

Glossary of Terms

Alzheimer's Disease: A progressive and irreversible brain disease. Early symptoms include forgetfulness, impaired concentration, and intellectual deterioration. Later as symptoms worsen, the persons becomes physically and intellectually disabled.

Arthritis: Arthritis includes over a hundred different diseases, often involving aches and pains in the joints and connective tissues throughout the body. The most common types of arthritis in older persons are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and gout.

Assistive Technology Devices: Any items or pieces of equipment that enable people to maintain or improve their functioning, and help them to better achieve their goals.

Augmentative Communication: People normally interact with one another using speech as their primary mode of communication. Augmentative communication occurs when at least one of these individuals relies primarily on other modes of communication. Examples of augmentative communication are: sign language, paper and pencil, alphabet letter boards, and computer systems.

Braces: An orthopedic appliance or apparatus applied to the body, particularly the torso, arms, and legs. These appliances may support the weight of the body, correct or prevent deformities, or control involuntary movements.

Braille: A system of writing for the blind that uses characters made of raised dot patterns.

Captioning: Written interpretations of both dialogue and scene that appear at the bottom of the television or video screen.

Dexterity: Skill and ease in using one's hands, body, or mind.

Dosage: The regulation of the size, frequency, and number of doses.

Dose: The quantity to be given at one time, as a specified amount of medication.

Enlarged Print: Text increased in size to improve visibility. Large printed text is commonly used by individuals with low or limited vision.

Environmental Control Units: Hardware and/or software systems that allow spontaneous and programmed control over remote, electrically operated appliances.

Hard of Hearing: Partial loss of the sense of hearing.

Hearing Aids: an instrument used to amplify sounds for the hard of hearing.

Impaired Vision: Loss of the eye, visual acuity, visual field, ability to distinguish colors, motion, or any other function related to sight.

Limitation: Some factor in makeup which restricts the scope of a person's activity or accomplishment.

Limited Mobility: The inability to move about physically in some way.

Manually Operated: Of or having to do with use of the hands. Without electrical or other power.

Mobility: The ability to move in one's environment with ease and without restriction.

Pager: An electronic device that sends or receives an electronic signal or vibrating alert.

Positioning: The manner in which a person is placed or arranged; posture, seating.

Range of Motion: The movement available in a joint.

Speed Dial: A telephone function that allows you to automatically dial a telephone number by pressing one or two buttons. Not available on rotary phones.

Strobe Lights: An electronically regulated light that can emit extremely rapid, brief, and brilliant flashes of light.

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): A telephone system that allows deaf or hard of hearing individuals to communicate by typing and receiving messages through a monitor.

Transferring: The moving of a patient from one surface to another. Patients can be taught to transfer safely either independently or with minimal assistance if they can balance in a sitting position.

Vendor: A seller of products.