

Medical Terminology

Medical Terminology Glossary

A

Abdomen: The part of the body between the chest and pelvis that contains the stomach, intestines, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, and other organs.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA): A bulging, weakened area in the wall of the aorta within the abdomen.

Abduction: Movement of a limb away from the midline of the body.

Abnormal: Not normal; deviating from the usual structure, position, condition, or behavior.

Acute: Refers to a disease or condition that has a sudden onset and a short duration.

Allergy: A hypersensitivity reaction to a particular substance (allergen).

Alveoli: Tiny air sacs in the lungs where the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide takes place.

Anemia: A condition in which the blood has a lower than normal number of red blood cells or hemoglobin.

Anesthesia: Loss of sensation, either partial or complete, with or without the loss of consciousness.

Anesthesiologist: A medical doctor who specializes in providing anesthesia during surgery.

Antibiotic: A medication used to treat bacterial infections.

Antibody: A protein produced by the immune system in response to the presence of a specific antigen.

Antigen: A substance that triggers an immune response in the body.

Artery: Blood vessels that carry oxygen-rich blood away from the heart to the body's tissues and organs.

Arthroscopy: A minimally invasive surgical procedure used to diagnose and treat joint problems.

Aspiration: Breathing in a foreign object, such as food or liquid, into the airway.

Auscultation: Listening to sounds within the body, typically with a stethoscope.

Autoimmune: Refers to a condition in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own tissues.

Avulsion: The tearing away of a body part or tissue.

B

Bacterium: A single-celled microorganism that can cause infection.

Biopsy: A procedure in which a small sample of tissue is removed for examination under a microscope.

Bladder: A hollow organ in the pelvis that stores urine.

Blood Pressure: The force of blood against the walls of the arteries as the heart pumps.

Blood Transfusion: The process of transferring blood or blood products from one person (donor) to another (recipient).

Bradycardia: Abnormally slow heart rate, usually fewer than 60 beats per minute.

Brainstem: The base of the brain that connects the brain to the spinal cord and controls basic life functions.

Bronchitis: Inflammation of the bronchial tubes, which carry air to the lungs.

Bunion: A painful bony bump that develops on the joint at the base of the big toe.

Bursitis: Inflammation of the bursa, a small fluid-filled sac near a joint.

C

Calorie: A unit of energy used to measure the energy content of food.

Cancer: A group of diseases characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells.

Cardiac: Refers to the heart.

Cardiologist: A medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating heart diseases.

Cardiology: The branch of medicine that deals with the heart and its diseases.

Carotid Artery: Blood vessels in the neck that supply blood to the brain.

Catheter: A thin tube inserted into the body to remove fluids, deliver medication, or perform a procedure.

Cauterize: To burn tissue with heat or a caustic substance to stop bleeding or destroy abnormal tissue.

Celiac Disease: An autoimmune disorder in which the ingestion of gluten leads to damage in the small intestine.

Cellulitis: A bacterial skin infection that causes red, swollen, and painful skin.

Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA): Also known as a stroke, occurs when blood flow to the brain is disrupted.

Chemotherapy: The use of drugs to kill cancer cells.

Cholecystectomy: Surgical removal of the gallbladder.

Cholesterol: A waxy, fat-like substance found in the blood and cells.

Chronic: Refers to a disease or condition that persists over a long period of time.

Colonoscopy: A procedure used to examine the inside of the colon and rectum.

Concussion: A mild traumatic brain injury that causes temporary loss of normal brain function.

Contraindication: A factor that makes the use of a treatment or procedure inadvisable.

Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): A condition in which the arteries that supply blood to the heart become narrowed or blocked.

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation): Emergency procedure performed to manually preserve brain function until further measures are taken to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing.

CT Scan (Computed Tomography): A diagnostic imaging test that uses x-rays and computer technology to create detailed images of the body.

Cyst: A sac-like pocket of tissue that can form in any part of the body.

Cystectomy: Surgical removal of a cyst.

D

Dementia: A group of symptoms affecting memory, thinking, and social abilities severely enough to interfere with daily functioning.

Diabetes Mellitus: A group of diseases that result in high blood sugar levels over a prolonged period.

Diagnosis: The identification of a disease or condition based on signs, symptoms, and test results.

Diaphragm: A muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity and plays a key role in breathing.

Diarrhea: Frequent, loose, watery stools.

Diagnostic: Relating to the identification of a disease or condition.

