

**GLOSSARY (IN LAY TERMS)
FOR USE IN PREPARING CONSENT FORMS FOR HUMAN SUBJECTS**

A

Abatement	A decrease in the severity of a pain or a symptom
Abdomen	The body cavity below the diaphragm which contains the stomach, intestines, liver, and other organs; the belly
Abdominal	Pertaining to the body cavity below the diaphragm which contains the stomach, intestines, liver, and other organs; having to do with the belly
Abdominoplasty	Surgery to fix the belly
Abduction	Movement away from the middle of the body
Ablation	Separation or detachment; Removal of a part, especially by cutting
Abortion	Premature stoppage of a pregnancy
Abrasion	Area where the skin or other tissue is scraped away
Abscess	A swelling filled with pus
Absorb	Take up fluids, take in
Absorption	The way a drug or other substance enters the body
Accumulation	Build-up
Acetabulum	Pocket in the hip bone that holds the top of the upper leg bone
Acidosis	Condition when blood contains more acid than normal
Acne	Pimples
Acoustic neuroma	Growth in the ear canal
Acuity	Clearness, keenness, especially of vision - airways
Acute	New, recent, sudden; Lasting a short time, but often causing a serious problem
Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	Contagious illness that results in decreased ability of the body to protect itself from other illnesses
Adduction	Movement towards the middle of the body
Adenoids	Infection-fighting glands in the back of the throat
Adenoma	Non-cancerous tumor
Adenomyosis	A growth of muscle in the uterus
Adenopathy	Swollen lymph nodes (glands)
Adhesion	Tissue stuck together
Adipose	Having to do with fat
Adjunct	Additional substance, treatment or procedure used for increasing the effectiveness of the primary substance, treatment, or procedure
Adjuvant	Helpful, assisting, aiding
Adjuvant treatment	Added treatment

Adrenal gland	A gland found over each kidney that helps regulate blood pressure and stress
Adrenaline	Hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress
Adverse	Harmful, bad, negative, unfavorable
Aerosol	A drug or substance made as a mist to be breathed in
Agent	Substance
Aggravation	Worsening
Airway	Tube through which air passes to enter and leave the lungs
Akinesia	Lack of movement
Albumin	Water-soluble blood protein
Albuminuria	Protein in the urine
Alimentary	Related to digestion
Allergen	A substance that gets into the body and activates the immune system, which produces an allergic reaction
Allergic reaction	Rash, swelling, and/or trouble breathing, which may range from mild and annoying to severe and life-threatening. A severe allergic reaction may cause shock and even death.
Allergy	Sensitivity to a substance
Alopecia	Baldness
Alzheimer's Disease	A disorder that causes mental confusion
Ambulant	Walking
Ambulatory	Able to walk
Ameliorate	Improve
Amenorrhea	When a women has no menstrual period
Amino acid	Substance used by the body to make protein
Amniocentesis	Removal of some of the waters from around an unborn baby for laboratory testing
Amniotic fluid	Waters around an unborn baby
Amniotic sac	Bag of tissue that surrounds an unborn baby
Amphetamines	Drugs that speed up metabolism and decrease appetite ("speed")
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	A disease of the nerves that causes weakness
Analgesic	Drug used to control pain
Analyze	To study thoroughly
Anaphylactic shock	Serious, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to a substance (eg, food, drug)
Anastomosis	Connection between two vessels or tubes
Androgen	Male sex hormone
Anemia	Decreased red blood cells; Low red blood cell count
Anergia	Inactivity
Anesthesia	Loss of sensation or feeling
Anesthetic, general	A drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain or eliminate the feeling of pain by putting one to sleep
Anesthetic, local	A drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain or

