

GLOSSARY

ABSCCESS: a collection of pus

ACHE: pain

AGENCY NURSE: nurse who works for an agency

AGGRAVATE: make worse, worsen

AIRWAY: trachea or instrument for ventilation

ALBUMEN: a variety of protein

ALBUMINURIA: albumen in the urine

ALLEVIATE: relieve; make better

AMBULANT: able to walk

ANESTHETIC: drug which produces a lack of feeling

ANATOMY: science of the structure of the body

ANGIOGRAM: a type of X-ray which uses a dye to make the blood vessels visible

ANOXAEMIA: no oxygen in the blood

ANTENATAL: before birth

ANTERIOR: in front of

ANTIBIOTIC: drugs which destroys bacteria

ANTIEMETIC: drugs which stops nausea and vomiting

ANURIA: lack of urine

ANUS: end of the digestive system

AORTA: main artery coming from the left ventricle of the heart

APNOEA: temporary stop to breathing

APPENDIX: small blind tube coming from the large intestine; it has no known function

APRON: a piece of clothing worn in front of the body for protection (plastic apron, lead apron)

ARTERY: vessel carrying blood away from the heart to all parts of the body

ASTHMA: a medical condition that makes it difficult for someone to breathe

ATAXIA: uncoordinated; clumsy

AURISCOPE: instrument for examining the ear; otoscope

AUTOCLAVE: instrument for high pressure steam sterilization

A&E: Accident and Emergency department

A&O: Alert and oriented

BACTERICIDE: substance which kills bacteria

BACTERIOSTATIC: substance which stops the growth of bacteria

BALANCE CHART: document where nurses record the patients' input and output

BANK NURSE: nurse who works on a hospital nurse bank

BARRIER-NURSE: measures taken to look after an infectious patient

BEDPAN: pot used for bedridden patients for excretion

BEDRIDDEN: bed bound

BENIGN: not threatening to life or health

BILE: liquid produced by the liver

BILIRUBIN: product of the breakdown of haemoglobin

BLADDER (urinary bladder): a sac containing urine

BLISTER: a vesicle in the skin containing watery fluid, caused by burning, infection or irritation

BLOOD PRESSURE (BP): pressure on the walls of blood vessels

BLOOD VESSEL: small tube through which blood circulates

BLURRED: unclear (blurred vision)

BOWELS: intestine, gut

BREAKTHROUGH MEDICATION: extra dose to relieve severe pain

BREAST: the front of the chest, mammary gland

BREASTBONE: sternum

BREATH: air inhaled

BREATHLESSNESS: short of breath, breathing difficulty, dyspnoea

BRONCHUS: one of the two branches into which the trachea divides

BRUISE: rupture of small blood vessels, small haematoma

BUTTOCKS: muscles of the bottom

CALF: the back of the leg below the knee

CALF BONE: fibula

CANNULATE: to introduce an IV line

CARCINOMA: a malignant tumour or growth

CAST: plaster of Paris, also known as plaster cast.

CATHETER (urinary): tube to take out urine

CHARGE NURSE: nurse responsible for the management of a care unit or ward

CHEST: thorax, thoracic cavity

CHEWING: mastication

CHICKENPOX: also called varicella

CLINICAL: observation and treatment of patients as opposed to theoretical study

CLOT: intravascular coagulum; thrombus

COLLAPSE: to faint, lose consciousness, to pass out, to black out

COMA: complete loss of consciousness

COMMmode: mobile toilet

COMPOUND FRACTURE: where a broken bone breaks the surrounding tissue

CONSCIOUSNESS: the state of being aware of one's surroundings, alertness

CONSENT FORM: document that the patient signs authorizing a procedure

CONSTIPATION: difficulty in passing faeces

CONVALESCENCE: rest after illness

CORPUSCLES: red and white cells in the blood

CT SCAN (CAT scan): medical imaging test which gives a 3D image of the body

C.P.R: cardiopulmonary resuscitation

CRAMP: spasmodic pain in the abdomen; painful sensation in muscles after excessive exercise

CROWN: visible part of a tooth

CROSS INFECTION: infection passed from one patient to another

CROUP: severe barking cough, usually from a viral infection in the larynx

CRUTCH: long stick made of metal used as a support under the armpit to help a patient walk

