

TERMINOLOGY GUIDE

Abrasion:

A small cut or scrape

Abscess:

Fluid filled pocket that forms under the skin in tissue due to a bacterial infection

Acute:

A condition that can suddenly appear and it can be severe.

Advance Directive:

This is considered a legal document that states what kind of medical action and treatment a person wants or doesn't want if/when they're in a state where they can't communicate and need somebody to do it for them

Analgesic:

Medication that is often available without or with prescription that is used to treat pain

ARDS:

Acute respiratory distress syndrome-lungs fill with fluid which prevents oxygen from getting in.

ARF:

Acute renal failure-severe and sudden disease associated with the kidneys unable to filter the blood.

ADR:

Adverse drug reaction-side effect from a drug that can be severe or minor

Biopsy:

A small piece of tissue that is used as a sample for further testing

Blood culture:

Unusual bacteria fungi if a person's blood is tested

Blood gas:

A way to test carbon dioxide, oxygen, and pH in a person's blood

Blood pressure:

Is a way to measure how blood is being pumped through the body

BLS:

Basic life support-care that is provided to a person who is experiencing cardiac arrest, respiratory distress, or an obstructive airway

Catheter:

A small tube that can be passed through a part of the body is usually put through an urethra that is used to empty the bladder.

CAT SCAN:

This is a diagnostic imaging

Central Line:

A small tube (catheter) that is placed in a large vein that allows the administration of IV fluids and allows for blood to be drawn more easily

Chronic:

Condition that persists and last for more than 6 months

Contusion

An area of injured tissue; bruise

CPR:

Used during a medical emergency to return or keep oxygenated blood flowing through the body through chest compressions and ventilation (through the airway/mouth)

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT):

A blood clot that forms in a deep vein.

Dialysis:

A procedure that is used to help filter the blood for people with kidney failure

DNR:

Do Not Resuscitate -this is an official medical order that states that medical professionals can not provide life-saving measures

ER/ED:

Emergency department/ Emergency room

Edema:

Fluid accumulation that causes swelling

EEG:

Electroencephalogram-this is a diagnostic tool that looks at electrical activity in the brain

EKG/ECG:

Electrocardiogram-electrical signals from the heart are recorded

Gastrointestinal:

Relating to the stomach and intestine.

Fracture:

Broken bone or cartilage

Hypertension:

Raised blood pressure.

Hypotension: [OBJ]

Low blood pressure.

HR:

Heart rate-this is beats per minute

Incontinence: [OBJ]

Not having full control over the bladder and/or bowel.

Incubation

Insertion of an endotracheal tube to assist a patient's breathing

LFT:

Liver function test-measures how well the liver is working to screen for potential disease

MRI:

Magnetic resonance imaging-diagnostic imaging that uses a magnet and radio waves to screen the body

Pulmonary embolism: [OBJ]

Part of a blood clot (DVT) which breaks off and travels in the bloodstream eventually gets stuck in the lungs.

Pulse Ox:

Measures the amount of oxygen saturation in the blood

Respite care:

Short term/temporary care that is provided to people or primary caregivers giving them time to rest, travel, or spend time with other family and friends.

Tachycardia: [OBJ]

A rapid heartbeat.

Ultrasound:

Diagnostic imaging that uses high frequency sound waves