start				start	start, set up
instructed	told				told, taught	
instrument	tool					tool
insufficient	not enough					not enough, too little
intake	what you eat or drink					what you eat or drink; what goes into your body
intent, intention	purpose					aim, goal, purpose
interface	meet					meet, work with
interior	inside					inside
intermittent	off and on					off and on
internal	inside (the body)					inside (the body)

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internist	doctor of internal medicine					doctor of internal medicine
interrupt	stop					stop
intervention	treatment					treatment
in the absence of	without				without	
in the course of	during				during, in	
in the event of	if				if	if
...in the following instances...	...in these cases...			...in these cases...		
intravenous	in a vein					in a vein
intubate	put a tube down your throat into your airway so you can breathe					put a tube down your throat into your airway so you can breathe
in utero	in the womb				in the womb, in the uterus	
invasive disease	disease that (can or has) spread to other parts of the body					disease that (can or has) spread to other parts of the body
invasive procedure	to go into the body through a cut, slit, or puncture					to go into the body through a cut, slit, or puncture
in vitro	in a test container, such as a tube, culture dish, etc.				out of the body, outside the body,	in a test tube or lab

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					laboratory grown, in a test tube	
in vivo	within the body				within the body, inside the body grown inside animal	
inaccuracy	error				error, mistake, chance that there is a mistake	
inactive vaccine	a vaccine that uses germs that have been killed				a vaccine that uses germs that have been killed	
inadvertently	without meaning to				without meaning to	
inadvisable	risky				risky, not smart, may be dangerous	
inapparent infection	when you are sick but you don't feel bad				when you are sick but you don't feel bad	

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incidence	how many people get sick				how many people get sick, number of sick people	
incident of national significance	national emergency				national emergency	
incipient	beginning				beginning, starting	
incise	cut				cut	
incision	cut				cut	
incisors	front teeth				front teeth, front “biting” teeth, fangs	
inclement	harsh				harsh, extreme, dangerous	
incorrect	wrong				wrong, not true, false	
increase	add to				add to, raise	
incubation period	the length of time a disease is in someone’s body before they feel or look sick				the length of time a disease is in someone’s body before they	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					feel or look sick	
indicate	show				suggest, point to, show	
indication	sign				sign, signal, symptom	
indigenous	native				local to, comes from, native	
individual	person				person, you, man, woman, one	
inexpensive	cheap				cheap, low cost, low priced	
infant	baby				baby	
infect	to make someone sick				disease spread by germ or virus, to get sick, to make someone sick, to spread a	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					disease	
infection	illness				disease, illness, sickness, virus, bug, illness caused by germs, a sickness you get from germs, control how to stop sickness	
infectious agent	something that makes you sick				virus, germs, something that makes you sick, disease, flu, parasite	
infectious	something that can spread disease				something that can spread disease	
infertile	unable to have a baby				sterile, unable to have a	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					baby, unable to become pregnant	
inflame	make hot, red, or swollen				make hot, red, or swollen; swollen	
inflammation	swelling				swelling, injury, sore	
inflammatory bowel disease	digestive system disease				digestive system disease, intestinal problems	
influenza	flu				flu, a virus	
inform	tell				tell	
information	information				information, to learn more	
infusion	put fluids or drugs directly into your blood				put fluids or drugs directly into your blood	
ingestion	eating, drinking, swallowing				eating, drinking, swallowing	
inhalation	breathing in				breathing, breathing in	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
inhale	breathe in				breathe in, take a breath	
inhaler	device that helps give medicine into the breathing tubes				breathing medicine/d rug, asthma medicine, device that helps give medicine into the breathing tubes	
inherent	natural				natural, built in, native	
inherit	acquire				acquire, get, obtain, be left	
inheritance	passing from parent to child				from parents, passing from parent to child	
inhibit	stop				check, bar, forbid, stop, slow	
initial	first				first, earliest, basic	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
inject/injection	shot				shot	
injection	to give medicine by needle				shot, to give medicine by needle, booster, dose	
innocuous	safe				safe	
inquire	ask				ask	
instrument	tool				tool, device	
insufficient	not enough				not enough, too little, failing, poor	
insulin	blood sugar				blood sugar	
integrate	combine with				combine with, make part of, mix	
intention	goal				goal, aim, desire, end, plan, purpose	
internal organs	inside parts of your body (heart, lungs, stomach, kidneys, etc.)				inside parts of your body (heart, lungs, stomach,	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					kidneys, etc.)	
interrupt	stop				stop, break	
intervention	care				care	
intrauterine device	birth control				IUD, birth control	
intravenous (IV)	into your vein				into your vein; into your blood stream, putting drugs or fluids directly into your blood	
investigation	study					study
investigational vaccine	vaccine still being tested				vaccine still being tested	
investigator(s)	researcher(s)					researcher(s), people doing the study
irrefutable	certain				certain, final, obvious, proven	
irritable	complaining				sensitive, complainin g, grouchy, testy	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
irritant	bother				bother; pain, pest, problem	
isolate	a specific type of virus or flu				a specific type of virus; a specific type of flu	
isolation of ill people	keeping sick people at home				staying away from people who are sick; keeping sick people at home	
issue	give					give
jaundice	skin and eyes turn yellow				skin and eyes turn yellow	when the whites of the eyes and the skin look yellow
joint	where bones come together				where bones come together, bone connection	
...judicial administrative proceeding...	...legal proceeding such as a court case...			...legal proceeding such as a court case...		

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
juvenile (condition)	childhood (condition)					childhood (condition)
kidney	organ that filters blood				organ that filters blood	
lacerate	ragged cut				ragged cut, tear	
laceration	ragged cut				ragged cut, tear	cut, tear, slit
lactation	breastfeeding					breastfeeding
lactose	sugar found in milk					sugar found in milk
larynx	voice box					voice box
lateral	on the side					side, on the side
law enforcement	police			police, FBI Officers, and others who enforce laws		
legal	legal		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting activities required by legal proceeding.			
legal options	legal choices			legal choices		
legal requirements	the law			the law		
lesion	sore				cut, injury,	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					wound, sore	
lethargic	sluggish					sluggish; very sleepy
Licensure	being licensed			being licensed		
ligament	bone connector				bone connector, joint tissue	
limb	arm or leg					arm or leg
lingual	on the tongue				on the tongue	tongue
lipid profile (or lipid panel)	lab tests to measure the amount of fats in the blood					lab test to measure the amount of fats in the blood
lipids	fats in the blood					fats in the blood
live vaccine	a vaccine that has a weakened form of the virus in it				a vaccine that has a weakened form of the virus in it	
living arrangement information (sensitivity)	patient living arrangement information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to an information subject's living arrangement, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality.			

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
			Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an information subject's living arrangement, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			
local anesthesia	drug that causes numbing only in the area of the body where the drug is put by spreading it or with a shot				drug that causes numbing only in the area of the body where the drug is put by spreading it or with a shot	
locality	place					place
locally, localized	in one area				in a small area, only in one place	in one area
locate	find				find, place, settle, turn	find

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					up	
location	place				place, spot	place
location information (sensitivity)	patient location information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to the location of the information subject, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to the location of the information subject, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			
long-term	for a long time				for a long time, over a long period of time	
long-term support services						
lower respiratory infection	pneumonia				pneumonia	

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lung function	measure of how strong your lungs are				measure of how strong your lungs are	
lungs	lungs				breathing organs	
lymphatic	related to the lymph system				related to the lymph system	
lymphocytes	white blood cells				white blood cells, lymph cells	
lymphoma	cancer of the lymph nodes (or tissues)				cancer of lymphatic system	cancer of the lymph nodes (or tissues)
macrophage	disease-fighting cell				disease-fighting cell	
macular	blindness				a spot on your cornea; eye disease, blindness	
magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	pictures of the inside of the body taken with a special machine, like X-ray but more detailed					pictures of the inside of the body taken with a special machine, like X-ray but more detailed
magnitude	size				extent, size, how	size

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					serious	
maintain	keep			keep	take care of, keep, keep up	keep, support
majority (of)	most					most
...make new provisions effective...	...make changes effective			...make changes effective		
malaise	general feeling of being sick					general feeling of being sick, feeling bad
malnutrition	condition where the body does not get the right amount of vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients it needs to keep tissues healthy and organs working properly					
mammogram	breast health test	x-ray of breast			breast health test, breast check	
malignant, malignancy	cancer that may spread to other parts of the body				cancer	harmful, poisonous; cancer that may spread to other parts of the body

