



## Glossary: Getting to Appropriate Care

Debates seeking to improve healthcare delivery and control health spending often focus on reducing the provision of low- or no-value care. Yet, research shows that Americans are only receiving 55% of recommended care, so the goal of reducing low-value care needs to be balanced with an emphasis on increasing the provision of high value care. This mini-glossary lists terms you may encounter with respect to strategies that help us get to *appropriate care*. More resources can be found at: [HealthcareValueHub.org/Appropriate-Care](http://HealthcareValueHub.org/Appropriate-Care)

Term	Acronym	Definition
Appropriate Care		Care that achieves desired outcomes, is consistent with evidence-based practice and considers patient preferences.
Choosing Wisely		An initiative led by the ABIM foundation that seeks to advance a national dialogue on avoiding unnecessary medical tests, treatments and procedures. For more, see: <a href="http://www.choosingwisely.org">http://www.choosingwisely.org</a>
Clinical Nuance		Clinical nuance recognizes 1) medical services will differ in the amount of health produced for any given patient; and 2) the clinical benefit derived from a medical intervention is dependent on who is using it, who is delivering the service and where it is being delivered. Because of clinical nuance, guidelines on which care is appropriate must be flexible.
Clinical Waste		Healthcare services that provide low or no health benefits over the less costly alternatives, including those that have detrimental health effects ( <i>no-value care</i> ) or small positive health effects compared to less costly alternatives ( <i>low-value care</i> ).
Clinically Preventable Burden		The health impact of an intervention, defined as the disease, injury, and premature death that would be prevented if the service were delivered at recommended levels.
Community Based Prevention		Interventions that reach people outside of traditional healthcare settings (like schools or worksites). These programs encourage health and wellness by educating community members or by introducing changes to the community that promote better health or reduce factors that contribute to health problems.
Cost-Effectiveness		The average net medical cost per quality-adjusted life year gained by offering the service at recommended intervals.



Term	Acronym	Definition
High Value Healthcare Services	HVC	Healthcare services that are of proven value and have no significant tradeoffs -- that is, the benefits of the services so far outweigh the risks that all patients with specific medical conditions should receive them. Also known as <i>Effective Care</i> .
High Value Healthcare System		A patient centered healthcare system where all incentives are aligned to create an environment where providers can give the best care possible by using resources efficiently to optimize patient care and reduce health inequities.
Low Value Healthcare Services	LVC	Unnecessary, inefficient healthcare services that provide little or no benefit to the patient; some of these services cause patient harm. We need to do <b>less</b> of this care.
Operational Waste		A form of healthcare waste representing four types of inefficient and unnecessary uses of resources: duplication of services, inefficient processes, overly expensive services, and errors.
Quality-Adjusted Life Year	QALY	A measure of disease burden which includes both the quality and quantity of life lived. Used to assess the value of a medical intervention. A year of perfect health is equal to 1.0 QALY. A year of ill health would be discounted.
Shared Decision Making	SDM	Shared decision making is a process that allows patients and their providers to make health care decisions together, taking into account the best scientific evidence available, as well as the patient's values and preferences.
Social Return on Investment	SROI	Similar to financial ROI but <b>Social Return on Investment</b> shows a more meaningful bottom line: the financial impact AND the social impact of the investment; brings social, environmental, economic and other outcomes into the decision-making process.
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	USPSTF	An independent, volunteer panel of national experts in disease prevention and evidence-based medicine. The Task Force works to improve the health by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services. For more, see <a href="https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org">https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org</a>