

Glossary For Infectious Diseases

CONDENSED GLOSSARY FOR HEALTHCARE RELATED TERMS

AHCA: Agency for healthcare administration—governing agency that oversees many departments in healthcare including construction

CA-MRSA: Community acquired Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

CMS: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement

DX: Diagnosis

DYSCRASIA: Disorders of the cellular elements of the blood

EPIDEMIOLOGY: A branch of medicine that investigates the causes and control of epidemics; all the elements contributing to the occurrence or non-occurrence of a disease in a population; ecology of a disease.

ETIOLOGICAL AGENT: Causative agent

HA-MRSA: Healthcare acquired Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

HAI: Healthcare associated infection

ICP: Infection control practitioner

ICRA: Infection Control Risk Assessment—Construction guideline for all healthcare projects which designate the type and category of at risk patient populations and the containment required

ID: Infectious disease

JCAHO/JC: Joint Commission Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations-The Joint Commission employs surveyors who are sent to healthcare organizations to evaluate their operational practices and facilities

MDRO: Multi drug resistant organisms

MRSA: Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus

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NOSOCOMIAL: An infection that is acquired 48-72 hours after hospital admission which is unrelated to the admitting diagnosis

PCRA: Preconstruction risk assessment

RENAL: Of or pertaining to the kidney

VIRUS: A microscopic particle composed of DNA or RNA surrounded by a protein coat. Viruses replicate by entering a cell, releasing their own DNA or RNA, and controlling the DNA of the cell to manufacture more of the virus DNA or RNA and the surrounding protein coating. In the process the cell is usually destroyed, its walls disrupted, and the virus released into the surrounding environment