C.V.A: cerebrovascular accident; stroke

CYANOSED, CYANOTIC: a bluish colour of the skin, especially the lips

CYST: a sac containing liquid or semisolid material

CYTOLOGY: study of the cells of the body

D.N.R: do not resuscitate

DAZED: temporarily confused

DEFAECATE: to pass faeces from the body, to open the bowels

DEHYDRATION: lack of fluid

DEPENDENT PATIENT: non self-caring; opposite to independent

DERANGED: out of the correct range; abnormal result (deranged blood results)

DERMATOLOGY: the science of the skin

DERMIS: layer of the skin just below the surface

DIABETES: illness caused by the pancreas not working properly

DIARRHOEA: liquid faeces

DIGEST: to change food to a substance which can be absorbed by the body

DISCHARGE: an excretion or substance evacuated; release from hospital or specialty care

DISCOMFORT: mild pain

DISEASE: pathology, disorder, illness, condition

DISINFECT: to kill germs

DISLOCATION: displacement of a bone from its normal position; luxation

DISPOSABLE: one use only

DISTENSION: inflammation, swelling

DISTRICT NURSE: community nurse, works in Primary Care

DIZZINESS: vertigo; feeling of being unstable, about to fall

D.N.A: did not attend

DOSE: amount of medicine taken

DRAINAGE: any method of extracting fluid from a cavity or wound by suction or gravity

DRAW: take out; extract (for example, blood)

DRESSING: bandage applied to a wound or lesion

DRIP STAND: IV pole, metal pole to hang IV infusions

DROWSY: sleepy

DRUG: medicine; chemical substance used to alter the state of mind or body

DRUG CHART: document where doctor prescribe patients' medication while in hospital

DUCT: tube or vessel which carries the secretion of a gland

DUODENUM: first part of the small intestine

DYSPNOEA: difficult laboured breathing, breathing difficulty

DYSURIA: difficult painful urination

E.C.G (E.K.G): electrocardiogram

ELATED: unusually extremely happy, euphoric

EMESIS: vomitus; the outflow of the contents of the stomach through the mouth

E.N.T: ear, nose and throat; otorhinolaryngology

EPIDERMIS: superficial layer of skin

ERRATIC: irregular; inconsistent (heartbeat, blood results)

E.T.A: estimated time of arrival

EXCISE: to cut away

EXCRETA: waste matter (faeces, urine)

EXCRUCIATING: extremely painful, severe pain

EXPECTORATE: to discharge matter from the throat or lungs by coughing up

FAECES: solid waste matter discharged through the anus

FASTING: abstaining from eating

FATIGUE: tiredness

FEMUR: thigh bone

FEVER: raise in body temperature above normal; disease where fever is a main symptom

FIBULA: the outer and smaller bone of the lower leg; calf bone

FLANK: the side of the abdomen

FLATUS: gas in the stomach or intestines, flatulence

FLUSH: transitory sensation of extreme heat; to go red

FORCEPS: a two-pronged surgical instrument to hold or extract tissue or objects

FOREHEAD: part of the head above the eyes

FOREIGN BODY: element introduced from outside the body that should not be there

FRACTURE: a break in a bone

G.P: General Practitioner; family doctor

GAG REFLEX: reflex contraction of the muscles of the throat when stimulating the pharynx

GAIT: manner of walking

GALL: bile

GALLBLADDER: a sac in which bile is stored; cholecyst

GAUZE: a sterile surgical dressing of woven cotton

GENITALS: sexual organs

GERIATRICS: medical care of the elderly (CoE)

GIVING SET: plastic tubing which connects the IV line with the IV drip

GLAND: organ or structure which produces a secretion

GLUCOMETER (BM machine): device to check the patient's blood sugar

GLUCOSURIA: presence of abnormal amounts of sugar in the urine

GO DOWNHILL (col): deteriorate

GRAZE: scrape, scratch

GUMS: fleshy tissue enveloping the necks of the teeth; gingiva

GYNAECOLOGY: study of the diseases and routine care of the reproductive system of women

HAEMATEMESIS: bloody vomitus

HAEMATOLOGY: study of the blood

HAEMATURIA: blood in the urine

HAEMOPTYSIS: expectoration of blood from the respiratory tract

HAEMORRHAGE: bleeding

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT: nursing auxilliary

HEART RATE (HR): cardiac frequency, pulse; contractions of the cardiac ventricles per second