Dialysis: A treatment used to filter waste products and excess fluids from the blood when the kidneys are unable to do so.

Dislocation: The displacement of a bone from its normal position in a joint.

Diverticulitis: Inflammation or infection of pouches that can form in the wall of the colon.

Drug Interaction: The effect that occurs when two or more drugs react with each other.

Dyspnea: Shortness of breath.

E

ECG (Electrocardiogram): A test that records the electrical activity of the heart.

Edema: Swelling caused by excess fluid trapped in your body's tissues.

Electrolytes: Minerals in your blood and other body fluids that carry an electric charge.

Embolism: A blood clot, air bubble, piece of fat, or other foreign material that travels through the bloodstream and blocks a blood vessel.

Emphysema: A type of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) that causes irreversible damage to the air sacs in the lungs.

Endocrine System: A group of glands that produce hormones to regulate various bodily functions.

Endoscopy: A procedure used to examine the inside of the body using an endoscope.

Epidermis: The outermost layer of the skin.

Epidural: An injection into the space around the spinal cord.

Epilepsy: A neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures.

Esophagus: The tube that connects the throat to the stomach.

Excision: Surgical removal of tissue.

Exudate: Fluid that leaks out of blood vessels into nearby tissues.

F

Fascia: A thin sheath of fibrous tissue enclosing a muscle or other organ.

Fecal: Relating to feces or bowel movements.

Fibromyalgia: A chronic disorder characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain and fatigue.

Fibrosis: The formation of excess fibrous connective tissue in an organ or tissue.

Fluoroscopy: A type of medical imaging that shows a continuous X-ray image on a monitor.

Fracture: A broken bone.

G

Gastritis: Inflammation of the lining of the stomach.

Gastroenteritis: Inflammation of the stomach and intestines, typically caused by a bacterial or viral infection.

Gastrointestinal: Relating to the stomach and intestines.

Genetics: The study of genes and heredity.

Glaucoma: A group of eye conditions that damage the optic nerve.

Glucose: A simple sugar that serves as the primary source of energy for the body's cells.

Graft: A piece of tissue or an organ transplanted from one part of the body to another or from one person to another.

H

Heart Attack: A sudden and sometimes fatal occurrence of coronary thrombosis, typically resulting in the death of part of a heart muscle.

Heart Failure: A condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood to meet the body's needs.

Hematoma: A solid swelling of clotted blood within the tissues.

Hematuria: The presence of blood in the urine.

Hemoglobin: A protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.

Hemorrhage: An escape of blood from a ruptured blood vessel.

Hepatitis: Inflammation of the liver, usually caused by a viral infection.

Hereditary: Passing of traits from parents to offspring through genes.

Hernia: A condition in which an internal organ or tissue bulges through a weak area in the muscle or tissue that normally holds it in place.

Hyperglycemia: Abnormally high blood sugar levels.

Hypertension: High blood pressure.

Hypoglycemia: Abnormally low blood sugar levels.

Hypotension: Low blood pressure.

Hypoxia: A condition in which the body or a region of the body is deprived of adequate oxygen supply.

I

Immune System: The body's defense against infectious organisms and other invaders.

Infection: The invasion and multiplication of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites that are not normally present within the body.

Inflammation: The body's response to injury or infection, characterized by redness, swelling, heat, and pain.

Influenza: A highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory passages causing fever, severe aching, and catarrh, and often occurring in epidemics.

Ingrown Nail: A condition in which the edge of a toenail grows into the skin of the toe.

Injury: Physical harm or damage to the body caused by an external force.

Insomnia: A sleep disorder characterized by difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep.

Integumentary System: The organ system that protects the body from various kinds of damage, such as loss of water or abrasion from outside.

Intubation: The insertion of a tube into the windpipe to maintain an open airway.

Ischemia: A restriction in blood supply to tissues, causing a shortage of oxygen and glucose needed for cellular metabolism.

J

Jaundice: A yellow discoloration of the skin and eyes caused by a buildup of bilirubin in the blood.

K

Kidneys: The organs that filter waste products from the blood and produce urine.

L

Laryngitis: Inflammation of the larynx (voice box), typically resulting in a hoarse voice or loss of voice.

Larynx: The structure in the throat containing the vocal cords.

Laser Surgery: A surgical procedure that uses a laser beam to remove tissue.

Lesion: Any abnormal change in the structure of an organ or tissue caused by disease or injury.

Leukemia: A type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow.

