The following are acronyms that are frequently used when discussing psychiatric practice issues:

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous

AAAP: American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

AABH: Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare

AACAP: American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

AAHP: American Association of Health Plans

AAP: American Academy of Psychoanalysis

AAPHO: American Association of Physician-Hospital Organizations

AAPPP: American Association of Private Practice Psychiatrists

AAPPO: American Association of Preferred Provider Organizations

ACP: American College of Physicians

ACR: Adjusted community rate

ACSW: Academy of Certified Social Workers

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

ADS: Alternative delivery system

AFDC: Aid to Families with Dependent Children

AHA: American Hospital Association

AHCPR: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

ALOC: Alternative level of care

ALOS: Average length of stay

AMA: American Medical Association

AMBHA: American Managed Behavioral Healthcare Association

AMCRA: American Managed Care and Review Association

AMPRA: American Medical Peer Review Association

APA: American Psychiatric Association

APG: Ambulatory patient group

ASO: Administrative services only

AWP: Any willing provider

CAC: Certified addictions counselor

CD: Chemical dependence

CHAMPUS: Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services

CMHS: Center for Mental Health Services

CMI: Case-mix index

COA: Certificate of authority

COB: Coordination of benefits

COBRA: Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act

COC: Certificate of coverage

CON: Certificate of need

CPI: Consumer Price Index

CPT: Current procedural terminology

CRC: Certified rehabilitation counselor

CQI: Continuous quality improvement

CSO: Claims services only

DAW: Dispense as written

DCI: Duplicate coverage inquiry

DFFS: Discounted fee-for-service

DME: Durable medical equipment

DOH: Department of Health

DOS: Date of service

DRG: Diagnosis-related groups

DSM-IV: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (fourth edition)

DUE: Drug use evaluation

DUR: Drug utilization review

Dx: Diagnosis

EAP: Employee assistance program

EOB: Explanation of benefits

EOI: Evidence of insurance

EPO: Exclusive provider organization

ERISA: Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974

FFS: Fee-for-service

FSA: Flexible spending account

FTE: Full-time equivalent

GHAA: Group Health Association of America

HCFA: Health Care Financing Administration

HCPCS: HCFA common procedural coding system

HEDIS: Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set

HHA: Home health agency

HHS: Department of Health and Human Services

HIAA: Health Insurance Association of America

HMO: Health maintenance organization

HPA: Health purchasing alliance

IBH: Institute for Behavioral Healthcare

IBNR: Incurred but not reported

ICD: International classification of diseases

IOM: Institute of Medicine

IPA: Independent provider/practitioner association

JCAHO: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

LCSW: Licensed clinical social worker

MAC: Maximum allowable charge

MCO: Managed care organization

MDC: Major diagnostic category

MH: Mental health

MIS: Management information system

MOB: Maintenance of benefits

MOE: Maintenance of effort

MSA: Medical savings account

MSO: Management services organization

NA: Narcotics Anonymous

NAEHCA: National Association of Employers on Health Care Action

NAHMOR: National Association of HMO Regulators

NAIC: National Association of Insurance Commissioners

NAMI: National Alliance for the Mentally III

NAPHS: National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems

NASW: National Association for Social Workers

NAPDP: National Association of Prescription Drug Programs

NCQA: National Committee on Quality Assurance

NDMDA: National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association

NIH: National Institutes for Health

NIMH: National Institute for Mental Health

NMHA: National Mental Health Association

NPDB: National Practitioner Data Bank

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PCCM: Primary care case management

PCN: Primary care network

PCP: Primary care physician

PEPM: Per employee per month

PHO: Physician-hospital organization

PMPM: Per member per month

POS: Point of service

PPO: Preferred provider organization

PPRC: Physician Payment Review Commission

PPS: Prospective payment system

PRO: Peer review organization

ProPAC: Prospective Payment Assessment Commission

PSRO: Professional Standards Review Organization

QA: Quality assurance

QI: Quality improvement

RBRVS: Resource-based relative value scale

R&C: Reasonable and customary

Rx: Prescription

SA: Substance abuse

SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

TPA: Third-party administrator

TQM: Total quality management

Tx: Treatment

UM: Utilization management

UCR: Usual, customary, and reasonable

UR: Utilization review

URAC: Utilization Review Accreditation Commission

VA: Veterans Administration