	by numbing an area of the body, without putting one to sleep
Aneurysm	Area where an artery is swollen like a sac because the wall of the artery is weak
Angina pectoris	Chest pain due to decreased oxygen being supplied to the heart
Angioedema	Skin blistering
Angioma	Growth made up of blood vessels or lymph vessels
Angioplasty	Surgery to open up a narrow blood vessel
Ankylosis	Joint stiffness
Anorexia	No appetite for food
Anoxia	No oxygen
Antacid	Drug used to decrease acid in the stomach
Antecubital	Area inside the elbow
Antepartum	Before childbirth
Anterior	Having to do with the front of the body
Anterior lobe	Front part of an organ
Antiarrhythmic	Drug used to restore the natural rhythm of the heart
Antibiotic	Drug that kills bacteria and other germs
Antibody	Type of protein that helps protect the body against foreign matter, such as bacteria and viruses; Substance that helps fight infection
Anticoagulant	Drug used to stop blood from clotting
Anticonvulsant	Drug used to stop seizures
Antidepressant	Tranquilizer
Antidote	Substance used to treat allergic reactions
Antiemetic	Drug used to stop vomiting
Antifungal	Fungus killer
Antigen	Foreign Substance
Antihistamine	Drug used to treat allergic reactions
Antihypertensive	High blood pressure drug
Anti-inflammatory	Substance to reduce swelling
Antilipemic	Drug that counteracts fat in the blood
Antimicrobial	Drug that kills bacteria and other germs
Antioxidant	Substance to stop decay
Antipsychotic	Tranquilizer
Antipyretic	Treatment for fever
Antiretroviral	Drug that inhibits certain viruses
Antiseptic	Substance used to stop or slow down the growth of germs
Antitussive	Drug used to relieve coughing
Antiviral	Treatment for a virus
Anus	Ring of muscle that keeps the opening at the end of the digestive tract closed
Anxiety	Agitation
Aorta	Biggest artery in the body
Aortic stenosis	Narrowing of the aorta where it comes out of the heart
Aphagia	Not able to swallow
Aphasia	Not able to speak or write and not able to understand

	spoken or written words; a stroke
Apnea	Stopping of breathing
Appendectomy	Surgery to remove the appendix
Arrhythmia	Any change from the normal heart beat
Arteriogram	X-ray using a dye to outline an artery
Arterioles	Small branches of arteries
Arteriosclerosis	Hardening of the artery
Artery	The type of blood vessel that carries blood and oxygen from the heart to the rest of the body
Arthralgia	Pain in a joint
Arthritis	Inflammation of one or more joints
Arthrocentesis	Use of a needle to remove fluid from a joint
Arthroplasty	Surgery to fix a joint
Arthroscopy	A surgical procedure in which the internal structure of the joints is examined for diagnosis and/or treatment
Articular cartilage	Smooth tissue that covers the bones inside a joint
Ascites	Fluid in the belly
Asphyxia	Suffocation
Aspirate	Removing a substance using suction
Aspiration	Removal of (usually excessive accumulation of) gas or fluid from the body cavity or organs by suction; Breathing in
Assay	Lab test
Assent	Agreement (usually used for children's and youth's approval, followed by parent/guardian's consent in the form of a signature on the consent form)
Assess	Evaluate, determine, learn about
Asthenia	Weakness
Asthma	Breathing disorder in which there is wheezing and difficulty breathing; A lung disease associated with tightening of the air passages
Asymptomatic	Without symptoms
Ataxia	Uncontrolled muscle movement; incoordination
Atelectasis	Collapse of a lung
Atrioventricular block	A disorder that blocks certain signals in the heart and causes problems in heart rhythm
Atrophy	Wasting away, or decrease in size, of a body organ
Atypical	Unusual
Audiology	The study of hearing
Audiometry	Measurement of hearing
Aura	Warning sensation
Auricular	Hearing related
Auscultation	Use of a stethoscope to listen to sounds inside the body
Autoimmune disease	Disorder in which a person's immune system attacks parts of his or her own body
Autonomic	Unconscious, unaware
Axilla	Armpit
Azotemia	Kidney failure

