

## **ABJHI GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Adverse event** – An occurrence that creates unfavourable or undesirable results.

**Analgesic** – A medication that alleviates pain.

**Anemia** – A medical condition caused by an abnormally low number of red blood cells, which contain a protein that carries oxygen in the blood to the body's tissues.

**Anticoagulant** – A condition that delays blood clotting, causing prolonged bleeding, or a drug that suppresses, delays or prevents blood clots from forming in the bloodstream.

**ASA score** – American Society of Anesthesiologists' measure of risk associated with health factors, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

**Baseline characteristics** – The demographic, clinical, and other data collected for each participant before the start of a clinical trial.

**Benchmarking** – The practice of comparing an organization's performance with that of others in the same or similar areas of endeavour. It involves measuring performance relative to others in the areas that matter the most to an organization, identifying the outstanding performers and using this information as a tool used to foster continuous improvement and achieve improved results.

**Bilateral joint surgery** – Total joint replacement of both hips or both knees during a single operation.

**Blinded review** – A clinical trial in which patients and/or investigators do not know who is receiving the intervention being investigated (also known as a blinded trial) and who is receiving the standard or conventional intervention or a placebo. In a single-blinded review, only the patients do now know this information. In a double-blinded review, neither the patients nor the investigators know this information. In a triple-blinded review, the knowledge is also withheld from those who are analyzing the data.

**BMI** – Body mass index, a measure of body fat based on height and weight. It is calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters squared. The higher the BMI the higher the percentage of body fat.

**Co-morbidity** – the presence of more than one medical condition at the same time (also known as concurrent health conditions).

**Concurrent health conditions** – The presence of more than one medical condition at the same time (also known as comorbidity).

**Confounding factor** – A characteristic or attribute that differs for different subjects and is related to a study result or outcome. For example, body weight could be a confounding factor in a study because it will differ widely among the participants in the study. A confounding factor may conceal an association between the characteristics or attributes in the study, or it may demonstrate falsely that an association exists between them.

**Congestive heart failure** -- The final stage in almost any type of heart disease during which the heart muscle weakens and is unable to pump enough blood to the body.

**Continuum of care** – A continuous series of events that blend together to form a complete and seamless treatment program for patients.

**Control group** – A group of participants in a clinical trial who receive no intervention, a standard or conventional intervention, or a placebo. In a randomized, controlled trial, the outcomes of the control group are compared with those of one or more intervention groups whose members received the drug, device, therapy or procedure being investigated.

**Ethics approval** – The review of research protocol and other relevant project documentation by a Research Ethics Board to provide assurance that the dignity, rights, integrity and well-being of research subjects will be protected, that they will be treated fairly, and that their free and informed consent to participate will be given prior to the start of the research. Ethics approval is required for any research involving human subjects.

**Health Quality Council of Alberta** – an independent organization established to promote patient safety and health service quality across Alberta.

**Hypertension** – A medical condition in which constricted arterial blood vessels increase the resistance to blood flow, causing the heart to work harder to pump blood through the narrowed arteries (also known as high blood pressure).

**Intention-to-treat analysis** – An analysis of clinical trial data in which all participants are included based on their original assignment to intervention or control groups, regardless of whether they failed to participate fully in the trial for any reason, including whether they actually received their assigned treatment, dropped out of the trial, or crossed over to another group in the trial.

**Intervention** – In the clinical sense, a treatment, such as a drug, device, therapy or procedure, to relieve or prevent a medical problem.

**Intervention group** – A group of participants in a clinical trial who receive the intervention, such as a drug, device, therapy or procedure, being investigated. In a randomized, controlled trial, the outcomes of the intervention group are compared with those of a control group whose members may receive no intervention, a standard or conventional intervention, or a placebo.

**Ischemic heart disease** – A condition caused by reduced blood supply to the heart.

**Mean** – An intermediate position in a range of numbers, such as an average.

**Metal-on-metal hip resurfacing** – A technique that involves removing the diseased surface of bone within the hip joint and covering these surfaces with metal implants. This typically involves removing the surface of the head of the femur – the main bone in the thigh – and reshaping it to accept a metal cap with a short stem that is inserted into the femur. The surface of the hip socket – the cavity into which the femur fits – is also removed and a cup-shaped metal implant is inserted. The femur cap and resurfaced hip socket create a metal-on-metal contact within the joint.

**Patient mobilization** – The process of getting a patient to walk independently or with assistance.

**Patient optimization** – The process by which patients achieve their best or most effective level of function or wellbeing prior to surgery.

**Pulmonary embolism** – A condition in which a blood clot or other foreign substance lodges in the lungs and blocks the major pulmonary arteries.

**Randomized, controlled trial** – (Also known as randomized, controlled study or randomized clinical trial). A study or experiment in which individuals with similar conditions are assigned randomly to one of two or more study groups (including one or more groups whose members receive the intervention being studied, such as a drug, device, therapy or procedure, and a control group whose members receive a placebo, a standard or conventional intervention, or no intervention at all). Outcomes are followed and compared. A randomized, controlled study is prospective because the data for the study is collected after individuals have been assigned randomly to the study groups.

**Restrictive lung disease** – Any of a number of conditions that increase the force trying to collapse the lung and decrease lung volume, restricting the lung's ability to transport oxygen into the bloodstream.

**Sensitivity analysis** – A means to determine whether the results of a study are altered when certain data are included, excluded or changed.

**Spinal anaesthesia** – The injection of anaesthesia into the fluid surrounding the spinal cord to numb the lower half of the body.

**Surgical yield** – The percentage of patients with a similar condition who undergo surgery, once those who do not require surgery or do not want surgery are removed.

**WOMAC** – The Western Ontario and McMaster Universities arthritis index. It is used to measure pain, disability and joint stiffness associated with osteoarthritis of the hip or knee and to detect changes in health status following an intervention.