

Clinical Research & Medical Acronym and Definitions at Emory

Clinical Research Acronym List	
ACTSI	Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute
CA	Coverage Analysis
CAP	College of American Pathologists. A type of lab certification often requested by sponsors.
CDA	Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement. Usually, the 1st executed agreement in a trial which requires the site to keep study information confidential.
CDM Code	Charge Description Master Code - A nine-digit hospital charge code for identifying chargeable procedures
CIN	Clinical Interaction Network (formerly GCRC); associated with ACTSI
CHOA	Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (includes Egleston, Scottish Rite and Hughes Spalding)
CITI	Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
CLIA	Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CPT Code	Current Procedural Terminology Code – For identifying chargeable (outpatient) procedures
CRA	Clinical Research Associate, also known as a study monitor
CRC	Clinical Research Coordinator
CRO	Clinical Research Organization
CRFM	Clinical Research Finance Manager
CTA	Clinical Trial Agreement
CTBD	Emory Healthcare Clinical Trials Billing Department
CTMS	Clinical Trials Management System
CTRC	Clinical and Translational Research Committee (WCI's)
EeMR	Emory Electronic Medical Record, which Epic is the new medical record system
eCTS	Emory Contract Tracking System
eCOI	Electronic Conflict of Interest System
EHC	Emory Healthcare
EHSO	Environmental, Health & Safety Office
EJCH	Emory Johns Creek Hospital
ELMS	Emory Learning Management System
EML	Emory Medical Laboratories
EPEX	Emory Proposal Express
ERMS	Emory Research Management System, has been replaced by OnCore CTMS
ESJH	Emory St. Joseph Hospital
EU	Emory University
EUHM	Emory University Hospital Midtown
EUH	Emory University Hospital
FDA	Food & Drug Administration
GCP	Good Clinical Practice
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
ICD/ICF	Informed Consent Document (also known as ICF or informed consent form)
IDE	Investigational Device Exemption
IDS	Investigational Drug Service
IMV	Interim Monitoring Visit - periodic monitoring visits made by CRO or sponsor
IND	Investigational New Drug
IRB	Institutional Review Board (also known as Ethics Board)
ISF	Investigator Site File (study records)
MRN	Medical Record Number
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NOA	Notice of Award
OCR	EU Office for Clinical Research
OGCA	EU Office of Grants & Contracts Accounting
OC	EU Office of Compliance

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OSP	EU Office of Sponsored Programs
OTT	Office of Technology Transfer
PHI	Protected Health Information
PI	Principal Investigator
PRA	Prospective Reimbursement Analysis
QCT	Qualifying Clinical Trial
RAS	Research Administration Services
ROC	Research Oversight Committee (used at Grady Memorial Hospital)
SHB	Social Health and Behavioral
SIV	Site Initiation Visit (first study visit by sponsor or CRO, done before study can begin)
SOM	School of Medicine
TEC	The Emory Clinic
VA	Veterans Administration (Medical Center or VAMC)
WCI	Winship Cancer Institute

Medical Acronym List	
AC	Ante Cibum, or “Before meals” indicating when a patient should take medication
ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction, any negative response from the body to a medication that was unexpected
AE	Adverse Events, any untoward medical occurrence in a patient or clinical investigation subject administered a pharmaceutical product and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with this treatment
ALOC	Acute Loss of Consciousness
ASA	The abbreviation for acetylsalicylic acid, commonly known as aspirin.
BMI	Body mass index, a measure of body fat based on height and weight.
BP	Blood pressure.
BLS	Basic life support includes CPR and removal of foreign body airway obstruction.
CAT scan	Computerized axial tomography—another form of diagnostic imaging.
CHF	Congestive heart failure
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a life-saving technique that’s also called mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
DNR	Do not resuscitate. A medical order indicating providers should not perform CPR or other life-saving measures on a patient.
DOA	Dead on arrival
ED/ER	Emergency department or emergency room.
EEG	Measures brain activity.
EKG/ECG	Electrocardiogram. Records the electrical signals in the heart.
EMS	Emergency medical services.
HR	Heart rate, expressed as beats per minute.
KUB	Kidney, ureter, and bladder x-ray, commonly used for diagnosing abdominal pain
LFT	Liver function test.
NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen).
OR	Operating room where surgeries are
OT	Occupational therapy.

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Psych	Refers to psychiatry practice or the psychiatric ward.
PT	Physical therapy—rehabilitative exercises used to rebuild strength
Rx	Shorthand for prescription, usually for medication but can also signify another treatment.
U/A	Urinalysis—the process of testing patient urine for signs of kidney failure, dehydration, diabetes, undernourishment, or bladder, kidney infection and more
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection.