Ligament: A tough band of tissue that connects bones to other bones.

Liver: The largest internal organ in the body, responsible for processing nutrients, detoxifying harmful substances, and producing bile.

Lumbar: Referring to the lower back region.

Lung Cancer: A type of cancer that begins in the lungs.

Lymph Node: A small, bean-shaped structure that filters lymph fluid before it returns to the bloodstream.

Lymphatic System: A network of organs, vessels, and nodes that help the body fight infection and disease.

M

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): A diagnostic imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of the body.

Malignant: Refers to cancerous cells that can invade and destroy nearby tissues.

Mammography: A screening test used to detect breast cancer.

Mastectomy: Surgical removal of one or both breasts.

Measles: A highly contagious viral infection that causes a characteristic rash.

Melanoma: A type of skin cancer that develops in melanocytes, the cells that produce melanin.

Menopause: The cessation of menstruation in women, typically occurring around the age of 50.

Meningitis: Inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

Mesothelioma: A type of cancer that occurs in the thin layer of tissue that covers the majority of your internal organs.

Metastasis: The spread of cancer cells from one part of the body to another.

Microbiology: The study of microscopic organisms, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi.

Migraine: A severe headache that can cause intense throbbing or pulsing.

Minimally Invasive Surgery: Surgical procedures performed through small incisions using specialized tools and techniques.

Mononucleosis: A viral infection that causes fever, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes.

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging): A diagnostic imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed images of the body.

Multiple Sclerosis: A chronic disease of the central nervous system that affects the brain and spinal cord.

Murmur: An abnormal heart sound caused by turbulent blood flow.

Myocardial Infarction: Also known as a heart attack, occurs when blood flow to the heart muscle is blocked.

N

Nasogastric Tube: A tube inserted through the nose into the stomach to deliver nutrients or medications.

Necrosis: The death of cells or tissues due to injury, disease, or lack of blood supply.

Neonatal: Relating to newborn infants.

Nephrology: The branch of medicine that deals with the kidneys.

Nervous System: The network of nerve cells and fibers that transmit nerve impulses between parts of the body.

Neurologist: A medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating diseases of the nervous system.

Neurology: The branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the nervous system.

Neuropathy: Damage or dysfunction of one or more nerves that can result in numbness, tingling, muscle weakness, and pain.

Neurosurgery: Surgical treatment of disorders of the nervous system.

Normal: Conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected.

Nutrition: The process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth.

O

Obstetrics: The branch of medicine that deals with pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period.

Oncology: The branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

Ophthalmologist: A medical doctor who specializes in eye and vision care.

Ophthalmology: The branch of medicine that deals with the anatomy, physiology, and diseases of the eye.

Orthopedic: Relating to the branch of medicine that deals with the prevention or correction of injuries or disorders of the skeletal system and associated muscles, joints, and ligaments.

Orthopedics: The branch of medicine that deals with the prevention or correction of injuries or disorders of the skeletal system and associated muscles, joints, and ligaments.

Osteoarthritis: A degenerative joint disease that causes the breakdown of cartilage in the joints.

Osteoporosis: A condition in which bones become weak and brittle.

Otolaryngologist: A medical doctor who specializes in disorders of the ear, nose, and throat.

Otolaryngology: The branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the ear, nose, and throat.

Outpatient: A patient who receives medical treatment without being admitted to a hospital.

Ovaries: The female reproductive organs that produce eggs and hormones.

Oxygen: A gas that is essential for life and is carried by the blood to all parts of the body.

P

Pacemaker: A small device that is implanted under the skin to help control abnormal heart rhythms.

Palliative Care: Care that focuses on improving the quality of life of patients with serious illnesses.

Pancreas: An organ located behind the stomach that produces digestive enzymes and hormones, including

A

Abdominal

Definition: Relating to the abdomen, which is the part of the body between the chest and the pelvis.

Example: Abdominal pain can be a symptom of various medical conditions.

Related Terms: Abdomen, Abdominal cavity, Abdominal organs.

Acute

Definition: Refers to a sudden onset or brief duration of a medical condition or symptom.

Example: Acute bronchitis is a temporary inflammation of the bronchial tubes.

Related Terms: Chronic, Acute care, Acute illness.

Anesthesia

Definition: The medical practice of using medication to block sensation in a specific area of the body or induce unconsciousness during surgical procedures.

Example: General anesthesia is often used for major surgeries to keep patients unconscious and pain-free.