B

Bacillus	Bacteria
Bacteremia	Bacteria in the blood
Bacteria	Type of germs
Bacterial analysis	Test used to detect and identify bacteria
Bacterial endocarditis	Bacterial infection of the inner lining of the heart
Barbiturates	Group of drugs that are used for different reasons, including general anesthesia, sedation, and stopping seizures
Barium enema	An X-ray examination of the large intestines
Basal cell carcinoma	Tumor of the skin (type of skin cancer)
Baseline	A measurement to serve as the basis to compare subsequent measurements
Benign	Not cancerous, usually without serious consequences; harmless
Benign prostatic hypertrophy	Increase in the size of the prostate gland
Beta blocker	Drug used to slow down the heart
Bicuspid valve	A valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heart beat
Bilateral	Having to do with both sides of the body
Bile	Brown-yellow-green liquid made in the liver and stores in the gallbladder that helps with digestion
Bile duct	Tube that carries bile
Biliary	Related to bile
Bilirubin	A substance found in the bile (a high level of bilirubin in the blood causes jaundice)
Binding	Carried by; to make stuck together; transported
Bioavailability	The extent to which a drug or other substance becomes available to the body
Biofeedback	A process for monitoring a body function (such as breathing, heart rate, blood pressure, etc.) and changing the function through relaxation or imagery
Biopsy	A small sample of tissue removed for evaluation
Biphasic	Having two phases
Blepharitis	Inflammation of the eyelid
Blepharoplasty	Surgery to fix the eyelid
Blood amounts	To be defined in teaspoons or tablespoons (a teaspoon is approximately 5 ml)
Blood pressure	The pressure of blood flowing through blood vessels
Blood profile	A series of blood tests
Blood vessels	Tubes that carry blood through the body
Bolus	A single large amount given all at once
Bone marrow	Soft tissue inside bones that makes blood cells
Bone marrow biopsy	Use of a needle to remove bone marrow so that it can be looked at under a microscope

Bone mass	The amount of calcium in a given amount of bone
Bowel	The intestine
Bradyarrhythmia	Slow irregular heart beat
Bradycardia	Slow heart beat
Bradykinesia	Sluggishness
Breast nodes	Increased size of lymph nodes in the armpit
Bronchitis	Inflammation of the bronchus
Bronchodilator	Drug to help breathing
Bronchoscopy	Examination of the lungs by introducing a small instrument (bronchoscope) in a flexible tubing inserted through the nose or mouth
Bronchospasm	Breathing distress caused by narrowing of the airways
Bullous	Blistered
Bursa	Small sac filled with liquid that cushions moving parts, such as two bones in a joint
Bursitis	Inflammation of the bursa
Bypass	An artificial passageway from one blood vessel to another to get around a blood clot

C

Cachexia	Wasting away
Calcaneus	Heel bone
Calcemia	Excess calcium in the blood
Calcification	Hardening
Calculus	A stone
Cancellous bone	Bone that looks like a sponge
Cannula	A thin tube
Capillary	Tiny blood vessel that connects arterioles to venules
Carbohydrate	The body's primary source of energy and, along with fat and protein, one of the three major nutrients in the human diet.
Carcinogenic	Capable of causing cancer in the body
Carcinoma	Type of cancer
Cardiac	Having to do with the heart
Cardiac arrest	Stopping of the heart
Cardiac catheterization	Putting a catheter into the heart to test for or treat a heart problem
Cardiac pacemaker	Battery-powered tool put under the skin to control the heart rate
Cardiac scan	Ultrasonographic test to view the structure of the heart
Cardiogenic	Originating in the heart
Cardiologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the heart
Cardiomegaly	Enlargement of the heart
Cardiomyopathy	Disorder of the heart muscle
Cardiopulmonary bypass	Artificial passageway through which blood goes around the heart during open-heart surgery
Cardiotoxic	Poisonous to the heart
Cardioversion	Use of electric shock to make the heart beat with normal rhythm
Caries	Decay
Carpal	Having to do with the wrist
Carpal tunnel syndrome	Painful disorder resulting in a pinched nerve in the wrist
Cartilage	A rubbery type of tissue that pads the joints
Cataract	Clouding of the lens of the eye
Catheter	Flexible, tube-like tool used to take fluids out or put fluids into the body
Catheter, indwelling, epidural	A tube placed near the spinal cord used for anesthesia during operations
Caudal	Toward the lower side of an organ or structure
Cavity	Hollow; tooth decay
Cecum	The first part of the large intestine, which is shaped like a pouch
Cell	The basic building block of all living things
Cell culture	Keep cells alive and allow to grow under artificial