Office of Research Administration Definition List	
Adverse Event (AE)	Any unfavorable and unintended sign (including abnormal laboratory findings), symptom, or disease temporally associated with the use of a medicinal (investigational) product; not necessarily related to the product.
Assent	Agreement to participate in proposed research, given by an individual not competent to give legally valid informed consent (e.g., a child or mentally limited person).
Belmont Report	A statement of basic ethical principles governing research involving human subjects issued by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects in 1978.
Clinical Trial	A controlled study involving human subjects, designed to evaluate prospectively the safety and effectiveness of new drugs or devices or of behavioral interventions.
Case Report Form	A case report form (or CRF) is a paper or electronic questionnaire specifically used in clinical trial research to collect specific data needed in order to test hypotheses or answer research questions.
Form FDA 1572	A form testifying to the investigator's agreement to follow the protocol and the FDA requirements for investigators.
GCP	Good Clinical Practice (GCP) is an international quality standard that is provided by International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH), an international body that defines standards, which governments can transpose into regulations for clinical trials involving human subjects.
Investigational Device Exemptions (IDE)	Exemptions from certain regulations found in the Medical Device Amendments that allow shipment of unapproved devices for use in clinical investigations.
Investigational New Drug (IND)	A drug permitted by the FDA to be tested in humans but not yet determined to be safe and effective for a particular use in the general population, and thus, not yet licensed for marketing.
Informed Consent Document	A document that describes the rights of the study participants, and includes details about the study, such as its purpose, duration, required procedures, and key contacts. Risks and potential benefits are explained in the informed consent document.
Institutional Review Board (IRB)	A committee of physicians, statisticians, researchers, community advocates, and others that ensures that a clinical trial is ethical and that the rights of study participants are protected.
Peer Review	Review of a clinical trial by experts chosen by the study sponsor. These experts review the trials for scientific merit, participant safety, and ethical considerations.
Protocol	A study plan on which all clinical trials are based. The plan is carefully designed to safeguard the health of the participants as well as answer specific research questions. A protocol describes what types of people may participate in the trial; the schedule of tests, procedures, medications, and dosages; and the length of the study.
Recruiting	The period during which a trial is attempting to identify and enroll participants.
Serious Adverse Event (SAE)	An adverse event is any undesirable experience associated with the use of a medical product in a patient. The event is serious and should be reported to FDA when the patient outcome is Death, Life Threatening, Hospitalization (initial or prolonged), Disability or Permanent Damage, Congenital Anomaly/Birth Defect, Required Intervention to Prevent Impairment or Damage (Devices) and other serious (Important medical Events).
Source Data	All information in <i>original</i> records and <i>certified copies</i> of original records of clinical findings, observations, or other activities in a clinical trial necessary for the

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	reconstruction and evaluation of the trial. <i>ICH E6 1.51</i>
Sponsor	The company/person who initiates the study.
Sponsor Investigator	An individual who both initiates and conducts, alone or with others, a clinical trial, and under whose immediate direction the investigational product is administered to, dispensed to, or used by a subject.
Standard of Care	Treatment regimen or medical management based on state-of-the-art participant care.
Third Party Payor	An institution or company that provides reimbursement to health care providers for services rendered to a third party (i.e., the patient).

Medical Terminology – Patient Statuses	
Acute	Patient with a sudden flare-up or potentially severe issue who needs immediate care.
Critical	Patient’s vital signs are out of the normal range and patient may be unconscious.
Inpatient	Status of a patient who requires hospital admission.
Observation	A temporary status that allows patients to continue receiving care for a set amount of time in the hospital while the physician determines whether admission or discharge is best.
Outpatient	A patient who is not admitted to a hospital for overnight care. This can include clinic visits, same-day surgeries, and one-day emergency room visits.
Medical Terminology – Patient Conditions	
Abrasion	A wound that typically only affects the skin.
Abscess	A tender, pus-filled pocket usually due to infection.
Acute	Signifies a condition that begins abruptly and is sometimes severe, but usually short.
Aneurysm	A bulge in the wall of an artery that weakens the artery and can lead to rupture
Aortic dissection	A tear in the inner layer of the aorta.
Bradycardia	A slowing of the heart rate—typically less than 60 beats per minute for adults
Benign	Usually in reference to tumors or growth, meaning not cancerous or malignant.
Biopsy	A small sample of tissue taken for testing to discover the cause or extent of a disease
Chronic	Signifies a recurring, persistent condition, usually more than three months.
Contusion	A bruise typically from impact or force.

