
Glossary

Action Plan	A plan to support consumer self management of care, in partnership with a medical practitioner or health care provider. It covers actions needed and support available around issues such as medication, allied health services and lifestyle changes.
Angina	Temporary chest pain or discomfort when the heart's own blood supply is inadequate to meet extra needs, as in exercise.
Atrial Fibrillation (AF)	A particular type of irregular heartbeat where the upper chambers of the heart atrium beat rapidly and unpredictably.
Cardiac arrest	Cessation of an effective heartbeat, usually when the heart is in ventricular fibrillation or when the heart is completely stopped.
Chronic	Persistent and long-lasting.
Consumer	Refers to people whom either directly or indirectly make use of health services.
Community	In this context community refers to the broader population of citizens who pay for and have an interest in health care services.
Coronary heart disease	Disease resulting from narrowing of the heart arteries which can cause problems such as heart attack and angina (chest pain). Also known as ischaemic heart disease.
Defibrillation	Delivery of a very strong electrical current to the heart in an attempt to stop ventricular fibrillation.
Diabetes	A chronic condition in which the body makes too little of the hormone insulin or cannot use it properly. This raises the blood glucose level and causes other widespread disturbance of the body's energy processes.
Health Care Providers	Include medical practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, speech pathologists and psychologists.
Heart attack	Damage to the heart muscle due to interrupted blood supply. Also called myocardial infarction.
Heart failure	A term used when the heart cannot pump blood well enough to meet the body's normal needs.
Peripheral vascular disease	Reduced blood supply or impaired return of blood affecting the extremities.
Morbidity	Refers to ill health in an individual and to levels of ill health in a population or group.
Mortality	Death.

National Service Improvement Framework	Tools for service improvement in the national health priority chronic conditions. They will provide a high level guide to service planners, designers, providers and funders on the health care and health service requirements for people at risk or with a chronic condition across the continuum of care.
Reperfusion therapy	Use of a cardiac intervention, such as angioplasty or “clot-busting” drug therapy during a heart attack to restore blood flow to the heart muscle.
Rheumatic fever	An acute, serious disease that affects mainly children and young adults and can damage the heart valves, the heart muscle and its lining, the joints and the brain. Is brought on by a reaction to a throat infection by a particular bacterium.
Rheumatic heart disease	Damage to the heart valves and other parts of the heart following rheumatic fever.
Stroke	Destruction of brain tissue resulting from disorders of blood vessels that supply the brain. Also called cerebrovascular accident.
Thrombolysis	Pharmacological treatment with a class of drugs that can break up fibrin blood clots
Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)	Clinical syndrome characterised by an acute loss of focal cerebral function with symptoms lasting less than 24 hours.