	conditions in the lab
Cell membrane	Layer that surrounds a cell
Cellulitis	Inflammation of the skin
Central nervous system	Brain and spinal cord
Cephalgia	Headache
Cephalic	Related to the head or the head end of the body
cerebellum	The part of the brain that controls the movement of the muscles and helps maintain balance
Cerebral	Having to do with the brain
Cerebral aneurysm	Area in the brain where an artery is swollen like a sac because the wall of the artery is weak
Cerebral angiography	X-ray of the blood vessels in the brain
Cerebral thrombosis	Blood clot in the brain
Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)	The liquid around and in the brain and spinal cord
Cerebrovascular accident	Stroke
Cerebrum	The largest part of the brain, divided into right and left side
Cerumen	Ear wax
Cervical vertebrae	Bones of the neck
Cessation	Stopping
CHD	Coronary heart disease; congenital heart disease
Chelation	Chemical combination with heavy metal
Chemotherapeutic agent	Anti-cancer drug
Chemotherapy	Treatment of disease, usually cancer, by using drugs
Cholangiogram	X-ray of the gallbladder and bile ducts
Cholecystectomy	Surgery to remove the gallbladder
Cholecystitis	Inflammation of the gallbladder
Choledocholithiasis	Gallstones in the bile duct
Cholelithiasis	Gallstones
Cholinergic	Type of nerve or a drug used to change its action
Chondrectomy	Surgery to remove cartilage
Chondromalacia	Softening of joint cartilage, usually inside the knee
Chromosomes	Structures that hold the genes
Chronic	Lasting for a long time
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	Lung disorder in which the flow of air to the lungs is blocked
Cirrhosis	Serious liver disorder in which connective tissue replaces normal liver tissue, and liver failure often occurs
Clavicle	Collarbone
Clinical	Pertaining to medical care
Clinically significant	Of major importance for treating or evaluating patients
Clinical trial	An experiment in patients; a research study
Closeout	The final procedures that will end the study
Coagulation time	Measure of how long it takes for blood to clot
Cochlea	The organ of hearing inside the ear
Cognition	Understanding
Colectomy	Surgery to remove part or all of the colon

Colitis	Inflammation of the colon
Colon	A part of the large intestine
Colonoscope	Tool used to look into the colon
Colonoscopy	Examination of the intestines by introducing a small instrument (colonoscope) in a flexible tubing inserted through the anus
Colostomy	An opening, or the surgery to make an opening, between the colon and the outside of the body
Coma	Varying degrees of unconsciousness from which a person may not awaken
Compensation	Payment, money
Complete response	Total disappearance of disease
Complications	Difficulties, problems
Computerized axial tomography (CAT)	X-ray that uses a computer to make pictures of the organs of the body
Computerized tomography (CT)	X-ray that uses a computer to make pictures of the organs of the body
Concomitant	Given at the same time; associated
Concussion	Unconsciousness resulting from a blow to the head affecting the brain
Conduction	Transfer
Congenital	Occurring prior to birth, due to a parent's genetic input
Congenital anomaly	Birth defect
Congenital heart disease	Heart disease present at birth
Congenital heart failure	Failure of the heart resulting in fluid build-up in the lungs and other body tissues, or both
Conjugated	Joined
Conjunctiva	Tissue that lines the eyelids and covers part of the eye and its sockets
Conjunctivitis	Irritation and redness of the thin membrane covering the eye; "pink eye"
Connective tissue	Type of tissue that connects, supports, touches, and surrounds various body parts
Conservative	Not extreme
Conscious	Awake and aware
Consent	Agreement
Consequences	Outcomes, results
Constipation	Decreased number of or difficulty making bowel movements
Contraindications	Medical reasons that prevent a person from using a certain drug or treatment
Contrast agent	A substance injected as part of certain scanning procedures; like a dye to make certain parts of the body show up better when a scan is done
Control	Standard
Controlled trial	Study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard (control) treatment or procedure
Contusion	Bruise

Conventional	Normal, standard
Convulsion	seizure
Cooperative group	Association of multiple institutions to perform clinical trials
Cor pulmonale	Heart disease or heart failure caused by a disorder of the lungs
Cornea	Clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
Coronary	Pertaining to the blood vessels that supply the heart
Coronary artery	Artery that supplies blood to the heart
Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)	Surgery to make a new passageway for blood to the heart
Coronary artery disease	A condition that reduces the blood flow through the coronary arteries to the heart muscle
Coronary heart disease	A condition that reduces the blood flow through the coronary arteries to the heart muscle
Coronary ischemia	Not enough blood going to the heart
Coronary thrombosis	Blood clot in an artery that supplies blood to the heart
Corpus	Main portion of a body part or organ
Correlation	Association
Cortex	Outer layer of an organ or other structure in the body
Cortical	Having to do with the outer layer of an organ or other structure in the body
Corticosteroid	Hormone
Cough	Sudden, loud flow of air from the lungs
Cranial	Related to the head
Cranial cavity	Space inside the skull that holds the brain
Cranioplasty	Surgery to fix the skull
Craniotomy	Surgery on the skull or to make an opening in the skull
Crohn's Disease	Serious inflammation of any part of the gastrointestinal system
Croup	Children's breathing disorder resulting in coughing and harsh breathing
CT scan (CAT scan)	Computerized series of x-rays
Culture	Test for infection or organisms (bacteria) that could cause infection
Cumulative	Total sum (of individual events, experiences, treatments)
Curative	Curing
Cutaneous	Relating to the skin
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident, stroke
Cyanosis	Blue color of tissues, such as the skin or gums, caused by little oxygen
Cyst	Any closed sac in the body, especially one that contains fluid or semisolid material
Cystic fibrosis	Genetic disorder of glands resulting in lung and digestive problems
Cystitis	Inflammation of the urinary bladder
Cystocele	Type of hernia in which the urinary bladder bulges into the vagina

