

Common Acronyms in the Senior Service World*

Category Key

Housing ● Homecare/Respite ●	Local, Statewide & Federal Services/Programs ● Medical/Hospital/Insurance ● Professionals ●	Advanced Directives ● Miscellaneous ●
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Acronym & Category	Meaning	Information
AAA ●	Area Agency on Aging	Local advocate agencies that help seniors and their caregivers find community resources
AARP ●	American Association of Retired Persons	An interest group that focuses on the issues facing citizens over 50, including caregiving
ACF ●	Adult Care Facility	Includes adult homes and all types of assisted living facilities
ADHC ●	Adult Day Health Care	A day program that provides medical care along with socialization, meals, etc
ADLs ●	Activities of Daily Living	The basic activities a person does on a daily basis to take care of themselves. Examples include dressing, bathing, preparing food, toileting and more
ADS ●	Adult Day Services	Respite for caregivers during the day
AL ●	Assisted Living	A type of housing for seniors that may need some assistance but are not yet ready for a nursing home
ALP ●	Assisted Living Program	Provides supportive housing for those that would qualify for a nursing home but their needs can be met in a lower cost facility. Paid for by Medicaid.
APS ●	Adult Protective Services	NYS Hotline to report adult abuse: 1-844-697-3505 or call county social services office
BID ●	Twice a Day	Medical shorthand for "twice a day," can be found on prescriptions or other medical orders
CDC ● ●	Consumer Directed Choices	A local provider that acts as financial intermediary for CDPAP https://www.cdchoices.org/
CDPAP ● ●	Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program	A Medicaid funded program that allows a person who is chronically ill or disabled the freedom to choose their caregivers. They are responsible for hiring, firing, training, etc.

CHHA ●●	Certified Home Health Agency	An organization that provides certified in-home care including personal care
CM ●	Case Manager (or Management)	A professional designated to coordinate services for a resident and/or patient utilizing a network of resources
CMS ●	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	A part of the HHS that administers Medicare, works with state governments to administer Medicaid, sets standards for LTC facilities, etc https://www.cms.gov/
CNA ●	Certified Nursing Assistant	A professional who can perform certain nursing services under the supervision of a registered nurse
CRCC ●	Capital Region Caregiver Coalition	A local group of professionals in the Capital Region whose mission is to help caregivers in the area
CSSC ●●●	Colonie Senior Service Centers	A local organization that offers a variety of senior services including SADS, congregate dining, transportation and more https://colonieseniors.org/
DME ●	Durable Medical Equipment	Medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, hospital beds, oxygen tanks and other useful equipment to help someone in the home
DNR ●	Do Not Resuscitate	A form, signed by a doctor, letting medical professionals know a patient does not want CPR if the heart stops beating
DON ●	Director of Nursing	A registered nurse in a facility that takes an administrative role to determine standards of care
DPOA ●	Durable Power of Attorney	A type of power of attorney (POA) that means the appointed person remains in place even if the person becomes incapacitated.
EAP ●	Employee Assistance Program	An employee benefit program that assists employees with issues they may have in their personal & professional lives
EAS ●●	Eddy Alzheimer's Services	A local organization providing free support for those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers https://www.sphp.com/find-a-service-or-specialty/memory-care-and-alzheimers/eddy-alzheimers-services/
EALR ●	Enhanced Assisted Living Residence	These AL's have a certification from NYSDOH which allows these facilities to go beyond the usual care for a resident, providing them care to age in place

EISEP ●●	Expanded In-Home Services to the Elderly Program	An income-based program that assesses a senior then assists with setting up in-home care. Those already receiving in-home care through Medicaid, Medicare, etc would not be eligible. Contact local office for aging.
EHP ●	Enriched Housing Program	Long term residency for seniors in small, community-integrated settings that provide skilled care
FMLA ●	Family Medical Leave Act	A U.S. labor law that requires certain employers to cover qualified employees with unpaid leave to care of family with medical or other qualifying needs.
HCBS ●●●	Home & Community Based Services	Care provided to Medicaid recipients with services in the community and/or home rather than in a facility
HEAP ●	Home Energy Assistance Program	Helps low income citizens pay for heat related issues. Contact local office for aging
HHA ●	Home Health Aide	A person that provides in-home care including personal care
HHS ●	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	Federal department intended to enhance the health and well-being of citizens
HIICAP ●●	Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program	A certified third party counselor can help with Medicare and other insurance questions. NYS: 1-800-701-0501 or contact local office for aging
IADLs ●	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living	Daily skills that may not be necessary but help keep an individual independent. Examples include shopping, medication management, laundry and more
IL ●	Independent Living	Housing for seniors who can maintain an independent lifestyle with little or no supportive services
ILCHV ●	Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley	Offers an array of supportive services for those with disabilities of all kinds. https://www.ilchv.org/
JFS ●	Jewish Family Services	A local organization that provides resources and services to Capital Region residents https://www.jfsneny.org/
LMSW and LCSW ●	Licensed Master Social Worker & Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Both work to provide social work services but a LCSW can also independently provide mental health services and provide clinical therapy.