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
malignant tumor	cancer				cancer, tumor, mass	
malinger	pretending to be sick					pretending to be sick
malocclusion	crowded teeth				crowded teeth, misaligned teeth, crossbite, overbite, underbite, open bite	
manage	control				control, direct, be in charge of, take care of, watch	
mandible	lower jaw				lower jaw	
manifest	clear				clear, plain, evident, show	
manifestation	sign					sign
manner	why					why
marital status information (sensitivity)	patient marital status information that will be made more confidential because of its		Policy for handling information related to an information subject's marital status, which will			

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	sensitive nature		be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an information subject's marital status, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			
mask	hide		Definition: Custodian system must render information unreadable and unusable by algorithmically transforming plaintext into ciphertext. User may be provided a key to decrypt per license or "shared secret".		hide	
mastectomy	breast cancer surgery				breast cancer	

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					surgery; surgery to remove your breast	
material change	significant change			significant change		
materialize	appear					appear
maxilla	upper jaw				upper jaw	
maximum	the most				the largest possible, the most	greatest, largest, most
...may otherwise be at risk for... contracting or spreading the disease or condition	...might catch your disease or spread it...			...might catch your disease or spread it...		
mean (statistical)	average (statistical)					average (statistical)
medication	drugs			drugs; medicines	drug, pill, medicine	drug, medicine
medicine	medication				drug, medication	
melanoma	skin cancer				skin cancer	
member information	completing activities that allow a health plan to provide coverage to a patient who signs up for the plan		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information to administer health care coverage to an enrollee under a			

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
			policy or program.			
...members of the clergy...	clergy, for example: priest, minister or rabbi...			clergy, for example, priest, minister or rabbi...		
memory cell	a cell that helps your body quickly fight diseases that you've gotten before				a cell that helps your body quickly fight diseases that you've gotten before	
menarche	first (menstrual) period					first (menstrual) period
menopause	when a woman does not have any more (menstrual) periods				women's "change of life", the change, time in a woman's life when her periods stops, no	when a woman does not have any more (menstrual) periods
menstruation	period				period	(menstrual) period
mental health condition	mental illness				mental disorder, mental	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					illness	
mentality	frame of mind				frame of mind, mind, outlook, feeling	
mesial	front of				front of	
metabolism, metabolize	how the body breaks down food into energy				process of getting energy from food, converting food into energy	how the body breaks down food into energy
metastasize	spread					spread
metastatic	cancer that has spread					cancer that has spread
methamphetamines		Stimulants such as Ritalin prescribed for managing hyperactivity disorder. Also known as meth, crystal meth, etc.				
mg	milligram				milligram	
microbes	very tiny fungi, sometimes viruses, that are				very tiny fungi, sometimes	

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	too small to see				viruses, that are too small to see; bacteria, protozoa	
might qualify	might get				might get	
migrate	move				move, travel	
migration	moving				moving, transfer, traveling	
mild	not severe				gentle, not severe, slight, small	
mildew	fungus that grows in damp warm areas				fungus that grow in damp warm areas	
miliaria	prickly heat					prickly heat
minimal (minimum)	the least				least, small, smallest	least, smallest, slight (at least)
minimize	make smaller				make smaller, make less, lessen, reduce	decrease, lower, reduce

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minimum necessary	rule that says a system must limit sharing of information to the least amount needed to support a user who has permission to use the information for some purpose		Custodian system must limit disclosure to the minimum information required to support an authorized user's purpose of use.			
miniscule	very small				very small, tiny	
miscarriage	lose the baby				lose the baby, miscarry	
mites	very tiny, spider-like, animals that cause allergies and skin rashes				very tiny, spider-like, animals that cause allergies and skin rashes	
mitigate	make less harmful				make less harmful, soften, lessen, reduce	
mobile, mobility	ability to move				ability to move	able (ability) to move around
moderate	control				medium,	limited,

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					mild, controllable	controllable
modify, modification	change				change	change
molars	back teeth				back teeth, back “grinding” teeth	
mold	growth on food and damp surfaces				growth on food and damp surfaces	
monitor	watch			review; track	watch, check on, watch for changes, device that measures changes	check (on), keep track (of), watch
morbidity	disease rate				diseased, sick, ill	disease rate, illness rate
mortality	death				death	death rate, death, dying
mortality rate	number of deaths				number of deaths	
motility	movement					movement, ability to move
motor vehicle accident	car crash				car crash	
MRSA	bacteria that resists antibiotics				bacteria that resists antibiotics	

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mucosal (mucus) membranes	soft, moist areas just inside the openings to your body				soft, moist areas just inside the openings to your body	
mucus	nose fluid				phlegm, nose fluid, mouth fluid, throat coating	
multiple sclerosis	central nervous system disease	inflammatory disease in which the insulating covers of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord are damaged			central nervous system disease, MS	
muscle contraction	muscle twitch, movement				muscle twitch, movement	
musculoskeletal	muscles and bones					muscles and bones
mutagen	cause				cause	
mutation	change over time				change over time, change,	genetic defect

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					difference, different	
myocardial infarction	heart attack				heart attack	heart attack
myopia	nearsighted(ness)					nearsighted(ness) , when it is hard to see things that are far away
narcotic	addictive pain medicine				addictive pain medicine, drug	
nausea (nauseous)	upset stomach					upset stomach, feeling like throwing up, feel like vomiting
nebulizer	asthma medicine mister				asthma medicine mister	
nebulous	not clear					vague, not clear
necessary	needed				needed	needed, need to
negligent	careless				careless, lax, not careful	
negligible	small					small
neonatal death	infant death				infant death, death in the first month of	

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					life	
neonatal	newborn				newborn, baby for first month of life	
neonatologist	baby doctor				baby doctor, baby doctor for preemies	
nephrology	study of kidney problems				study of kidney problems	
nephropathy	kidney disease					kidney disease
neuralgia	nerve pain					nerve pain
neuraminidase	enzyme on the surface of the virus				enzyme on the surface of the virus	
neuritis	swelling of a nerve				swelling of a nerve	
neurologic	relating to the nervous system, brain or spinal cord				relating to the nervous system, brain or spinal cord	
neurological	related to the brain and nervous system				related to the brain and nervous	

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					system	
neurology	study of the nervous system				study of the nervous system	
neuron	nerve cell					nerve cell
neuropathy	disease of the nervous system				disease of the nervous system	
neutralize	cancel				cancel, stop, offset	
...next of kin... ...close relatives ...close relatives						
nicotine		A substance found in tobacco products that makes people physically dependent on smoking.				
no disclosure without information subject's consent directive	system cannot share information without a consent directive from the patient		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure without a consent directive from the information subject.			
nodule	lump					lump

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nominal	not important				small, not important, token, cheap, not costly	
noncompliant	not following a treatment plan					not following a treatment plan
noninvasive	without using surgery, needles or cutting the skin					without using surgery, needles, or cutting the skin
nonpharmaceutical intervention	ways to stop the spread of illness without drugs, such as hand washing, covering sneezes, closing schools, etc.				ways to stop the spread of illness without drugs, such as hand washing, covering sneezes, closing schools, etc.	
no redisclosure without information subject's consent directive	system cannot share or release information that was received from another source without a consent directive		Definition: Prohibition on redisclosure without a consent directive from the information subject.			