Cystogram	X-ray of the urinary bladder
Cystostomy	Surgery to make an opening into the urinary bladder
Cystoureterogram	X-ray of the urinary bladder and ureters
Cytogenic	Making cells
Cytology	The study of cells
Cytoplasm	Material inside a cell

D

Debridement	Surgery to clean foreign material and dead tissue out of a wound
Decubital ulcer	Bedsore
Decubitus ulcer	Bedsore
Deep	Inside the body
Deep vein thrombosis	Blood clot in a deep vein
Defibrillation	Use of electric shock to make the heart start beating, or to correct abnormal heart rate or rhythm
Degenerative	Worsening
Degradation	Break-down
Dementia	Mental decline
Dentition	Set of teeth
Depersonalization	Dream-like feeling
Depletion	Removal
Depressant	Drug that slows down the action of the central nervous system
Deprivation	Loss or lack of
Derivative	Substance obtained from something else
Dermabrasion	Method used to remove scars from the skin
Dermal	Pertaining to the skin
Dermatitis	Skin inflammation
Dermatologic	Pertaining to the skin
Dermatologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the skin
Dermatome	Tool used to cut thin slices of the skin to use as skin grafts; also, geographic area of the skin
Dermatoplasty	Surgery to repair the skin
Dermis	Inner layer of the skin
Detached retina	Separation of the innermost layer of the eye from the middle layer
Detoxification	Drug addiction treatment
Deviated septum	When the inner wall separating the two sides of the nose is off to one side
Diabetes insipidus	Excessive discharge of urine from the body caused by a deficiency in the quantity of antidiuretic hormone being produced in the body
Diabetes mellitus	Disorder in which there is decreased insulin in the body or the body's insulin is not effective, resulting in high blood sugar and many other side effects
Diagnosis	Determination of the cause of a medical problem
Diaphoresis	Heavy sweating
Diaphragm	Thin flat muscle that helps with breathing and separates the chest wall from the abdominal cavity
Diarrhea	Frequent, loose bowel movements
Diastolic	Lower number in blood pressure reading; Pertaining to the resting or relaxation phase of the heart

	beat
Diffuse	Widely distributed
Diffusion	Spreading
Digitalization	Giving heart failure medication
Dilatation	Stretching
Dilator	Tool used for stretching or enlarging an opening or tube
Diplopia	Seeing double
Dislocation	Moving out of position
Disposition	Tendency
Dissector	Tool used to separate or cut away tissue
Disseminate	Scatter, spread
Dissociation	Separation
Distal	Toward the end, away from the center of the body
Distended	Stretched or swollen, such as a full bladder
Diuresis	Increased discharge of urine
Diuretic	Drug used to get excess water out of the body and increase urine; "water pill"
Diurnal	Daytime
Diverticulitis	Inflammation of abnormal pouches coming off the colon
Diverticulosis	Abnormal pouches coming off the colon
DNA	The part of the cells that contains all the information about what the cell is and what it does. It is composed of proteins that are grouped in different ways.
Doppler	Sound waves
Doppler flow studies	Use of sound waves to see blood flow inside blood vessels
Dorsal	Having to do with the back of the body
Double-blind	Study in which neither the person giving the treatment nor the subject knows what drug or treatment the subject is receiving
Down's syndrome	Birth disorder in which there is one extra chromosome, mental retardation, and changed appearance of the head, hands, and feet
Duct	Tube that carries body fluid; passageway
Duodenal ulcer	Sore in the first part of the small intestine
Duodenum	First part of the small intestine
Dura mater	Outer layer of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord
Dysarthria	Speech defect
Dyscrasia	Disorder, usually of the blood cells
Dysentery	Inflammation of the intestine, usually the colon, resulting in pain with blood and mucus in bowel movements
Dysfunction	State of improper function; not working properly
Dyskinesia	Jerky movements
Dysmnenorrhea	Painful menstruation
Dyspepsia	Trouble digesting food, with discomfort after meals
Dysphagia	Trouble swallowing
Dysphasia	Difficulty speaking and putting words together
Dysplasia	Abnormal development or cell growth