HISTOLOGY: study of the tissues of the body

HISTORY: patient's previous medical records

HOIST: device to lift patients off their beds, especially heavy patients

HOUSE OFFICER: houseman; junior hospital doctor; FY1

HYPERPNOEA: breathing that is deeper and more rapid than normal. Hyperventilation

HYPERPYREXIA: abnormally high temperature

I.C.U: Intensive care unit. Unit where seriously ill patients receive intensive treatment

IMMERSE: to place below the surface of a liquid or a gas

IMMUNISE: to protect against a specific disease usually by injection

IMPROVE: get better

IN-PATIENT: patient admitted to hospital

INCONTINENCE: unable to control the emptying of the bladder or bowels

INDIGESTIBLE: difficult to digest

INFANT: a baby less than a year old, before being able to walk

INFARCTION: death of a piece of tissue because the blood supply has stopped

INFECTION: invasion of the body by a germ

INFLAMMATION: the reaction of living tissue to an injury; swelling

INFUSION: liquid solution (normally, glucose or salt) introduced mainly into a vein; drip; IV bag

INJECTION: the act of introducing a fluid into the tissues with a needle; *jab, shot*

INTERCOSTAL: between the ribs

INTESTINE: bowels, guts

INTUBATION: putting a breathing tube into the trachea

IODINE: antiseptic used for cleaning wounds

IRRIGATE: to pour liquid in to wash out a foreign body (eye irrigation, bladder irrigation)

IRRITANT: substance which causes an itch, stinging or burning

ISCHAEMIA: lack of blood supply to an organ

JAW: mandible

JAUNDICE: raised bilirubin in the blood which causes yellowing of the skin

JOINT: articulation

KIDNEYS: organs which secrete urine

LACERATE: to cut, to tear the skin

LARYNX: the organ of the voice; voice box

LAXATIVE: a drug to open the bowels

LETHARGIC: lacking energy, sleepy, drowsy

LIFE SUPPORT: measures that sustain or substitute essential body functions

LIFE-THREATENING: endangering life

LIGAMENT: band of fibrous tissue connecting bones or cartilage at a joint or supporting an organ

LIMB: extremity

LINE: intravenous catheter

LINEN: clothes and bedding used by patients (line room)

LIVER: organ which secretes bile and plays an important part in breaking down protein

LOBE: any of the subdivisions of an organ delineated by shape or tissue (ear, lung, liver)

LONG STAY ADMISSION: a patient who will be in hospital for a long time

LOTION: liquid medicine applied to the skin or scalp

LOWER: inferior (lower leg)

LUMP: swelling, tumour

LUNGS: organs of breathing

MALAISE: general bodily weakness or discomfort, often marking the onset of a disease

MALIGNANT: likely to be incurable, uncontrollable or resistant to therapy; rapidly spreading

MELAENA: black tarry faeces; bloody faeces

MEASLES: contagious viral disease displaying a characteristic skin rash; rubella

MEMBRANE: a thin lining or covering

MICRO-ORGANISM: a cell which can only be seen under a microscope

MICTURITION: urination

MIDWIFE: a professional trained to supervise pregnancy, assist in childbirth and puerperium

MILD: not severe or serious, slight

MONITOR: to check and document the patient's vital signs

MONKEY POLE: bar over the patient's bed to help them to sit up

M.R.I: medical imaging test which uses a magnetic field to take pictures of the body

M.R.S.A (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus): bacterium resistant to most antibiotics

MUCOPURULENT: pus in the mucus

MUCOSA: lining of the internal surfaces of the body

MUCUS: slimy substance lubricating the respiratory and digestive surfaces

MUMPS: contagious viral inflammation of the parotid and salivary glands and sometimes of the testes and ovaries

N/A: not applicable, something which is not relevant

N.A.D: nothing abnormal detected

N.B.M: nil by mouth

NAPE: the back of the neck

NAUSEA: feeling of sickness

NAVEL: umbilicus; depression in the abdominal muscle wall

NEBULISER: device that converts liquid medication into a fine mist, which is breathed in through a mask or mouthpiece

NEEDLE: a hollow sharp pointed instrument used to inject or draw fluids from the body

NEUROPATHY: abnormality in the nervous system

NIPPLE: pigmented area on the surface of each breast, surrounded by the areola

NODE: small gland (lymph node)

N.S.A.I.D s: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

NUMBNESS: lack of physical sensation or feeling

NURSING HOME: institution for elderly people unable to look after themselves, geriatric home