Related Terms: Local anesthesia, Anesthesiologist, Anesthetic.

B

Billing

Definition: The process of submitting claims to insurance companies or patients for healthcare services rendered by healthcare providers.

Example: Medical billing professionals ensure accurate coding to maximize reimbursement for healthcare services.

Related Terms: Medical coding, Billing cycle, Billing specialist.

Biopsy

Definition: A procedure in which a sample of tissue is removed from the body for examination under a microscope to diagnose or evaluate a medical condition.

Example: A skin biopsy is often performed to diagnose skin conditions such as melanoma.

Related Terms: Needle biopsy, Surgical biopsy, Core biopsy.

C

Chronic

Definition: Refers to a long-lasting or recurring medical condition that persists over time.

Example: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a progressive lung disease.

Related Terms: Acute, Chronic illness, Chronic pain.

CPT Code

Definition: Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes are five-digit codes used by healthcare providers to describe medical, surgical, and diagnostic services for billing purposes.

Example: A CPT code is assigned for each procedure performed during a patient's visit.

Related Terms: ICD-10-CM code, HCPCS code, Code modifiers.

Computed Tomography (CT)

Definition: A diagnostic imaging procedure that uses X-rays and computer technology to create detailed cross-sectional images of the body.

Example: A CT scan can help identify internal injuries or diseases in various body parts.

Related Terms: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), Positron emission tomography (PET), X-ray.

D

Diagnosis

Definition: The identification of a medical condition or disease based on symptoms, signs, and diagnostic tests.

Example: A proper diagnosis is crucial for determining the appropriate treatment plan.

Related Terms: Differential diagnosis, Diagnosis code, Clinical diagnosis.

Documentation

Definition: The recording of patient information, medical history, exam findings, and treatment plans in a healthcare setting.

Example: Accurate documentation is essential for proper coding and billing of healthcare services.

Related Terms: Electronic health record (EHR), Medical record, Documentation guidelines.

Drug Formulary

Definition: A list of prescription medications approved for use within a healthcare system, insurance plan, or pharmacy.

Example: Healthcare providers refer to the drug formulary to prescribe cost-effective medications to patients.

Related Terms: Medication management, Drug interaction, Generic drug.

E

Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Definition: A digital version of a patient's paper chart that contains medical history, diagnoses, medications, treatment plans, and test results.

Example: EHRs allow healthcare providers to access patient information securely and efficiently.

Related Terms: Health information technology (HIT), Personal health record (PHR), EHR software.

Emergency Department (ED)

Definition: A medical facility equipped to provide immediate care for individuals with acute illnesses,

injuries, or life-threatening conditions.

Example: Patients with chest pain or severe trauma often seek treatment in the emergency department.

Related Terms: Urgent care, Emergency medical services (EMS), Triage.

Enrollment Period

Definition: A specific timeframe during which individuals can sign up for health insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace or employer-sponsored plans.

Example: Open enrollment allows individuals to make changes to their insurance coverage for the upcoming year.

Related Terms: Special enrollment period, Qualifying life event, Premium.

F

Fee Schedule

Definition: A list of predetermined fees or payment amounts established by insurance companies for healthcare services provided by healthcare providers.

Example: Healthcare providers may negotiate fee schedules with insurance companies to determine reimbursement rates.

Related Terms: Fee-for-service, Fee waiver, Fee schedule review.

Health Information Management (HIM)

Definition: The practice of acquiring, analyzing, and protecting medical information vital to providing quality patient care and meeting regulatory requirements.

Example: Health information management professionals ensure the accuracy and confidentiality of patient records.

Related Terms: Health information technology (HIT), Medical records clerk, Health information exchange.

ICD-10-CM Code

Definition: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes are alphanumeric codes used by healthcare providers to describe diagnoses for billing purposes.

Example: An ICD-10-CM code is assigned to each diagnosis made during a patient encounter.

Related Terms: CPT code, ICD-10-PCS code, Diagnosis code.

G

Gradual

Definition: Refers to a slow and steady progression of a medical condition or symptom over time.

Example: Gradual weight loss may be a sign of an underlying health issue.

Related Terms: Rapid, Progressive, Gradual onset.

Gross Examination

Definition: The initial visual inspection of surgical specimens or tissues without the use of a microscope.

Example: Gross examination helps pathologists identify abnormalities or lesions in tissue samples.

Related Terms: Microscopic examination, Histology, Pathology report.