Dyspnea	Trouble breathing
Dystonia	Muscle disorders
Dystrophy	Growth failure in tissue
Dysuria	Pain when urinating

E

Ecchymosis	Deep, extensive, black and blue mark; bruise
Echocardiogram	Picture of the heart in motion made by bouncing sound waves off of it and recording the echoes
Eclampsia	Convulsions in a pregnant woman caused by high blood pressure and other medical problems
Ectopic	In the wrong place
Ectopic pregnancy	Pregnancy growing outside the uterus, often in the fallopian tubes
Eczema	Type of itchy skin rash
Edema	Swelling caused by fluid held in the tissues
Efficacy	Effectiveness
Effusion	Escape of fluid
Elective	Non-urgent
Electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG)	Assessment or tracing of the electrical action of the heart
Electrocardiograph	Machine that records the electrical action of the heart
Electrode	A small device that detects electrical activity in your body or is capable of delivering an electrical impulse
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	Tracing of the electrical activity of the brain
Electroencephalograph	Machine that records the electrical action of the brain
Electrolyte imbalance	Imbalance of minerals or chemicals in the blood
Electrophysiological	Involving the study of electrical phenomena in living bodies
Embolus; embolism	Blood clot; sudden blocking of an artery
Embryo	Unborn baby from 2 to 8 weeks after it is formed
Emesis	Vomiting
Emetic	Drug used to make a person vomit (useful in treating poisoning)
Emollient	Substance that softens the skin
Emphysema	Disorder in which too much air collects deep in the lungs
Empiric	Based on experience
Encephalitis	Inflammation of the brain
Encephalopathy	Brain disease
End point	The event observed in a subject that would determine ending or changing the treatment
Endogenous	Without obvious external cause
Endocrinologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the glands that make hormones
Endometriosis	Growths outside of the uterus made up of the tissue that lines the uterus
Endometritis	Inflammation of the inner lining of the uterus
Endometrium	Inner lining of the uterus
Endorphin	Substance made by the body to stop pain

Endoscopic examination	Examination of an internal part of the body with a lighted tube; Looking at a part of the body with a lighted tube
Endothelium	Lining of heart and blood vessels
Endotracheal	Inside the windpipe
Enema	Liquid that is injected into the rectum to promote bowel movement
Enteral	By way of the gastrointestinal tract
Enteritis	Inflammation of the small intestine
Enuresis	Bed-wetting
Epicondylitis	"Tennis elbow"
Epidemiological	Involving the study of epidemics
Enzyme	A substance produced by the body to assist in breaking down chemicals
Epidermal	Having to do with the outer layer of the skin
Epididymis	Tube that stores and carries sperm
Epidural	Outside the spinal cord
Epigastric region	Area above the navel
Epiglottis	Flap of skin that keeps food from going down the windpipe
Epilepsy	Seizure disorder
Epinephrine	Hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress
Epistaxis	Nosebleed
Epithelium	Type of tissue that covers the outside of the body and makes up the lining and outer layers of most body organs and parts
Equivalent	Equal, same
Eradicating	Getting rid of (such as a disease)
Eruption	Breaking out
Erythema	Redness of the skin that is often a sign of infection or inflammation
Erythrocytes	Cells in the blood that carry oxygen; red blood cells
Esophagus	The passageway between the mouth and the stomach; the 'food pipe'
Esophagoscopy	Examination of the esophagus by introducing a small instrument in a flexible tubing inserted through the nose or mouth
Estrogen	Female sex hormone
Eustachian tube	Tube that connects the middle ear and the throat
Evaluate	Assess; examine for medical condition
Exacerbation	Worsening
Exanthema	Skin rash
Excretion	The way that substances leave the body; removal of waste
Exfoliation	Shedding of cells
Exogenous	With an external organ
Exophthalmos	Protruding eyes
Exostosis	Bony growth on the surface of a bone