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	from the patient					
nosocomial	an infection you catch in the hospital				an infection you catch in the hospital	
notice of privacy practices	consent directive that recognizes a provider's notice of privacy practices including its rights to collect, access, use and share health information to users and for purposes of use named by the provider		Definition: Acknowledgement of custodian notice of privacy practices. Description: This type of consent directive acknowledges a custodian's notice of privacy practices including its permitted collection, access, use and disclosure of health information to users and for purposes of use specified.			
notification	notice				notice	to tell, let know
notify	tell us			tell you / tell us		to tell, let know

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...not required to agree...	...don't have to agree...			...don't have to agree...		
noxious	poisonous				dangerous, poisonous	
numerate	count					count
numerous	many					many
nutrient	food					food
nutrition	diet				food, meal, diet, healthy food	
nutritious	food that is good for you				wholesome , food that is good for you, healthy eating, healthy food	
obesity	dangerously overweight				dangerously overweight, too heavy	
objective	goal				goal, end	aim, goal
obligate, obligation	duty					require, bind, means that (you) have to, duty
...obligations we have...	...our responsibilities...			...our responsibilities		

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				es...		
obscure	confuse	hide, hidden, unclear			hidden, unclear, blur, confuse	
observation	report			report	close look, remark, watching, sighting	
observe	look closely				look closely, watch, see, detect, find, notice, see	see
obstetrician	pregnancy doctor				pregnancy doctor	
obstruct	block				block, stop	block or close
obstruction	barrier				barrier, block, hurdle	
obtain	get			get	get	get, take
obvious	clear				clear, plain, easy to see	
occasionally	sometimes				sometimes, not often, once in a while	sometimes
occlude (occlusion)	block (blockage)					block (blockage)

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occlusal	chewing or grinding surface of back teeth				chewing or grinding surface of back teeth	
occupation(al)	job				job, work	job, work
occupational therapist	someone who helps people who are sick or relearn activities of daily life				someone who helps people who are sick or injured learn or relearn activities of daily life	
occupational therapy	therapy that helps you relearn everyday activities				therapy that helps you relearn everyday activities	
occur	happen				happen, take place, result	
occurrence	event				event	
on an empty stomach	do not eat or drink				do not eat or drink	
oncologist	doctor who treats cancer					doctor who treats cancer
oncology	study or treatment of cancer					study or treatment of cancer

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onset	start					start
open bite	upper and lower front teeth do not touch				upper and lower front teeth do not touch even when mouth is closed and/or back teeth are touching	
opioid		A class of drugs prescribed for managing pain. It produces the same effects as drugs that come from the opium poppy (opiates).				
opportunistic infection	infection you get because you're already weak				infection you get because you're already weak	
opportunity	chance					chance
optic neuritis	eye disease				eye disease, disease of the eyes	

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optimal/optimum	best				best, best way	best, greatest, most
opt-in	a patient's health information is automatically unavailable for sharing; patients must actively express their desire to have information shared if they wish to share it		Definition: Opt-in to disclosure of health information consent directive. Description: This general consent directive permits disclosure of health information. Additional parameter may limit authorized users, purpose of use, user obligations, duration, or information types permitted to be disclosed, and impose uses obligations.			
option	choice				choice, way	choice, way
opt-out	a patient's health information is automatically available for sharing; patients must actively express their		Definition: Opt-out of disclosure of health information consent directive. Description: This general consent directive prohibits			

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	desire to not have information shared if they wish to prevent sharing		disclosure of health information. Additional parameters may permit access to some information types by certain users, roles, purposes of use, durations and impose user obligations.			
oral (oral administration)	mouth and jaw				mouth and jaw	(given) by mouth
oral consent	you say it is OK for the doctor to do a test				you say it is OK for the doctor to do a test or procedure	
oral medication	medication you swallow				medication you swallow	
oral surgery	mouth operation				mouth operation, mouth surgery, teeth operation	
orchitis	side effect of mumps				side effect of mumps	

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originate	start				start, begin, create	
orthodontic	braces				braces, teeth straightening	
orthopedic surgeon	bone and joint doctor				bone and joint doctor	
orthopedic's	bone and joint doctor's office				bone and joint doctor's office	
orthotic	support or brace				support or brace	
ossification	bone formation				bone formation, hard, stiff	
osteonecrosis	bone death				bone death	
osteoporosis	brittle bone disease				brittle bones	brittle bone disease, having bones that can break easily
...other duties authorized by law...	...other duties that the law allows them to			...other duties that the law allows them to		
...other purposes permitted or required by law...	...other purposes that the law allows or			...other purposes that the law		

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	requires...			allows or requires...		
otherwise	if not			if not		if not
otitis media	middle ear infection				middle ear infection	
otolaryngologist	ear, nose and throat doctor					ear, nose, and throat doctor
outbreak	beginning				beginning, start, onset	
outcome measure	information used to evaluate results and compare the effectiveness achieved by health care practices and treatments		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for assessing results and comparative effectiveness achieved by health care practices and interventions.			
outcomes	results					results, (long-term) changes
outermost	farthest				farthest, top	
ova/ovum	a woman's egg/eggs				egg/eggs, a woman's egg/eggs	
overabundance	too much				too much, excess	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
overbite	front upper teeth overlap lower teeth				front upper teeth overlap lower teeth, "bucktooth ed"	
palatable	pleasing				pleasing, tasty, good	
palate	roof of mouth				roof of mouth	
palliative	make feel better but not cure					make feel better but not cure, ease symptoms
pallor	paleness					paleness
palpate	feel					feel
palpitation	fast heartbeat					fast heartbeat
pandemic flu	deadly flu				deadly flu, fast and wide-spread flu	
pandemic vaccine	pandemic flu vaccine				pandemic flu vaccine	
panzootic	a flu pandemic in animals				a flu pandemic in animals, a deadly flu pandemic in animals, fast and	

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					wide-spread flu in	
papule	small red dot on your skin				small red dot on your skin, skin rash	
paralysis	can't move				can't move	
parameter	limit				limit, factor, value	limit, boundary
paramount	most important				most important	
parasite	animal or plant living off another animal or plant				animal or plant living off another animal or plant	
paresthesia	tingling, prickling, or burning feeling on the skin that cannot be explained or doesn't seem to have any cause					tingling, prickling, or burning feeling on the skin that cannot be explained or doesn't seem to have any cause
participant	person who takes part					person who takes part
participate	take part				take part, join, share	
participate(ing, ion)	take part					be, do, join, opt in, take part (ing)

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
parturition	childbirth					labor and delivery, childbirth
passive immunity	temporary disease protection from mother or from vaccine				temporary disease protection from mother, disease protection from vaccine	
...past, present or future physical or mental health and related health care services...	...all your health services...			...all your health services...		
pathogen	cause of a disease				germ, virus, disease-causing agent	cause of a disease
pathogenic	disease causing				disease causing	
patient administration	completing activities that allow a health service to provide treatment to a patient		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for operational activities conducted to administer the delivery of health			

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			care to a patient.			
patient requested	patient requested		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information in response to a patient's request.			
patient safety	patient safety		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information in processes related to ensuring the safety of health care.			
peak flow meter	small tool used to measure how fast you can blow out air				small tool used to measure how fast you can blow out air	
peak flow	the fastest you can blow out air				the fastest you can blow out air	
pediatrician	baby doctor				baby doctor; children's doctor	
pedodontic (pediatric dentistry)	children's dentistry				children's dentistry	

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pending	coming				coming, until, waiting on something or someone	
perforation	hole				hole	hole
perform	do				do, carry out, act	do
performance measure	information used to track the performance of suggested health care practices and treatments		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for monitoring performance of recommended health care practices and interventions.			
pericarditis	heart inflammation				heart inflammation, swelling of the tissue covering the heart	
perinatal	near the time of birth				near the time of birth	
perinatal death	death around birth				death around	

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					birth, stillborn	
perinatologist	doctor for pregnancy at risk				high-risk pregnancy doctor, doctor for pregnancy at risk	
periodically	from time to time					from time to time
periodontal disease (periodontitis)	gum disease				gum disease	
periodontic	treatment of gum disease and related bone loss				treatment of gum disease and related bone loss	
perioral	around the mouth					around the mouth
peripheral	on the edge					on the edge, not center
periphery	edge				edge, boundary, outside	
peritoneum	lining of your stomach				lining of your stomach, belly, tummy	
permanent	forever				lasting, long term, forever	

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permit	allow				allow, let	allow, let
permutation	change				change	
persevere	keep trying				hold on, keep at, last, keep trying, not give up	
persist	keep going					last, keep going, does not stop
persistent	not giving up				there all the time, constant, doesn't go away, not giving up	lasting
personal protective equipment (PPE)	protective clothing				gowns, face shields, gloves, face masks, and respirators, hearing protection, protective clothing	
personnel	people				people, staff	staff, people
perspire	sweat				sweat	
persuade	convince				convince,	