OBSERVATION CHART: document where the patient's vital signs are documented

OBSTETRICS: medical care in pregnancy and child birth

OCCLUDE: to block

ODOUR: smell, usually unpleasant

OEDEMA: swelling caused by excessive fluid in the tissues

OESOPHAGUS: tube that links the pharynx to the stomach

OLIGURIA: insufficient secretion of urine (less than 30 ml/h)

ON-CALL: to be available if summoned, especially doctors or nurses, often a 24h shift

OPTIMAL: best possible

ORTHOPAEDICS: specialty that deals with the correction of bone or muscle problems

ORTHOPNOEA: breathing difficulty which requires an upright sitting position

OTALGIA: earache

OXYGEN MASK: a device over the nose and mouth which allows the patient to breathe oxygen

OUT-PATIENT: patient who is not treated in hospital

PAEDIATRICS: medical care of children

PAINKILLER: analgesic, pain relief; drug which eliminates the pain

PALLID: white skin colouring

PANCREAS: organ which secretes pancreatic juice and produces insulin

PARAMEDIC: ambulance technician trained to give emergency treatment

PASS AWAY: to die

PASS URINE: to urinate; pass water, pass urine

PATSLIDE: hard thin board used to transfer patients from trolleys to bed or viceversa

PATHOLOGY: study of cause and nature of disease

PLASTER: a band-aid

PENICILLIN: the first antibiotic discovered

PHARYNX: part of the throat between the mouth and the larynx

PHLEBOTOMIST: technician whose job is to draw blood

PHLEGM: mucus from the bronchus

PHYSICIAN: doctor of medicine rather than surgery

PHYSIOLOGY: study of the normal functions of the body

PHYSIOTHERAPY: treatment of pain, disease, injury by controlled exercises and physical means

PILL: tablet

PLEURA: membrane covering the surface of the lungs

PNEUMONIA: inflammation of the lungs due to infection

PODIATRIST: a specialist in caring for the feet

POLYDIPSIA: abnormally excessive thirst as symptom of a disease

POLYPHAGIA: abnormally excessive hunger as symptom of a disease

POLYURIA: production of abnormally large volume of urine

PORTER: person who transfers patients or takes samples to labs (blood porter, theatre porter)

POSTERIOR: at the back

POSTURE: the way the body is held

PREMEDICATION: drug given before the administration of general anaesthetic

PRESCRIPTION: medical written instruction stating the drug, dose, form and frequency

PRIME: purge; make sure that there is no air inside an IV line or giving system

PROBE: an instrument for investigating the depth and direction of a wound

PROCTOSCOPE: instrument for examining the rectum

PROTEINURIA: protein in the urine

PSYCHIATRY: science of diagnosis and treatment of mental illness

PSYCHOLOGY: science which studies human behaviour

PUMP: a medical device for administering medication from a drip

PURULENT: which contains pus

PUS: a yellowish fluid that comes from an infected wound

PYREXIA: raised temperature

QUADRANT: a quarter of a circle

QUEASY: nauseous, feeling sick

R.N: registered nurse

R.T.A: road traffic accident

RADIOLOGY: diagnosis of disease by use of x-rays

RASH: skin eruption

RAW: when the skin is partially removed from the body's surface

REACTION: response to stimulus

RECOVERY: area near Operating Theatres where a patient recovers after an operation; PACU

RECTUM: lower part of the large intestine

REDUCE: realign two parts of a broken bone; reposition

REFLEX: an involuntary movement of the tissue

RESCUE BREATH: ventilations during mouth-to-mouth

RESPIRATION: breathing

RESPIRE CARE: to admit a patient to allow the family to have a break

RIBS: bones of the chest

RIBBON GAUZE: gauze about 1.5 cm wide used for packing wounds

SAMPLE: a specimen (urine sample, stool sample, blood sample)

SCALPEL: surgical knife; blade

SCALY: flaky; flakes of skin

SCAR: mark of a healed wound

SCARLET FEVER: childhood infection caused by bacteria. It causes fever, sore throat, red skin

SCRUB NURSE: a nurse who assists the surgeon in the operating room

SECONDARIES: tumours that have spread from the first place a cancer started

SEIZURE: an attack where the patient's body becomes rigid; a fit

SEPSIS (SEPTICAEMIA): severe generalised infection

SHALLOW: superficial (shallow breathing)