LPN •	Licensed Professional Nurse	A professional who can perform nursing services under the supervision of a doctor or registered nurse, must obtain license
LTC •	Long Term Care	A general term for care needed for seniors
LTCI •	Long Term Care Insurance	An insurance model that provides coverage for services needed as one ages. This may include home care, ADS, SNF placement but it depends on the policy
MLTC •	Managed Long Term Care	A program for those with Medicaid & Medicare that provides services, based on an assessment, in order to keep an individual home https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/mltc/
MMSE •	Mini-Mental State Examination	A brief test to determine cognitive status
MOLST •	Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment	Usually for terminally ill patients, it is a form that makes the patient's end-of-life wishes known
MOW •	Meals on Wheels	A service that delivers meals to homebound seniors
NHTD Waiver •	Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver	A Medicaid waiver program that provides necessary services to those who would otherwise be in a nursing home
NORC •	Naturally Occurring Retirement Community	A system of services put in place to help those living and aging at home, it is a collective of community agencies, residents and professionals https://aging.ny.gov/naturally-occurring-retirement-community-norc
NPO •	Nothing by Mouth	Medical shorthand for "nothing by mouth"
NYSOFA •	New York State Office For Aging	A state department providing advocacy, assistance and resources in order to keep residents as independent as long as possible https://www.ny.gov/agencies/office-aging
OFA •	Office for Aging	All NYS counties have an Office for Aging, providing information and local resources to county residents
OPWDD •	Office for People with Developmental Disabilities	A state agency that helps coordinate services with those with developmental disabilities https://opwdd.ny.gov/

OT ●	Occupational Therapy	A type of therapy to assist patients in improving or maintaining basic daily living needs
PACE ●●●	Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly	Supports seniors at home by bringing their medical care to them or by visiting a nearby center. https://www.sphp.com/find-a-service-or-specialty/senior-services/pace/
PCA ●	Personal Care Assistant	A professional that offers assistance with day-to-day activities in order to maintain their independence (also can be found in a hospital setting)
PCP ●	Primary Care Physician	A doctor who oversees a patient's overall health, referring to specialists as needed
PERS ●	Personal Emergency Response System	Essentially the "I've-fallen-and-I-can't-get-up" button but it can be offered with different features including GPS or fall detection
PHI ●	Protected Health Information	Medical information that can be used to identify an individual including payment status, diagnosis, treatment and other sensitive information - tied to HIPAA
POA ●	Power of Attorney	A legal document that appoints someone to make decisions for someone with their input
PRI ●	Patient Review Instrument	An assessment tool used to determine nursing home eligibility
PRN ●	As needed	Medical shorthand for "as needed," can be found on prescriptions or other medical orders
PT ●	Physical Therapy	A type of therapy that improves or maintains physical abilities
QD ●	Every Day	Medical shorthand for "every day"
RAI ●	Resident Assessment Instrument	Often used in nursing homes or ADHCs, it is a tool that assesses a resident/participant's needs in order to prepare and implement appropriate care plans
RSVP ●	Retired & Senior Volunteer Program	A local organization that facilitates a relationship for seniors who would like to volunteer and organizations that need volunteers
SADS ●	Social Adult Day Services	A day program that provides, socialization, meals, etc but no medical care
SNAP ●	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Helps low income citizens in need of nutrition benefits. Contact county social services office

SNF ●	Skilled Nursing Facility	Otherwise known as a nursing home. Provides the highest level of care for their residents
SSA ●	Social Security Administration	Independent agency of the federal government that administers social security
SSDI ●	Social Security Disabilities Insurance	A payroll tax-funded federal government plan that provides benefits to those who medically determined unable to work
ST ●	Speech Therapy	A type of therapy that improves or maintains one's communication, speech, language and/or swallowing
TBI Waiver ●	Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver	A Medicaid waiver program that provides services to those with a TBI in order to prevent nursing home admittance
UAS ●	Universal Assessment System	An assessment tool used to determine an individual's need for services for a MLTC or other HCBS programs
VA ● ● ●	Veterans Affairs	Federal department intended to assist U.S. veterans, including hospital, social work, homecare services and more

*this is not a complete list nor should it be considered recommendations