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					talk into, win over, urge	
pertaining to	about					about, of, on
...pertaining to victims of a crime...	...being a crime victim...			...being a crime victim...		
pertinent	important				fitting, important	
peruse	study					read, study, examine with care
pervasive	widespread					widespread
petechiae	tiny red or purple spot on your skin				tiny red or purple spot on your skin	
pharmaceutical	drug					drug
pharmacist	drug dispenser				druggist, drug dispenser	
pharmacotherapy	use drugs to treat a disease or condition					use drugs to treat a disease or condition
pharyngitis	sore throat					sore throat
photosensitive	sensitive to the sun				sun-sensitive, sensitive to the sun	
physical/physically	body				body, bodily, real	

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physical activity	exercise				of the body, exercise, movement	
physical examination	check-up				check-up, doctor's appointment	
physical property	belongs to			property of, belongs to		
physical therapist	someone who treats pain and weakness by exercise				someone who treats pain and weakness by exercise	
physical therapy	treatment of pain and weakness through exercise				treatment of pain and weakness through exercise	
physician	doctor			doctor	doctor	doctor
physiological	having to do with the body					having to do with the body
pica	eating materials that are not food				craving, dirt or clay eating, unusual appetite; eating materials that are not	

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					food	
pictographs	symbols				symbols	
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease				Pelvic inflammatory disease	
pigmentation	color				color	color
pit and fissure sealant (dental sealant)	thin layer of plastic painted onto teeth to prevent decay				thin layer of plastic painted onto teeth to prevent decay	
placebo	drug with no active ingredient and will cause no effect				sugar pill, drug with no active ingredient and will cause no effect	a pill that does not have any drug or medicine; a “sugar” pill
placed	put				put	
placenta	part of the mother’s womb that supplies oxygen and nutrition to her unborn baby				organ that attaches umbilical cord to the inside of the womb	part of the mother’s womb that supplies oxygen and nutrition to her unborn baby
...plan for future care or treatment...	...care plan...			...care plan...		

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plaque (artery)	fatty deposit					fatty deposit
plaque	sticky film with germs on teeth				sticky film with germs on teeth	
plasma	the fluid part of blood					the fluid part of blood
plasma glucose	blood sugar					blood sugar
platelet	blood clotting cell				blood clotting cell	
pleurisy	lung inflammation				lung inflammation	
pneumonia	lung infection				lung infection	
PO	taken by mouth	oral			taken by mouth, eat or drink	
podiatry	treating feet problems				treating feet problems, medical care for feet, foot doctor	
...policies, procedures, practices...	...our rules and standards...			...our rules and standards...		
poliomyelitis	a disease that can make you unable to move				polio; a disease that can	

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					make you unable to move	
pollute	dirty				dirty, poison, taint, spoil	
polysaccharide vaccines	sugar vaccines				sugar vaccines	
polyurethane	plastic				plastic	
population health treatment	population health treatment		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for provision of health care to a population of living subjects, e.g., needle exchange program.			
portion	piece				piece, amount, part, serving	part
position	job				job, rank, class, grade	
position emission tomography	test done to look at organs in the body					PET scan or imaging test; test done to look at organs in the body
possess	have				have, own	have, own

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possibility	chance				chance	
posterior	back					back
posterior teeth	back teeth				back teeth	
post-exposure prophylaxis	drug given to someone who has been near someone sick				drug given to someone who has been near someone sick, prevention drug	
...post marketing surveillance information	...study drug safety...			...study drug safety...		
postoperative (post-op)	after surgery					after surgery
post-partum depression	unexplained sadness after having baby				baby blues, overwhelmed, depressed, unexplained sadness after having baby	
postpone	delay				put off, wait, delay	
potency	strength				strength, force,	

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					power, level, dose	
...potentially endangering...	...possibly hurting...			...possibly hurting...		
power of attorney	power of attorney		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information in response to a request by a person appointed as the patient's legal representative.			
preadolescent	preteen					preteen
precaution	safeguard				safeguard, caution, guard, care	
preclinical	no signs yet					is not causing symptoms yet, no signs yet
preclude	prevent					prevent, rule out
predicament	problem				problem, bad situation, plight, difficulty	
predisposed, predisposition	likely to					likely to, inclined to
pregnancy	expecting a baby				pregnant,	

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					expecting a baby	
preliminary	not final				early, not final, initial	
prenatal	before birth					before birth
pre-pandemic vaccine	pandemic flu or deadly flu vaccine				pandemic flu or deadly flu vaccine; shot	
preparedness	to be ready				readiness, alertness, to be ready, to prepare, be prepared, planned	
prepuce	foreskin				foreskin	
prerogative	right				right, choice	
prescriber	any medical person who is licensed to write prescriptions				doctor, nurse, any medical person who is licensed to write prescriptions	
prescription	doctor's orders				doctor's orders,	

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					medicine, drug order,	
present	show				give, send, now, show, here	
presently	right now					right now
present with	have					have
preserve	keep					keep
prevalence, prevalent	how often it happens				number of sick people, spread, disease spread, number, figure	how often it happens, common, happens often
prevent	keep from happening				stop, keep from happening, forbid, bar, keep	stop, put a stop to keep from happening
preventive	practices that help keep you well				(i.e., preventive services) practices that help keep you well	
prevention	to avoid ill effects				stop, bar, not	

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					permitted, not allowed, to avoid ill effects	
previous, previously	before					before, earlier
primary teeth	baby teeth				baby teeth, first teeth	
principal	main				main, first, head, chief, most important	
principal investigator	head researcher					head researcher, scientist in charge of a study
prioritize	put in order of importance					rank, order, put in order of importance
prior to	before				before	earlier, before
...private insurance payers...	...insurance company...			...insurance company...		
proactive	taking action on your own					taking action on your own
probability	chance				chance, likelihood	
proximal	near to				near to, close, area closer to the center of the body	

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procedure	steps				steps, method, course of action, how-to, way, test	something that is done, a process
proceed	go ahead				go, move forward	do, go ahead, start, try
procure, procurement	get			getting		buy, get
prodromal	signs of disease or attack				signs of disease or attack	
proficient, proficiency	skilled				skilled, experienced, able, apt	skill, skilled
prognosis	outlook					outlook
program reporting	program reporting		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for conducting activities to meet program accounting requirements.			
progress (verb), progression	get worse				move forward, go on, get worse, advance	worsen, get(s) worse

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prohibit, prohibitive, prohibited from	prevent				ban, forbid, prevent	prevent, restrict(ive), strict, may not, do not allow
prohibit collection	prevent collection		Definition: Prohibition on collection or storage of the information.			
prohibit collection beyond purpose of use	prevent collection of information beyond the time needed to accomplish the allowed purpose of use		Definition: Prohibition on collection of the information beyond time necessary to accomplish authorized purpose of use is prohibited.			
prohibit disclosure without consent directive	prevent sharing of information without patient consent directive		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure without organizationally approved patient restriction. May be linked to specific organization or individual.			
prohibit disclosure without jurisdictional authorization	prevent sharing that is not allowed under the law		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure without authorization under jurisdictional law.			

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prohibit disclosure without MOU	prevent sharing without a memorandum of understanding (MOU), or document that tells about the general rules of an agreement between people or organizations		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure without an interagency service agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU).			
prohibit disclosure without organizational authorization	prevent sharing without permission from an organization		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure without organizational authorization.			
prohibit disclosure without originator authorization	prevent sharing without permission from the source of information		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure except as permitted by the information originator.			
prohibit disclosure without subject authorization	prevent sharing without permission from a patient or organization		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure without information subject's authorization. May be linked to specific organization or individual.			

