**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS GLOSSARY**

**ACO: Accountable Care Organization**
An ACO is a network of doctors and hospitals that shares responsibility for providing care to patients. Under the Medicare Pioneer ACO program, developed to implement provisions of federal health reform, an ACO would agree to manage all of the health care needs of a minimum of 5,000 Medicare beneficiaries for at least three years. The Boston market has five of the nation's 32 Medicare Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations.

**ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act)** See Electronic Medical records below.

**EMR: Electronic Medical Record (EHR: Electronic Health Record)**
An EMR or EHR stores medical records in electronic, rather than paper, format. Recent federal legislation, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or the ARRA, is aimed at creating more funding and a network of incentives that can be directly resourced towards healthcare professionals or physicians who are ready to adopt EMRs and abide by the concept of "meaningful use" of Electronic Medical Records by 2014.

**Global Payments (AQC)**
AQC (Alternative Quality Contract) is a new contract model combining a per-patient global budget with significant performance incentives based on quality measures, according to BCBSMA. The AQC is one of the most successful models for global payments in the United States, covering 629,000 members.

**HIT: Health Information Technology**
Health information technology (health IT) makes it possible for health care providers to better manage patient care through secure use and sharing of health information. Health IT includes the use of electronic health records (EHRs) instead of paper medical records to maintain people's health information, and Health Information Exchange (HIE) among providers.

**Lean**
It has become essential for the healthcare industry to adopt work process improvement practices such as Lean and Six Sigma to improve operational effectiveness and create a culture of continuous improvement. The focus is the total elimination of waste in the health care system.

**Patient Centered Medical Home**
The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care for children, youth and adults. The PCMH provides enhanced access to primary care and coordination of care across the spectrum of outpatient, inpatient and community-based services. Key to this coordination is the PCMH’s facilitation of partnerships between individual patients, and their personal physicians, and when appropriate, the patient’s family.

**President Obama’s healthcare act**

- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed March 23, 2010

**Triple Aim**
The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) believes that new designs for healthcare financing and delivery can and must be developed to simultaneously accomplish three critical objectives, or what they call the “Triple Aim”:

- Improve the health of the population;
- Enhance the patient experience of care (including quality, access, and reliability); and
- Reduce, or at least control, the per capita cost of care.