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Cyanosis	Condition resulting bluish skin, stems from lack of oxygen in the blood.
Diagnosis	Identification of a condition, disease or disorder by evaluation of symptoms, tests and other factors.
Thrombosis	A blood clot within a blood vessel that affects normal blood flow.
Edema	Swelling caused by fluid accumulation.
Embolus	A blood clot, air bubble or other obstruction blocking blood flow in the affected blood vessel
Fracture	Broken bone ranging from a crack to a complete break.
Atrial fibrillation	An uncoordinated, quivering movement of the heart muscle resulting in an irregular pulse and poor blood flow.
Hypertension	Abnormally high blood pressure.
Hypotension	Abnormally low blood pressure.
Ischemia	Characterized by a lack of blood flow to an organ or part of the body. Often refers to the heart-cardiac ischemia
Malignant	In reference to tumors or growths—indicating the presence of cancerous cells.
Cancer	Collection of related diseases where some of the body’s cells multiply out of control spreading into surrounding tissues and interfering with normal body function.
Normal sinus rhythm	A normal heartbeat pattern, typically between 60 and 80 beats per minute in an adult.
Pericardial effusion	Blood or fluid leaking into the pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart.
Myocardial infarction:	When an arterial blockage or slow blood flow deprives the heart of blood. Known more commonly as a heart attack.
Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)	Commonly called a stroke. Occurs when the brain is deprived of blood and oxygen by either a blockage or the rupture of a blood vessel.
Sepsis	A serious condition caused the body’s response to severe infection. Occurs when the body’s infection-fighting response gets out of balance and can lead to severe issues like organ failure.
Tumor	A swelling or mass, often used in relation to cancer.
Tension pneumothorax	A collapsed lung that occurs when air leaks into the space between the lungs and the

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	chest wall.
Angina	A disease in which narrowing of the arteries supplying the heart results in reduced blood flow and chest pain. Usually a symptom of coronary artery disease.
<i>Tools, equipment, medication terms</i>	
Endoscope	A long flexible tube with its own special lighting and camera used to look into the body. There are many specific kinds of endoscopes.
Foley	An indwelling catheter. A thin flexible tube inserted into the urethra to drain the bladder
Fluoroscope	An X-ray machine
Stethoscope.	A small instrument used for listening to a patient's breathing and heartbeat
Intravenous (IV)	Indicates medication or fluid given through the vein.
Epidural	An injection of a local anesthetic to the lumbar level of the spin often used to relieve pain during labor.
Sublingual	Meaning "below the tongue," typically seen with medication administered by dissolving it under the patients' tongue.
Nocte	Latin for "at night", typically in reference to when medication should be administered.
Mane	Latin for "in the morning", typically in reference to when medication should be administered.
OD	When referring to medication instructions, "once daily."
BDS	Latin, "bis die sumendum" meaning take two times per day.
TDS	Latin, "ter die sumendum" meaning take three times per day.
QDS	Latin, "quarter die sumendum" meaning take 4 times per day.
PRN	Latin, "pro re nata" or take as needed.
PR	Latin, "per rectum" to be taken rectally.
PO	Latin, "per orem" to be taken by mouth or orally.

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IV push	A direct, rapid injection of medication delivered intravenously
NS	Normal saline—a mixture of salt and water similar to what the body produces.
Medical Terminology – Medical Procedures	
Blood culture	A test used to find any unusual bacteria or fungi in a patient’s blood.
Blood gas	A test to show the gas-phase components of blood including oxygen, carbon dioxide, pH balance, etc.
Blood pressure	Measure of how well the blood is circulating. Normal blood pressure measure about 120/80 for adults.
Blood swab	A blood sample taken with a cotton-tipped stick.
Bowel disimpaction	Manual removal of hardened fecal matter from a patient's rectum.
Central line	Catheter placed in a large vein that allows multiple IV fluids to be given and blood to be drawn more easily.
C-section	Shorthand for cesarean section the surgical delivery of a baby through the abdominal wall
Puls/ox	Pulse oximetry, a measure of oxygen saturation in blood.
Dialysis	Procedure to filter blood for patients with kidney failure.
Pulse	Measure of a pulsating artery.
Intubation	Insertion of an endotracheal tube to assist patient breathing.
Laparotomy	Any surgery involving an incision in the abdominal wall.
Lumbar puncture	Withdrawal of cerebrospinal fluid through a hollow needle inserted into the lumbar region. Also referred to as a spinal tap.
Sternotomy	Surgical opening of the breastbone.



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Thoracotomy	Surgery on the chest cavity.
Tox screen	Toxicological analysis of the blood. Ordered when a drug overdose is suspected and the drugs need to be identified.
Ultrasound	A form of diagnostic imaging that uses high-frequency sound waves
Venipuncture	The drawing of blood from a vein.

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