Expectorant	Cough medicine
Expiration	Breathing out
Extension	The straight position of an arm of leg
External	Outside the body
Extrapyramidal	Part of the central nervous system
Extrasystole	Premature heart contraction
Extravasation	Escape of blood from blood vessels and into tissue

F

Fallopian tube	Tube attached to the uterus down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
Fasciculation	Twitch
Fasting blood sugar	Blood test used to measure the amount of sugar in the blood after not eating or drinking for a set amount of time
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration; the branch of the federal government which regulates and approves new drugs
Febrile	Feverish
Femoral	Having to do with the thigh area
Femur	Thigh bone
Fetus	Unborn baby from 9 weeks after it is formed until it is born
Fibrillation	Fast uncontrolled heart beat
Fibroid tumor	Growth made up of tissue having many fibers, such as scar tissue
Fibrous	Having many fibers, such as scar tissue
Fibula	The lower leg bone behind the shin
Fissure	Crack or groove in tissue
Fistula	Abnormal passage
Flaccid	Soft
Flatus	Passing gas
Flexion	Bent position of the arm or leg
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	The branch of the federal government that regulates foods and drugs
Forceps	Tool with two blades and a handle used for handling tissue or dressings
Foreskin	Fold of skin that covers the penis and is removed in circumcision
Fracture	Broken bone
Fulguration	Use of electric sparks to remove tissue such as tumors
Fundus	Top of the uterus; or Back of the eye; or Large part of the stomach
Fungus	Type of living organisms, such as yeast, molds, and mushrooms, some of which cause infection and some which look like plants
Furuncle	Painful skin boil

G

Gait	The way a person walks
Gallbladder	Small sac under the liver that holds bile
Ganglion	Group of nerve cells found outside the central nervous system; A tumor on muscle connective tissue or on a tendon
Gangrene	Death of tissue caused by loss of blood flow and usually followed by infection
Gastrectomy	Surgery to remove all or part of the stomach
Gastric lavage	Washing the stomach out
Gastric ulcer	Sore in the stomach
Gastritis	Inflammation of the stomach
Gastroenteritis	Inflammation of the stomach and intestines
Gastrointestinal	Stomach and intestines
Gastroscopy	Examination of the stomach by introducing a small instrument in a flexible tubing inserted through the nose or mouth
General anesthesia	Induction and maintenance of drugged sleep, as in surgery
Generic name	Chemical name for a drug
Genes	Material passed from parent to child that determines the make-up of body and mind
Genetic	Having to do with material passed from parent to child that determines the make-up of body and mind
Genitalia	Male and female sex organs
Gestational	Pertaining to pregnancy
Gingiva	The gums
Gingivectomy	Surgery to remove gum tissue
Gingivitis	Inflammation of the gums
Gland	Tissue that produces a material, such as the saliva or a hormone
Glaucoma	Increased pressure inside the eye that causes visual problems
Globulin	Protein in the blood
Glomerulonephritis	Inflammation of the kidney
Glossitis	Inflammation of the tongue
Glottis	Voice box
Glucocorticoids	Drugs or natural substances made by the adrenal glands that have many effects on body metabolism, raise sugar level in the blood, and reduce inflammation
Glucose	Type of sugar found in the blood
Glucose tolerance test	Test that measures blood sugar levels over a certain amount of time after the patient drinks a beverage that contains a measured amount of sugar
Glycosuria	Sugar in the urine

Gout	Disorder in which crystals of uric acid deposit in and around joints, causing pain and arthritis
Grand mal	Epileptic seizure
Granulocytopenia	Drop in white blood cell count increasing the risk of infection
Gynecologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the sex organs of women
Gynecology	The study of the reproductive system of women

