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Reviewed by

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### **Biographical Information**

*Laura McLachlin is a Professor in the Department of Recreation and Parks Management at California State University, Chico. Her teaching and research interests are in the area of therapeutic recreation. Family leisure, leisure education, and resource development and advocacy for people with disabilities are her specific areas of interest.*

Professionals working in the health care industry are expected to possess an extensive knowledge about medical terminology and abbreviations. This becomes particularly challenging when terms have several interpretations. Furthermore, a lack of useful and accessible reference materials exist in the health care field.

Health care educators and students also face this challenge of inadequate reference materials. To uphold quality educational programs, health care educators must maintain currency in the field, use the most up-to-date resources, and provide students with accurate, accessible information. Historically, this has been a difficult challenge to meet.

Three resources that address this need are reviewed: *Medical Abbreviations for the Health Professions*, *Glossary for Therapists*, and *Study Guide for Glossary for Therapists*. Each of the resources may be used independently. However, the reviewer believes that when used together, the resources lend support to each other and serve as an invaluable collection of reference materials.

#### *Medical Abbreviations for the Health Professions*

*Medical Abbreviations for the Health Professions* is a pocket-size, 60 page quick reference of medical abbreviations found in clinical and non-clinical settings. Abbreviations are listed in alphabetical order. Miscellaneous symbols often used in medical charting, the Greek alphabet, and legislation impacting allied health are included in separate

sections of the book. This collection of materials, excluding the listing of legislation, can also be found in the back of the *Glossary for Therapists*. For purposes of this review and to avoid duplicity, those sections reviewed under *Medical Abbreviations for the Health Professions*, were not reviewed under *Glossary for Therapists*.

The listing of medical abbreviations is extensive and appropriate for health care professions working in clinical and non-clinical settings or undergraduate students studying in this area. Although it does not claim to serve as the final word, it does integrate abbreviations and terminology for multiple authorities. Because some medical abbreviations are interpreted differently from setting to setting, users should consider the context and use their agency's preferred abbreviations.

Miscellaneous symbols are provided in a separate section of the book. There is a sufficient selection of the more commonly used charting symbols found in clinical settings. As with medical abbreviations, charting symbols can vary considerably from setting to setting. Users of this guide should keep this in mind and make the necessary adjustments.

The section on legislation impacting allied health care is a valuable resource, particularly for new professionals or students. Often health care professionals are expected to know legislation titles and numbers that impact their service. This reference provides legislation listed according to public law number and a brief summary of the legislation in easily understood language.

### *Glossary for Therapists*

*Glossary for Therapists* provides a comprehensive collection of terms commonly used by health care professionals. A basic medical definition of each term is provided. Other areas of content include an analytical list, units of measure, medical abbreviations, miscellaneous charting symbols, and the Greek alphabet.

This glossary extends beyond the function of a medical dictionary. Although it provides basic medical definitions, information for therapeutic use is also covered. For each term, implications for therapeutic intervention, functional ability, and application to activity are included. These thorough descriptions serve as valuable information to undergraduate students as well as health care professionals. Although this resource offers thousands of words, the authors realize there are many more terms to define and invite individuals to submit definitions to be used in future editions.

The analytical list is a collection of prefixes and suffixes commonly used in clinical settings. Particularly for undergraduate students who are learning medical terminology, this section is a beneficial resource. A general understanding of units of measure becomes important for practitioners and students of health care when communicating with other medical professionals. A brief section on units of measure is provided in

*Glossary for Therapists.* Temperature, distance, weights, and velocity are examples of the simple, clear definitions offered. An extensive reference section completes this book and provides a collection of resources to locate additional information about terminology used in the health care field.

### *Study Guide for Glossary for Therapists*

*Study Guide for Glossary for Therapists* serves as a teaching supplement to the *Glossary for Therapists*. The study guide provides a bank of test questions on health care terminology. Several hundred multiple-choice questions are listed alphabetically by key terms. Answers for test items are located in the back of the study guide.

The questions are designed for senior level undergraduates and entry-level health care professionals. Areas of content include but are not limited to geriatrics, psychiatry, orthopedics, rehabilitation, treatment modalities, reimbursement, service delivery models, and assessment instruments. The terminology used for the test items can be found in the *Glossary for Therapists*. The items are constructed well and offer a challenge to students interested in determining their understanding of health care terms. The guide could also serve as a supplement for professionals preparing to sit for a state and/or national certification examination.

The study guide is also available in MS Word for Windows version 7.0. This format provides educators with an invaluable resource of ready-made test items which can be easily selected based on key terms.

All materials described in this review can serve as effective teaching and reference tools for health care professionals, educators, and students. Each source is well written, user-friendly, and provides current information about the health care field.