Through championing the nursing profession, nurses give a voice to the essential role they play in advancing access to high-quality, affordable care. With energetic participation in advocacy, every nurse can help the profession improve and move to higher levels. Becoming involved in advocacy may include such activities as reading articles about the subject, commenting on proposed rulemaking by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), participating in local or state initiatives, taking action to improve nephrology nursing practice, and much more. Pursuing an interest in any area of advocacy may also mean contending with acronyms and abbreviations that may be unfamiliar. The following is a quick reference and categorized list of such abridgements to help the nephrology nurse who wishes to become more active in the advocacy realm.

**Legislative/Congressional**

- ACA – Affordable Care Act
- CBO – Congressional Budget Office
- HELP – Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (Senate committee)
- HLA – Health Legislative Aide
- HR (followed by a number) – House bill
- H.J.Res. (followed by a number) – Joint House/Senate Resolution originating in the House
- H.Res. (followed by a number) – House Resolution
- IPAB – Independent Payment Advisory Board
- MIPPA – Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (2008)
- S (followed by a number) – Senate bill
- S.J.Res – Joint Senate/House Resolution originating in the Senate

**Federal Agencies**

- AHRQ – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- CMS – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (under HHS) *See list of CMS acronyms*
- HHS (or DHHS) – United States Department of Health and Human Services
- HRSA – Health Resources and Services Administration (under HHS)
- FDA – Food and Drug Administration (under HHS)
- GAO – United States Government Accountability Office
- NKDEP – National Kidney Disease Education Program (under HHS/NIH)
- NIDDK – National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (under HHS/NIH)
- NIH – National Institutes of Health (under HHS)
- NINR – National Institute of Nursing Research (under HHS/NIH)
- OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (under Dept. of Labor)
- USRDS – United States Renal Data System (under HHS/NIH/NIDDK)

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

- ACO – Accountable Care Organization
- CCMF – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
- CFC – Conditions for Coverage
- CMS – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- COB – Coordination of Benefits
- COP – Conditions of Participation
- CQM – Clinical Quality Measure
- DME – Durable Medical Equipment
- EGHP – Employer Group Health Planning
- EOB – Explanation of Benefits
- ESCO – ESRD Seamless Care Organization
- ESRD PPS – End Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System
- HAC – Healthcare-Associated Condition
- HAI – Healthcare-Associated Infection
- HMO – Health Maintenance Organization
- IC-CAHPS – In-Center Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems
- ICD-10 – International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision
- MA – Medicare Advantage
- MAC – Medicare Administrative Contractor

**ANA believes that advocacy is a pillar of nursing. Nurses instinctively advocate for their patients, in their workplaces, and in their communities; but legislative and political advocacy is no less important to advancing the profession and patient care.**

—American Nurses Association (n.d., para. 1)
MEDCAC – Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee
MedPAC – Medicare Payment Advisory Committee
MLN – Medicare Learning Networks
MOC – Maintenance of Certification
MSP – Medicare Secondary Payer
NQF – National Quality Forum
PCORI – Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
PFS – Physician Fee Schedule
PPS – Prospective Payment System
QIO – Quality Improvement Organization
QIP – Quality Improvement Program
QAPI – Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement
SA – State Survey Agency
SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance
SOM – State Operations Manual
SSA – Social Security Act/Social Security Administration

**Nursing**

APRN – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
CCNT – Certified Clinical Nephrology Technologist
CDN – Certified Dialysis Nurse
CNN – Certified Nephrology Nurse
CNN-NP – Certified Nephrology Nurse-Nurse Practitioner
NP – Nurse Practitioner
RN – Registered Nurse

**Patient Care**

ACP – Advance Care Planning
ADL – Activities of Daily Living
APD – Automated Peritoneal Dialysis
CAPD – Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis
CCHT – Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician
CCM – Chronic Care Management
CQI – Continuous Quality Improvement
ESKD – End Stage Kidney Disease (preferred term over ESRD [End Stage Renal Disease])
HD – Hemodialysis
LOC – Level of Care/Level of Consciousness
LOS – Length of Stay
LTC – Long-Term Care
LTCH – Long-Term Care Hospital
NHD – Nocturnal Hemodialysis
NHHD – Nocturnal Home Hemodialysis
QoL – Quality of Life
SDHD – Short Daily Hemodialysis
SNF – Skilled Nursing Facility

**ANNA**

SPN – Specialty Practice Networks

**Professional Organizations**

AAMI – American Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation®
ABIM – American Board of Internal Medicine
ANA – American Nurses Association
ANNA – American Nephrology Nurses Association
ASN – American Society of Nephrology
CAANT – Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists
EDTNA/ERCA – European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association
ISHD – International Society for Hemodialysis
ISPD – International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis
KCER – Kidney Community Emergency Response
KCP – Kidney Care Partners
KHI – Kidney Health Initiative
NANT – National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists
NRAA – National Renal Administrators Association
RPA – Renal Physicians Association

**Patient/Patient and Care Partner Focused Organizations**

AAKP – American Association of Kidney Patients
AKF – American Kidney Fund
DPC – Dialysis Patient Citizens
HDC – Home Dialysis Central
HDU – Home Dialyzors United
MEI – Medical Education Institute
NKF – National Kidney Foundation®
RSN – Renal Support Network

**Other Useful Acronyms**

DOPPS – Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study
EHR – Electronic Health Record
EMR – Electronic Medical Record
HIT – Health Information Technology
HMO – Health Maintenance Organization
IOM – Institute of Medicine
KDIGO – Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes®
KDQOL – Kidney Disease Quality of Life
KDOQI – Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative
KHI – Kidney Health Initiative (joint initiative between FDA and American Society of Nephrology)
References