Guaiaac Test

Definition: A screening test used to detect hidden blood in the stool, which may indicate gastrointestinal bleeding or colorectal cancer.

Example: The guaiac test is a common method for colorectal cancer screening in asymptomatic individuals.

Related Terms: Fecal occult blood test, Stool sample, Hemoccult test.

H

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Definition: Federal legislation that establishes standards for the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI) to protect patient confidentiality.

Example: Healthcare providers must comply with HIPAA regulations to safeguard patient health information.

Related Terms: PHI, HIPAA compliance, Privacy rule.

Hypertension

Definition: High blood pressure, a common condition in which the force of blood against the artery walls is consistently too high.

Example: Hypertension is a risk factor for heart disease, stroke, and other serious health conditions.

Related Terms: Hypotension, Blood pressure, Hypertensive crisis.

ICD-10-PCS Code

Definition: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS) codes are alphanumeric codes used by healthcare providers to describe procedures for billing purposes.

Example: An ICD-10-PCS code is assigned to each procedure performed during a patient encounter.

Related Terms: CPT code, ICD-10-CM code, Procedure code.

I

Inpatient

Definition: Refers to a patient admitted to a hospital or healthcare facility for treatment and care that requires an overnight stay.

Example: Inpatient services include hospitalization, surgery, and intensive medical care.

Related Terms: Outpatient, Inpatient care, Inpatient status.

Insurance Verification

Definition: The process of confirming a patient's insurance coverage, benefits, and eligibility for healthcare services.

Example: Insurance verification helps healthcare providers determine the patient's financial responsibility for treatment.

Related Terms: Pre-authorization, Insurance eligibility, Insurance claim.

Intake Interview

Definition: A structured conversation between a healthcare provider and a patient to gather relevant medical history, symptoms, and personal information.

Example: The intake interview helps healthcare providers assess the patient's needs and develop a

treatment plan.

Related Terms: Medical history, Patient assessment, Initial evaluation.

J

Joint Commission

Definition: An independent, nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies healthcare organizations and programs in the United States.

Example: Healthcare facilities seek Joint Commission accreditation to demonstrate their commitment to quality and patient safety.

Related Terms: Accreditation, Quality improvement, Patient-centered care.

Jaundice

Definition: A condition characterized by yellowing of the skin and eyes due to the buildup of bilirubin in the blood.

Example: Jaundice can be a symptom of liver disease, bile duct obstruction, or hemolytic anemia.

Related Terms: Bilirubin, Liver function test, Neonatal jaundice.

K

Kinesiology

Definition: The study of human movement, including the mechanics, anatomy, and physiology of muscles and joints.

Example: Kinesiology is often used in physical therapy to improve movement and function.

Related Terms: Biomechanics, Exercise physiology, Range of motion.

Ketones

Definition: Chemical substances produced by the liver when the body breaks down fat for energy in the absence of sufficient glucose.

Example: Ketones can be detected in the urine or blood of individuals with uncontrolled diabetes or during fasting.

Related Terms: Ketosis, Diabetic ketoacidosis, Low-carb diet.

L

Laboratory Test

Definition: A medical procedure that involves the analysis of blood, urine, tissue, or other samples to diagnose, monitor, or treat a medical condition.

Example: Common laboratory tests include blood glucose, cholesterol, and complete blood count (CBC).

Related Terms: Diagnostic test, Pathology, Lab results.

Local Anesthesia

Definition: A type of anesthesia that numbs a specific area of the body while the patient remains awake and alert.

Example: Local anesthesia is often used for minor surgical procedures or dental work.

Related Terms: General anesthesia, Regional anesthesia, Anesthetic agent.

Lymphadenopathy

Definition: Enlargement or inflammation of lymph nodes, which may be a sign of infection, inflammation, or cancer.

Example: Lymphadenopathy in the neck can be caused by a throat infection or malignancy.

Related Terms: Lymph nodes, Lymphatic system, Lymphadenitis.

M

Medication Administration

Definition: The process of delivering prescribed medications to patients by healthcare providers through various routes such as oral, intravenous, or topical.

Example: Medication administration requires proper dosing, timing, and documentation for patient safety.

Related Terms: Medication reconciliation, Medication error, Medication adherence.

Medical Coding

Definition: The translation of healthcare services, procedures, diagnoses, and equipment into alphanumeric codes for billing and insurance purposes.

Example: Certified medical coders assign CPT, ICD-10-CM, and HCPCS codes to medical records.

