

## Appendix A: Definitions

**Age Adjustment** = Controls for age differences in the populations of communities (Appendix C)

**Benchmark** = Serves as a reference point against which the target area can assess its performance and identify opportunities for improvement (Appendix B)

**Case Mix Adjustment** = Controls for differences in categories of treatment provided to community populations (Appendix C)

**Charge** = Reflects the amount that hospitals bill consumers, health plans and employers for inpatient services (e.g., room and board, supplies, nursing care, etc.)

**Comparison Communities** = Communities that are demographically and socioeconomically similar to the target area but have different types of health care delivery systems (Appendix B)

**Cost** = Reflects the amount that hospitals spend to provide inpatient services

**Health Assessment** = Examines the demographic, socioeconomic and health status profiles of the target area relative to benchmarks (Page iii)

**Mortality** = The rate at which a given population dies from a disease (Appendix C)

**Payment** = Reflects the actual amount paid to the hospitals, accounting for any discounts and negotiated rates from health plans, but not including any patient co-payments or deductibles

**Potential Years of Life Lost** = Measures the extent to which persons in a community die before age 65 (Appendix C)

**Resource Assessment** = Focuses on the availability of services in the target area (Page iii)

**Statistical Significance** = Determines whether a target area result is substantially different from its corresponding benchmark result, taking size and variability into account (Page v)

**Target Area** = Delaware, including Kent, New Castle, and Sussex Counties (Page ii and Appendix A)

**Value Assessment** = Focuses on the appropriateness, utilization and cost of services in the target area (Page iv)