SHARP (pain): acute; a sensation like a needle

SHARPS BIN: a container to dispose of the used needles and sharp objects

SHIFT: part of the day in which a person works

SHIN: the front of the leg below the knee

SHIN BONE: tibia

SHOCK: disturbance of circulation of the blood produced by severe illness or injury

SHOOTING (pain): a sensation that travels quickly from one part of the body to another

SIDE EFFECT: an unwanted change produced by giving a drug

SINUS: a hollow, cavity

SISTER: the most senior nurse of a department or ward (junior sister, senior sister)

SLURRED: pronounced indistinctly (slurred speech)

SNEEZE: when air suddenly comes out of your nose and mouth

SOILED: dirty, stained

SPECULUM: instrument used to hold the walls of a cavity apart to examine its interior

SPHYGMOMANOMETER: an instrument used to measure the blood pressure, BP machine

SPRAIN: injury to the soft tissue surrounding a joint

SPUTUM: matter expectorated from the respiratory organs

SITE PRACTITIONER: senior nurse in charge of the hospital during a shift

STAFF NURSE (S.N): a nurse who works on a ward or department regularly

STERILISE: to make free of bacteria, make incapable of reproduction

STERNUM: long flat bone in the middle of the chest; breast bone

STERTOROUS: breathing like snoring

STHETOSCOPE: instrument for listening to sounds inside the body (col. tubes)

STOOL: faeces

STRETCHER: a device with four handles used to transport sick or injured patients

SUBCUTANEOUS: beneath the skin

SURGEON: doctor specialised in Surgery

SUSTAIN: to suffer an injury

SUTURE: stitch

SWAB: a small piece of cotton wool used for taking samples, absorbent cotton dressing

SYRINGE: piston-fitted cylinder into which liquid is sucked and then injected

SYRINGE DRIVER: a pump to administer medication through a large syringe

TACTILE: concerning the sense of touch

TENDER: sensitive to pain; painful; sore

TENDON: band of inelastic fibrous tissue which connects a muscle with a bone

TESTES: testicles; oval organs that produce sperm, enclosed in the scrotum behind the penis

TETANUS: central nervous system disease marked by spasms of involuntary muscles; lockjaw

THERMOMETER: instrument for measuring the body temperature (Tympanic)

THORACIC: concerning the chest cavity

THREE-WAY TAP: a connector to administer several IV infusions simultaneously

THROBBING (pain): pulsating

THROMBOSIS: a blood clot that blocks or partially blocks a blood vessel

TINGLING: partially numb; paresthesia; *pins and needles*

TISSUE: collection of cells or fibres of similar function, forming a structure

TODDLER: a child who is learning to walk

TONGUE DEPRESSOR: a wooden flat instrument to hold down the tongue

TONSILS: glandular tissue on both sides at the back of the throat, which act like filters

TOURNIQUET: a rubber band to temporarily stop the blood supply in a limb

TRAUMA: serious injuries due to accident

TREMOR: shaking

TROLLEY: wheeled vehicle for carrying goods

TUBERCULOSIS: disease caused by tubercle bacillus

U.T.I: urinary tract infection

UNCONSCIOUS: state of being insensible; comatous

UNSTERILE: not sterile, contaminated

UPPER: superior

URETER: tube passing from each kidney to the bladder

URETHRA: tube from the bladder through which urine is excreted

URINE: liquid waste matter excreted from the kidneys

URINE BOTTLE: plastic bottle for men to pass urine

URINE BAG: plastic bag attached to a urinary catheter to collect urine (leg bag)

UROMETER BAG: device to measure the amount of urine per hour

VAGINA: the passage from the cervix to the vulva

VENEROLOGY: study of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

VENTRICLE: a cavity; lower chamber of the heart

VOMIT: to throw up; to be sick, to bring up vomitus

VULVA: external female sexual organ, external opening of the vagina

WALKING FRAME: metal structure to help patients walk

WARD: a room in a hospital where patients are admitted to be looked after

WINDPIPE: structure which connects the larynx to the bronchus; trachea

WHEEZING: breathing difficulty characterized by a whistling sound

WHOOPING COUGH: contagious disease which causes uncontrolled coughing accompanied by a crowing sound on each inspiration; pertussis

WRISTBAND: plastic band on patients' wrists for identification; name band; ID bracelet

WISDOM TOOTH: the last molar

WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS: unpleasant feeling a person has when they stop taking an addictive substance

WOUND: an injury to the skin; open lesion