Related Terms: Medical billing, Coding guidelines, Coding certification.

Medical Record

Definition: A comprehensive document that contains a patient's medical history, diagnoses, treatments, test results, medications, and healthcare provider notes.

Example: Healthcare providers use medical records to track patient care, communicate with other providers, and support billing.

Related Terms: Electronic health record (EHR), Health information management, Medical transcription.

N

Neonate

Definition: A newborn infant, typically up to 28 days old, who requires specialized care and monitoring.

Example: Neonates may be admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for prematurity or medical conditions.

Related Terms: Neonatology, Neonatal nurse, Neonatal resuscitation.

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Definition: An advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing acute and chronic health conditions.

Example: Nurse practitioners can provide primary care, prescribe medications, and order diagnostic tests.

Related Terms: Advanced practice nurse, Nurse practitioner scope of practice, NP certification.

O

Outpatient

Definition: Refers to a patient who receives medical treatment or services without being admitted to a hospital or healthcare facility overnight.

Example: Outpatient services include doctor visits, diagnostic tests, and minor procedures.

Related Terms: Inpatient, Outpatient surgery, Outpatient clinic.

Occupational Therapy

Definition: A healthcare profession that helps individuals of all ages improve their ability to perform daily activities and regain independence after injury, illness, or disability.

Example: Occupational therapists use adaptive techniques and equipment to assist patients in achieving their goals.

Related Terms: Physical therapy, Speech therapy, Rehabilitation.

Oxygen Saturation

Definition: The percentage of hemoglobin saturated with oxygen in the blood, typically measured using a pulse oximeter.

Example: Normal oxygen saturation levels are between 95% and 100% in healthy individuals.

Related Terms: Hypoxemia, Pulse oximetry, Arterial blood gas.

P

Pharmacology

Definition: The study of how drugs interact with living organisms, including their effects, mechanisms of action, absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion.

Example: Pharmacology is essential for understanding the benefits and risks of medications in patient care.

Related Terms: Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Drug classification.

Patient Rights

Definition: Legal and ethical principles that protect patients' autonomy, privacy, dignity, and access to quality healthcare.

Example: Patients have the right to informed consent, confidentiality, and access to their medical records.

Related Terms: Patient advocacy, Patient safety, Patient satisfaction.

Preventive Care

Definition: Healthcare services and interventions aimed at preventing illness, promoting wellness, and detecting diseases early.

Example: Preventive care includes vaccinations, screenings, counseling, and lifestyle modifications.

Related Terms: Primary prevention, Secondary prevention, Preventive health services.

Q

Quality Improvement

Definition: A systematic approach to assessing, monitoring, and enhancing the quality and safety of healthcare services to improve patient outcomes.

Example: Quality improvement initiatives may involve data analysis, process redesign, and staff training.

Related Terms: Performance improvement, Continuous quality improvement, Quality measures.

Quarantine

Definition: A period of isolation or restriction of movement to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Example: Individuals exposed to communicable diseases may be required to undergo quarantine for a specified period.

Related Terms: Isolation, Public health, Quarantine protocol.

R

Reimbursement

Definition: The compensation or payment made to healthcare providers by insurance companies, government programs, or patients for healthcare services rendered.

Example: Reimbursement rates vary by payer and may be based on fee schedules, negotiated contracts, or fee-for-service.

Related Terms: Fee-for-service, Third-party payer, Reimbursement claim.

Radiology

Definition: The medical specialty that uses imaging techniques such as X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, and ultrasound to diagnose and treat diseases.

Example: Radiologists interpret imaging studies to identify fractures, tumors, infections, and other abnormalities.

Related Terms: Diagnostic radiology, Interventional radiology, Radiologic technologist.

Respiratory Therapy

Definition: A healthcare profession that focuses on assessing, treating, and managing patients with breathing disorders or cardiopulmonary conditions.

Example: Respiratory therapists provide oxygen therapy, breathing treatments, and ventilator support to patients.

Related Terms: Pulmonary function test, Respiratory distress, Respiratory care.

S

Social Determinants of Health

Definition: Non-medical factors such as socioeconomic status, education, housing, and environment that influence health outcomes and disparities.

Example: Social determinants of health can impact access to healthcare, nutrition, and overall well-being.

Related Terms: Health equity, Population health, Social support.

SOAP Note

Definition: A documentation format used by healthcare providers to record subjective, objective, assessment, and plan information for patient encounters.

Example: </b