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prohibit integration	prevent combining information from one record with other records		Definition: Prohibition on Integration into other records.			
prohibit redisclosure without consent directive	prevent sharing or release of information that was received from another source without patient consent directive		Definition: Prohibition on redisclosure without patient consent directive.			
prohibit relinking	prevent grouping information that protects a patient's identity with other information in a way that could or does share information meant to be hidden		Definition: Prohibition on associating de-identified or pseudonymized information with other information in a manner that could or does result in disclosing information intended to be masked.			
prohibit reuse beyond purpose of use	prevent reuse of the information beyond the purpose of use that was originally		Definition: Prohibition on use of the information beyond the purpose of use			

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	allowed		initially authorized.			
prohibit unauthorized VIP disclosure	prevent sharing of information except to those who are allowed to access specific VIP information		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure except to principals with access permission to specific VIP information.			
prohibit unlisted entity disclosure	prevent sharing of information except to the names of people, organizations or roles on a list		Definition: Prohibition on disclosure except to entities on specific access list. May be linked to a list of individuals, organizations, or roles.			
projectile	flying object				flying object, fast object, thrown object	
proliferate	spread				grow, spread, reproduce	
promulgate	publish					make, issue, publish
prone	lying face down					lying face down, lying on your stomach

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prophylactic	pregnancy prevention drug				pregnancy prevention drug, sickness prevention drug, birth control, condom	
prophylaxis	something that prevents disease or infection				prevention, protection	something that prevents disease or infection
prophylaxis (dental, oral)	basic teeth cleaning				basic teeth cleaning	
prostate	gland in male body that makes semen				gland in male body that makes semen	
prostatitis	infection of the prostate				infection of the prostate	
prosthesis	replacement for a body part					replacement for a body part, such as a man-made arm
prosthodontic	treatment using crowns, bridges, partials				treatment using crowns, bridges, partials and/or dentures	

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...protected health information...	...personal medical information that is protected by the rule...			...personal medical information that is protected by the rule...		
...protect the privacy of your health information...	...protect your health information...			...protect your health information ...		
protocol	way of doing things			rule	way of doing things, method, standard, step-by-step process, rules, code	plan of study, rule, process
provide	offer				give, offer, send, supply	give (us), offer, say
...provided consent...	...given consent/permission...			...given consent / permission ...		
provided that	if					if
...provide your treatment...	...treat you..			...treat you...		
provider	doctor			doctor, nurse, or	professional, insurer	doctor, clinician, person who gives

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				other provider of healthcare		health care
...providing assistance with your healthcare...	...helping you (with your healthcare)...			...helping you (with your healthcare) ...		
provisions	...arranging for...			...arranging for...		
provoke	cause				make worse, cause, anger, annoy	
proximal	close				near to, close, area closer to the center of the body	close, closer to the center of the body
pseudonymize	removing data from information that would allow identification of the information source		Definition: Custodian system must strip information of data that would allow the identification of the source of the information or the information subject. Custodian may retain a key to			

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			relink data necessary to reidentify the information subject.			
psoriasis	a dry, scaly, skin rash				a dry, scaly, skin rash	
psoriatic arthritis	joint swelling disease with skin rash				joint swelling disease with skin rash	
psychiatrist	mental health doctor				mental health doctor, shrink	
psychiatry	study of mental health				study of mental health	
psychiatry information (sensitivity)	psychiatry information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling psychiatry information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to			

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			psychiatry information that is deemed sensitive.			
psychoactive substances (generic)		Drugs that can produce mood changes and distorted hearing, vision, and sense of touch.				
psychopathology	mental illness					mental illness
psychosocial	mental and social					mental and social
...psychotherapy information compiled in a reasonable, or use in, reasonable anticipation, or use in a civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding...	...psychotherapy notes that might be used in a court case or another legal proceeding...			...psychotherapy notes that might be used in a court case or another legal proceeding ...		
psychotropic	mind-altering					mind-altering
PSA	prostate test				prostate test, prostate check	
PTSD	problem with fear after seeing or having a fearful event				problem with fear after seeing or	

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					having a fearful event, flashbacks of negative experience	
public health	We can share your health information for certain situations such as: -Preventing disease -Helping with product recalls -Reporting bad side effects from medications -Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence -Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for conducting public health activities, such as the reporting of notifiable conditions.			
pulmonary	(in/or/about/related to) the lungs					(in/or/about/related to) the lungs
pulmonary care unit	lung disease treatment area of				lung disease	

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	hospital				treatment area of hospital	
pulmonary embolism	blood clot in the lung					blood clot in the lung
pulmonology	study of lung disease				study of lung disease	
pulpitis	infection of nerve inside tooth				infection of nerve inside tooth	
purchase	buy					buy
purpose of use	purpose of use		Concept Relationships: Specializes: _ActHealthInformationManagementReason Generalizes (derived): TREAT HPAYMT HOPERAT HMARKT HRESCH PATRQT			
pursuant to	following					by, following, under
qualified	has the education to				suited, capable; has the education to perform,	

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					license to perform	
quality improvement	We can share your health information to learn how we can improve our care		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used for conducting administrative activities to improve health care quality.			
questionnaire	survey					survey, series of questions
race information (sensitivity)	patient race information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to an information subject's race, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an information subject's race, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			

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radiologist	a doctor who specializes in reading X-rays				a doctor who studies x-rays and other images, x-ray specialist, x-ray doctor	doctor who specializes in reading X-rays
radiology	X-ray department				X-ray department	X-ray department
radionuclide	special medicine or drug				medicine, special medicine or drug	
ramifications	results					outcomes, problems, results
rampant	uncontrolled				unchecked, raging, uncontrolled	
randomized/randomization	assigned to a group by chance					assigned to a group by chance, like flipping a coin (if there are two groups)...like drawing names out of a hat (if there are more than two groups)

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random(ly)	by chance					by chance
random sample	group of (people) chosen by chance					group of (people) chosen by chance; like drawing names out of a hat
range	from low(est) to high(est)					area, between (x) and (y), from low(est) to high(est)
rapid diagnostic test	quickly check if someone is sick				fast result test, quickly check if someone is sick	
rationale	reason				reason, thinking, intent, purpose	
Raynaud's syndrome	circulatory disease				circulatory disease	
reaction	a response				a response	
reassortment	new type of virus				change, new type of virus	
rebuttal	response			response; answer; contradict		
receive	get				get, admit,	get

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					welcome	
receptive language	understanding				understanding	
recipient	person who gets something				person who gets something	
recognize	know				accept, know, see, find	
recommend	suggest				advise, suggest, urge, says	
records management	records management		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used within the health records management process.			
records management compartment	access and use of an information technology (IT) resource is limited to members of records management department		A security category label field value, which indicates that access and use of an IT resource is restricted to members of records management department or workflow.			

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recrudescence	to get sick again				relapse, to get sick again	
recuperate	get better				get better, feel better, get well, recover	
recur	happen again				come back, get again, happen again	return, come back, happen again
redact	remove information from records that is not allowed to be accessed, used or shared from users who do not have access, usage or sharing rights		Definition: Custodian system must remove information, which is not authorized to be access, used, or disclosed from records made available to otherwise authorized users.			
reduce	lower				lower, cut, trim, dilute	
redundant	not needed				extra, not needed, excess, surplus, spare	
referral	send to see another doctor					send to see another doctor

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reflect	show					say, show
refills	number of times one can get more				number of times one can get more medicine from the drugstore without going back to	
reflux	spit up				spit up, backward flow of body fluid	heartburn
refractory	hard to treat					hard to treat, hard to manage
regarding	about				about	about, of, on
regardless	no matter					no matter
regimen	plan				diet, plan, program	treatment
register	sign up				sign up, sign in	
regular	usual				usual, normal, everyday, common	
regulate	control				control, restrict, watch over,	affect, control

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					govern	
regulation	rule			rule	rule, law	rule
rehabilitate	get better				get better, restore	
reimburse	pay back				pay back, refund	
reinforce	make stronger				make stronger, brace, support	
reiterate	repeat				repeat, say again	
relapse	return of a disease					slip, backslide, return of a disease
...release information...	...give out your information...			...give out your information ...		
relevant (to)	about					about, tied in with, related to
relief	feel better				feel better, ease, not as bad, less painful, more comfortable	
relieve	make better				ease,	

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					make better, soothe, rest	
religion information (sensitivity)	patient's religion information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to an information subject's religious affiliation, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to an information subject's religion, the disclosure of which could impact the privacy, well-being, or safety of that subject.			
religious affiliation	religion			religion		
relocate	move					move
remain	stay					stay, wait
remainder	rest					rest, what is left over
remaining	left over					other, (second, last, final), left, left over

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
remission	when a disease is not active				when a disease is not active	cancer that has gone away
remittance advice	document supplied by the insurance payer that gives notice of and explanation reasons for payment, adjustment, denial and/or uncovered charges of a medical claim		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information about the amount remitted for a health care claim.			
renal	related to the kidney				related to the kidney	(in/of/about/related to) the kidneys
render	make					make, give
replicable	can be done again					can be done again
represents	is					is
request	ask for				ask for, beg	ask
...request a correction / amendment...	...ask us to change, ask us to correct...			...ask us to change, ask us to correct...		
...request a restriction...	...ask us not to...			...ask us not to...		

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
require(d)	needed				need, ask for	must do or have, need(ed)
...we are required to abide...	...we must...			...we must...		
requirements	needs				needs, regulations	must do or have, need(ed)
rescind	take away				cancel, take away	
researchers	people doing the study					people doing the study
research project compartment	access and use of an information technology (IT) resource is limited to members of a research project		A security category label field value, which indicates that access and use of an IT resource is restricted to members of a research project.			
resect	take out through surgery					cut out, take out through surgery, remove
resemble	look like				look like, take after, match	
reside	live				be in, live in	live, house, home
residence	home				home, apartment, house	live, house, home
Residual Seizure Disorder	seizures				seizures, sudden	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					attack, brain problem	
respiration	breathing				breathing, taking in oxygen	breathing
respiratory therapist	breathing therapist				breathing therapist	
respite	rest				rest, relief, quiet time	
respond	answer				answer, react to	
restoration	fix a tooth				filling, fix a tooth, tooth replacement	
restrain	hold back				hold back, stop	
restrict	limit				limit, stop	
restrictions	limits			limits	limitations, changes	limits
retain	keep				keep	keep
retinol	vitamin A					vitamin A
retrieve	get back				get, bring back, get back	
retrospective study	a study looking at things that have already happened					a study looking at things that have already happened
return	go back				go back	

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reveal	show				show, tell	give us, show, tell
review	go over				go over, check	
revised	changed			new; changed		change(d), new
revision	change			change		change(d), new
...revoke your written authorization...	...withdraw; take back; tell us not to...			...withdraw; take back; tell us not to...		
Reye's Syndrome	brain disease in children				brain disease in children	
rheumatoid arthritis	joint swelling				disease of joints, joint swelling	
rheumatologist	joint, bone and immune system doctor				joint, bone, and immune system doctor	
rheumatology	study of the immune system, joints, and bones				study of the immune system, joints, and bones	
rigorous	hard				hard	
risk reduction	lowering the chances				lowering the	

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					chances, making less likely	
risk	chance				chance	
root canal	remove the nerve from inside the root of a permanent tooth				remove the nerve from inside the root of a permanent tooth	
root planing and scaling	deep tooth cleaning				deep tooth cleaning	
Rotavirus	germ causing stomach flu				germ causing stomach flu	
routinely	often					often, commonly
Rubella	German measles				German measles	
Rubeola	measles				measles	
rupture	break open				break, burst, break open	break open, burst
sanitary	clean				clean, germ free, healthful	
sanitize	make germ-free				clean, wash, clean up, make germ-free,	

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					disinfect	
sarcoma	type of cancer					type of cancer
satisfactory	okay					okay, fine, good
SC	injection into fat				subcutaneously, shot into fat, injection into fat	
scaling and root planing	removal of hard and soft deposits from teeth above and below gums				removal of hard and soft deposits from teeth above and below gums	
Scarlatina	scarlet fever				scarlet fever	
schedule	plan				plan, planning a time to do something	
sclerosis	when certain tissues of the body get hard and thick					when certain tissues of the body get hard and thick
sealant (pit and fissure, dental)	thin layer of plastic painted onto teeth to				thin layer of plastic painted	

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	prevent decay				onto teeth to prevent decay	
seasonal influenza	winter flu				common flu; winter flu	
second- and third-order effects	things that happen as a result of your actions				things that happen as a result of your actions	
sector	group				group, community, neighborhood	
sedatives (hypnotic or anxiolytic)	drugs to make you feel calm or less anxious	A class of drugs or other agents that produce a soothing, calming, or relaxing effect.				a drug to make you feel calm or less anxious
sedentary	inactive				inactive, sitting a lot, couch potato	inactive, not active
segment	part				part, piece	
seizure	fit of uncontrolled movements	convulsion, sudden attack			fit of uncontrolled movements	

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seldom	rarely					rarely, not very often
selection	choice					choice
sensation	feeling				feeling	feeling
sensitive	easily hurt				easily hurt, easy to damage, sore	
sensitive service provider information (sensitivity)	information about a patient's provider of sensitive services that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling information related to a provider of sensitive services, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Policies may govern sensitivity of information related to providers who deliver sensitive healthcare services in order to protect the privacy, well-being, and safety of the provider and of patients receiving sensitive services.			
sepsis	a very serious infection					a very serious infection

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sequentially	in order					in a row, in order, by number
seroconversion	reacting against				becoming immune, reacting against disease, fighting disease	
serology	study of blood strength				study of blood strength	
serosurvey	test to see how likely you are to get a disease				test to see how likely you are to get a disease	
several	many				many	a few, a number of, some
severe	very bad				strong, serious, harmful, dangerous, very bad	serious, bad
severity	how bad				how bad	how bad
sexual assault, abuse, or domestic violence information (sensitivity)	patient's sexual assault, abuse, or domestic violence information that will be made more confidential		Policy for handling sexual assault, abuse, or domestic violence information, which will be afforded			

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	because of its sensitive nature		heightened confidentiality. Description: Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to sexual assault, abuse, or domestic violence information that is deemed sensitive.			
sexuality and reproductive health information (sensitivity)	patient's sexuality and reproductive health information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling sexuality and reproductive health information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to sexuality and reproductive health information that is deemed sensitive.			
sexually transmitted	patient's sexually		Definition: Policy			

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disease information (sensitivity)	transmitted disease (STD) information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		for handling sexually transmitted disease information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality.			
shall	will					will
shift	change				change	
shortness of breath	difficult breathing				difficulty catching breath, difficult breathing	
sickle cell	sickle cell		Policy for handling sickle cell disease information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to sickle cell disease information that is deemed sensitive. Usage Note: If there is a jurisdictional			

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			mandate, then use the applicable ActPrivacyLaw code system, and specify the law rather than or in addition to this more generic code.			
side effect	reaction to a medicine				reaction, reaction to a medicine	
significant	serious				big, serious, important	
similar	like				like	like, alike
similarity	likeness					likeness
sinusitis	sinus infection					sinus infection
situated	located				placed, located	
Sjogren's syndrome	dry eyes and mouth				dry eyes and mouth	
skull	head bones				head bones, bones that protect the brain	
social distancing	keep away from people				stay at home; keep away from	

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					people	
socialize	talk with people				make friends, talk with people, meet people	
solely	only					only
solicit	ask for				ask for	ask for, request
somnolence	sleepiness					sleepiness
soreness	pain				hurt, pain, ache	
spasm	sudden, strong muscle tightening				sudden, strong muscle tightening, jerk, painful twist	
species	group of plants or animals				group of plants or animals, same type, alike	
specify	name					name
specimen	sample					sample
spirometer	a device that measures how much air you're breathing in and out				breathing test, breath strength machine, breath	a device that measures how much air you're breathing in and out

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					strength indicator	
spontaneous	unplanned				unplanned, sudden	
sprain	muscle injury				muscle injury, muscle tear	
stable	unchanging				okay, no change, constant, even, unchanging	
stamina	endurance				strength, endurance	
state of readiness	prepared				ready, now ready, prepared	
state	condition				say, tell, condition	
state-of-the-art	latest					latest
status	condition				state, condition	
stenosis	getting more narrow					getting more narrow
sterile	unable to have children	free from bacteria, free from germs, totally clean			unable to have children, clean	

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steroid	drug to lessen swelling				medicine, drug to lessen swelling, illegal sports drugs	
stigma	embarrassment				mark, spot, blemish, embarrassment	
stimulants (other than cocaine)		A class of drugs or substances that excites the body, increases heart rate and energy, and promotes a sense of well-being, including amphetamines and methamphetamines				
stimulate	excite				excite, stir up, activate	excite, trigger
strain	type of germ				type of germ, type of animal, type of plant	

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strategy, strategize	(make a) plan					(make a) plan
streptococcal	strep					strep
stress	worry				physical strain, mental strain, pressure, worry	
stringent	strict				strict, tight, controlled	
subclinical infection	minor illness				minor illness	
subcutaneous	under the skin					under the skin
sublingual	under tongue					medication taken by dissolving under the tongue, under tongue
submit	hand in				give, hand in, send	give, send
...submit your request in writing...	...write a letter...			...write a letter...		
subsequent	next				following, next, later	
subsequently	after that				after that, later, afterward	after, later, next, then
substance	material				chemical, material, matter, stuff	

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substance abuse						
substance abuse information (sensitivity)	patient's substance abuse information that will be made more confidential because of its sensitive nature		Policy for handling alcohol or drug-abuse information, which will be afforded heightened confidentiality. Description: Information handling protocols based on organizational policies related to alcohol or drug-abuse information that is deemed sensitive.			
substantial	big					big, large, much
...substantial communication barrier...	...communication problem...			...communication problem...		
sucrose	sugar					sugar
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	sudden, unexplained death of a baby				crib death; sudden, unexplained death of a baby	
suffice	be enough				be enough	
sufficient	enough				enough,	enough, plenty

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					plenty, ample	
suffocate	smother				choke, smother, not able to breathe	
suggest(s)	show(s) there might be					show(s) there might be
summon	call for				call for, request	
sun protection factor	sun block				sunscreen, sun block	
superficial	not important				not important, not harmful, slight	
supersede	take the place of				replace, take the place of	
supine	lying on your back					lying on your back
supplement	add to				add to, in addition to, additive, vitamins	
supply	give				give, budget, fund, pool, source, kitty	

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support network	support network		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information in response to a request by a person authorized by the patient.			
suppress	hold back				hold back, stop, slow down	
surge capacity	being able to offer more services in an emergency				being able to offer more services in an emergency , ability to expand	
surgery	operation				operation	
surgical mask	face mask				face mask, mask	
surveillance	watch closely				keep a close eye on, watch closely, monitor	
susceptible	in danger of getting				more open to, in danger of getting,	

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					likely to get	
...suspected violation...	...possible violation...			...possible violation...		
sustain	keep going					keep going
sustenance	support					support, food
sutures	stitches				stitches	stitches
symptom	sign (of disease or sickness)				sign (of disease or sickness), indicator, warning	
symptomatic	having symptoms					having symptoms
syndrome	illness				illness, sickness, condition	
synthesis	summary				summary, make, take up	
synthesize	summarize				combine, form, summarize	
system administration	completing activities that allow a health plan to run the electronic systems used for carrying out health care		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information to administer the electronic systems used for the delivery of health			

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	treatment		care.			
systematic	planned out				planned out, orderly, regular	
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	immune system disease				immune system disease	
systemic	whole body				throughout your body, in all parts of your body	whole body
taboo	taboo		Definition: Policy for handling information not to be initially disclosed or discussed with patient except by a physician assigned to patient in this case.			
tachycardia	very fast heartbeat					very fast heart beat
tallus	heel				heel	
tap	use a needle to take out fluid					use a needle to take out fluid
taper	slow				reduce, slow, lower,	

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					shrink, decrease	
tartar	plaque				crust on teeth, plaque	
tear a ligament (torn ligament)	sprain					sprain
telephone	phone					phone
telework	work from home				work from home	
temperature	fever				heat, fever	
temporal association	when two things happen at the same time but aren't actually related to each other				when two things happen at the same time but aren't actually related to each other	
temporary	brief				short, brief	
teratogenic	something that can hurt your baby before he is born				something that can hurt your baby before he is born	
terminal	deadly				deadly, fatal	not curable, causes death, going to die

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terminate, termination	end				stop, end	put an end to, stop, end
testosterone	male hormone				male hormone	
tetanus	disease affecting muscles				disease affecting muscles	
therapeutic	healing				healing, improving, getting better	
therapeutic modality	treatment					treatment
therapy	treatment				treatment	treatment
therefore	so				so	so, as a result
thereof	Do Not Use			Do Not Use		
thimerosal	drug or vaccine preservative				drug or vaccine preservative	
third molars	wisdom teeth				wisdom teeth, last teeth to come into mouth	
thoracic	chest					chest
threat	threat		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information used to prevent injury or			

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			disease to living subjects who may be the target of violence.			
thrombosis	blood clots in the blood vessels					blood clots in the blood vessels
thrombus	clot				clot	
time period	time				time	
titer	blood test				blood test	
Title 38 Section 7332	Confidentiality of certain medical records		Definition: Title 38 Part 1 protected information may only be disclosed to a third party with the special written consent of the patient except where expressly authorized by 38 USC 7332. VA may disclose this information for specific purposes to: VA employees on a need to know basis - more restrictive than Privacy Act need to know; contractors who need the information in order			

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			to perform or fulfill the duties of the contract; and researchers who provide assurances that the information will not be identified in any report. This information may also be disclosed without consent where patient lacks decision-making capacity; in a medical emergency for the purpose of treating a condition which poses an immediate threat to the health of any individual and which requires immediate medical intervention; for eye, tissue, or organ donation purposes; and disclosure of HIV information for public health purposes.			

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titrate	to change the dose/level of a medicine				to change the dose/level of a medicine	
topical	on the surface				on the surface, on the skin, on the body	
torso	main part of your body not including head, arms or legs					trunk, main part of your body not including head, arms or legs
...to support business activities services...	...for your doctor's business			...for your doctor's business		
...to support business activities services of your doctor's practice...	business services your doctor buys to run his practice...			business services your doctor buys to run his practice...		
toxicity	bad side effects					bad side effects
toxicology	study of harmful materials				study of harmful materials	
toxin, toxic	poison				poison, pollution	poisonous, poison
trachea	windpipe					windpipe
training	training		Definition: To			

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			perform one or more operations on information used in training and education.			
...training of medical students...	...training medical students...			...training medical students...		
transdermal	through the skin					through the skin
transform	change				change, alter	
transmit(ted), transmission	send (sent)					send (sent), spread to, pass on
transparent	clear				clear, see-through	
transpire	happen				happen, take place	happen
transverse myelitis	of the spine				of the spine, back disease	
trauma	injury					injury, wound
traumatic	shocking				shocking, upsetting	
treat	take care of				give care, take care of, cure, heal	
treatment	the care and management of a				action, medicine,	

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	patient to combat, prevent, or relieve the effects of a disease, disorder, or injury				therapy	
treatment	We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.		Definition: To perform one or more operations on information for provision of health care.			
...treatment and services you receive...	...care you receive...			...care you receive; your care...		
...treatment of alternatives and options...	...treatment choices...			...treatment choices...		
tremor	shaking				shaking, trembling	shaking
trigger	cause				cause, start, bring on, lead to	
trimester	three months				three months, three months' time	
tuberculosis	lung disease				TB, lung disease	
tumor	growth				growth, lump	

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...types of uses and disclosures...	...how we share; with whom we share; and how the information is used			...how we share; with whom we share; and how the information is used		
ulcer	open sore				open sore, canker	
ulterior	hidden				secondary, hidden, alternate, further	
ultimate	final				final, last	final
umbilicus	belly button				belly button, navel	
...unable to agree to a requested restriction...	...can't agree with your request...			...can't agree with your request...		
uncommon	rare					rare
underbite	lower teeth extend past upper front teeth				lower teeth extend past upper front teeth	
undergo	have					have
understand	know				know, to get	learn, see

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...understanding utilization review activities...	...reviewing health services...			...reviewing health services...		
...under the custody of law enforcement...	in legal custody...			in legal custody...		
unequivocal	clear					clear
unfavorable	unwanted				bad, harmful, damaging, unwanted	
...unless otherwise permitted or required by law as described below	...unless allowed or required by law...			...unless allowed or required by law...		
unnecessary	not needed				not needed, needless	not needed
...upon your request...	...if you ask...			...if you ask...		
upper respiratory system	nose, throat, and windpipe				nose, throat, and windpipe	
urinalysis	urine test					urine test
urinate	pee				pee	
urticaria	rash on your skin				hives, itch, rash on your skin	
...undertaking utilization review activities...	...review our work...			...review our work...		

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until such time	until				until	
use caution	be careful				be careful	
...use or disclose...	...use or give out; share; release...			...use or give out; share; release...		
uterus	womb				womb	
utilize, utilization	use				use, make use of	use
UVA	UV light, sunlight				UV light, sunlight	
UVB	UV light, sunlight				UV light, sunlight	
vaccinate	to protect against disease, usually by a shot				to protect against disease, usually by a shot	
Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System	VAERS, a way for doctors to make sure that vaccines aren't hurting anyone				VAERS, a way for doctors to make sure that vaccines aren't hurting anyone	
Vaccine Safety Datalink Project	VSD, a way for doctors to learn more about				VSD, a way for doctors to	

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	vaccines				learn more about vaccines	
vaccine	shot				shot, flu shot, medicine, immunization	
vague	unclear				unclear, not for sure, not certain	
validate	prove				prove, test	approve, confirm
validity	proof				truth, proof	
variable	changes over time					factor, changes over time
variant	version				version, slightly different	
Varicella	chickenpox				chicken pox, herpes zoster	chickenpox
variety	many different kinds					many different kinds
variola	smallpox				smallpox	
vary	change				change, shift	
vector	an insect or other animal that					an insect or other animal that carries

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
	carries disease					disease
vehicle	car, truck, bus, automobile				car, truck, bus, automobile	
verbatim	word for word				exact, word for word	
verify	check				check, find out	
vertigo	dizziness					dizziness
vesicular	blisters				blisters, small bumps on your skin	
viable	can be used				able to live, usable, can be used	practical, workable, possible
vicinity	area				area, location	
viral shedding	coughing and sneezing				coughing and sneezing	
viremia	viruses in the blood				viruses in the blood	
virulence	how dangerous the disease is				strength; harm; how harmful; how dangerous the disease	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					is	
virulent	dangerous				strong, dangerous	
virus	germ				germ	
visualize	picture					picture, see, imagine
vital	important				important, imperative, crucial	
vitals, vital signs	heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate, and temperature				heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate, and temperature	
voluminous	large				large, bulky	
voluntary	your choice				your choice; on your own; without being forced	
vomit	throw up	puke			throw up, upchuck, emesis	
waning immunity	more likely to get sick				not immune anymore;	

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
					more likely to get sick; lost your disease resistance	
warrant	call for				call for, permit	
warning sign	sign of trouble				sign of trouble; problem; alert	
....when required to do so by federal, state, or local law...	...when required by law...			...when required by law; when the law requires...		
whereas	while				while, but	because, since
...where we can make improvements in our care and services...	...how we can improve our care...			...how we can improve our care...		
withdraw (from)	leave					drop, leave, take back, take out
withhold	hold back				deny, keep from, hold back, refuse	
written complaint	a letter or e-mail			a letter or e-mail		
...you must do so in writing...	...write a letter or e-mail...			...write a letter or e-		

Legal/Technical Term	Suggested Plain Language	HL7 SME Suggested Plain Language	HL7 HCS Security Label Vocabulary Definition	HIPAA Plain Language Thesaurus	CDC Plain Language Thesaurus	GroupHealth Plain Language Toolkit
				mail...		

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B – Consent Directive use case

Each of the tables on the next three pages shows an example of how to use the patient friendly vocabulary and guidelines specified in this IG to translate language commonly found in consent directives to patient friendly language. This use case pulls language from the Florida AHCA's *Universal Patient Authorization Form for Limited Disclosure of Health Information* (reference 12 in Appendix A).

This use case objectively measures the “patient friendliness” of each example by using the Flesch Reading Ease test and Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level test. Note: these tests are available in Microsoft Word through the “Show readability statistics” feature.

[This Microsoft Office site](#) explains that both readability tests base their score on the average number of syllables per word and words per sentence. The site provides a formula for how each test computes its score:

“Flesch Reading Ease test

This test rates text on a 100-point scale. The higher the score, the easier it is to understand the document. For most standard files, you want the score to be between 60 and 70.

The formula for the Flesch Reading Ease score is:

$$206.835 - (1.015 \times \text{ASL}) - (84.6 \times \text{ASW})$$

where:

ASL = average sentence length (the number of words divided by the number of sentences)

ASW = average number of syllables per word (the number of syllables divided by the number of words)

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level test

This test rates text on a U.S. school grade level. For example, a score of 8.0 means that an eighth grader can understand the document. For most documents, aim for a score of approximately 7.0 to 8.0.

The formula for the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level score is:

$$(.39 \times \text{ASL}) + (11.8 \times \text{ASW}) - 15.59$$

Example 1: OF WHAT

“Of What” describes the health information that can be shared.

Standard Consent Directive Language Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 17.6 Flesch Reading Ease: 4.5	Patient Friendly Language Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 4.8 Flesch Reading Ease: 81.8
<p>By signing this form, I voluntarily authorize, give my permission and allow use and disclosure of all my health information, including information about sensitive conditions (if any).</p> <p>“Of What”: includes ALL YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION, INCLUDING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All records and other information regarding your health history, treatment, hospitalization, tests, and outpatient care. This information may relate to sensitive health conditions (if any), <u>including but not limited to</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Drug, alcohol, or substance abuse Psychological, psychiatric or other mental impairment(s) or developmental disabilities (excludes “psychotherapy notes” as defined in HIPAA at 45 CFR 164.501) Sickle cell anemia Birth control and family planning Records which may indicate the presence of a communicable disease or noncommunicable disease; and tests for or records of HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted diseases or tuberculosis Genetic (inherited) diseases or tests Copies of educational tests or evaluations, including Individualized Educational Programs, assessments, psychological and speech evaluations, immunizations, recorded health information (such as height, weight), and 	<p>You may use and share any and all of my health information. This information includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug, alcohol, or substance abuse • Mental disabilities • Sickle cell anemia • Birth control and family planning • Diseases that can or cannot be passed to other people • HIV/AIDS • STDs • Lung disease • Diseases related to family traits • Copies of educational tests or evaluations • Information created before or after the date of this form

<p>information about injuries or treatment.</p> <p>3. Information created before or after the date of this form.</p>	
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Example 2: FROM WHOM

“From Whom” describes the source(s) of the health information and identifies from which information source(s) the information can be used and shared.

Standard Consent Directive Language Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 47.7 Flesch Reading Ease: 0.0	Patient Friendly Language Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 7.1 Flesch Reading Ease: 57.7
<p>By signing this form, I voluntarily authorize, give my permission and allow use and disclosure of my health information by all information sources including but not limited to medical and clinical sources (hospitals, clinics, labs, pharmacies, physicians, psychologists, etc.) including mental health, correctional, addiction treatment, Veterans Affairs health care facilities, state registries and other state programs, all educational sources that may have some of my health information (schools, records administrators, counselors, etc.), social workers, rehabilitation counselors, insurance companies, health plans, health maintenance organizations, employers, pharmacy benefit managers, worker’s compensation programs, state Medicaid, Medicare and any other governmental program.</p>	<p>You may use and share my health information from any and all information sources. These sources include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals, labs, pharmacies, doctors, etc. • Mental health, prisons, addiction treatment, and VA health care facilities • State registries and other state programs • Schools, record keepers, counselors, etc. • Social workers and rehab counselors • Insurance companies and health plans • My current and previous bosses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons who process and pay claims for prescription drugs • Worker's comp programs • Medicare, Medicaid, etc.
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Example 3: TO WHOM

“To Whom” describes who (person or organization) is allowed to receive the health information.

Standard Consent Directive Language Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 21.0 Flesch Reading Ease: 15.3	Patient Friendly Language Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 8.6 Flesch Reading Ease: 57.6
<p>By signing this form, I voluntarily authorize, give my permission and allow use and disclosure of my health information to the following health care providers...</p> <p>Your permission would also include physicians, other health care providers (such as nurses) and medical staff who are involved in your medical care at that organization's facility or that person's office, and health care providers who are covering or on call for the specified person or organization, and staff members or agents (such as business associates or qualified services organizations) who carry out activities and purpose(s) permitted by this form for that organization or person that you specified. Disclosure may be of health information in paper or oral form or may be through electronic interchange.</p>	<p>You may use and share my health information with the following...</p> <p>I understand that doctors, nurses, hospitals and clinics may receive my health information. I also understand that you may share my information on paper, over the phone or on a machine.</p>