H

Heart	Muscle that moves or pumps blood through the body
Heart failure	When the heart inadequately pumps blood through the body
Heart murmur	Swishing sound, heard when listening to the heart through a stethoscope, caused by abnormal flow of blood through the heart
Hematemesis	Blood in vomit
Hematocrit	The percentage of blood made up of red blood cells
Hematocytopenia	Not enough blood cells
Hematologist	Doctor who treats blood disorders
Hematology	The study of blood
Hematoma	Pocket of blood caused by bleeding from a broken blood vessel; a “black and blue” mark; a bruise
Hematuria	Blood in the urine
Hemiparesis	Muscle weakness or partial paralysis, usually with loss of feeling, in half of the body
Hemiplegia	Total loss of muscle movement, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body
Hemodialysis	Method used to remove waste material from the blood
Hemodynamic	Measuring of blood flow
Hemoglobin	Substance that carries oxygen and gives blood its red color
Hemolysis	Bursting open or break down of red blood cells
Hemophilia	Genetic defect in which blood clots too slowly
Hemoptysis	Coughing up blood
Hemorrhage	Bleeding; escape of blood from blood vessels
Hemostasis	The stopping of bleeding
Hemothorax	Blood in the chest cavity
Heparin lock	Needle placed in the arm with blood thinner to keep the blood from clotting inside the needle or tubing
Hepatic	Liver related
Hepatitis	Inflammation of the liver
Hepatoma	Growth on the liver
Hepatomegaly	Liver enlargement
Heritable disease	A disease which can be transmitted to one’s offspring resulting in damage to future children
Hernia	Bulging of an organ through an abnormal opening in a muscle
Herniated disk	Breaking of a ring-shaped pad in the spine, which often pinches a nerve; Slipped disk
Herniorrhaphy	Surgery to fix a hernia

Herpes	Groups of tiny blisters found on the skin caused by infection with herpes virus
Heterosexual	Person who is attracted to the opposite sex
Hiccup	Sudden, uncontrolled spasm of the diaphragm
Hirsutism	Abnormal hairiness (in women, an adult male pattern of hair distribution)
Histology	The study of tissue under the microscope
Histopathological	Pertaining to the disease status of body tissues or cells
Hodgkin's Disease	A cancer of white blood cells
Holter Monitor	A portable machine for recording heart beats
Homogeneous	Uniform
Homosexual	Person who is attracted to the same sex
Hormone	Substance made by a gland in the body that regulates another part of the body
Hospital Formulary	List of drugs and their proper doses maintained by each hospital
Humeral	Having to do with the upper arm bone
Humerus	Upper arm bone
Hydration	Adding water
Hydrocephalus	Increase in fluid usually causing pressure on the brain; Water on the brain
Hydronephrosis	Abnormal collection of urine in the kidney causing a swollen kidney
Hyperalgesia	Excessive sensitivity to pain
Hyperbaric	At higher than normal pressure
Hypercalcemia	Too much calcium in the blood
Hypercapnia	Too much carbon dioxide in the blood
Hyperemesis	Excessive vomiting
Hyperemia	Excess blood in a part
Hyperesthesia	Very sensitive to touch
Hyperglycemia	Too much sugar in the blood
Hyperkalemia	Too much potassium in the blood
Hyperkeratosis	Thickening of the skin
Hyperkinesis	Overactive movements
Hypernatremia	Too much sodium in the blood
Hyperplasia	Abnormal increase in the number of normal cells
Hypersensitivity	Over sensitivity
Hypertension	High blood pressure
Hypertensive heart disease	Heart problems caused by high blood pressure
Hyperthyroidism	Overactive thyroid gland
Hypertonia	Stiffness
Hypertrophy	Increase in the size of an organ
Hyperventilation	Breathing that is too fast
Hypnotic	Drug used to make a person sleep
Hypocalcemia	Not enough calcium in the blood
Hypocapnia	Not enough carbon dioxide in the blood
Hypochondriac region	Area to the right or left above the navel
Hypodermic	Under the skin
Hypodermic injection	Injection of a substance under the skin

Hypoesthesia	State of having less than normal sensitivity to stimulation
Hypogastric region	Area below the navel
Hypoglycemia	Not enough sugar in the blood
Hypokalemia	Not enough potassium in the blood
Hypomania	Persistent slight hyperactivity
Hyponatremia	Not enough sodium in the blood
Hypotension	Low blood pressure
Hypothermia	Low body temperature
Hypothesis	A theory that forms the basis for a study to prove it
Hypothyroidism	Underactive thyroid gland
Hypotonia	Decreased muscle tone
Hypoventilation	Too little air entering the lungs
Hypoxemia	Not enough oxygen in the blood
Hypoxia	Not enough oxygen in the tissues
Hysterectomy	Surgery to remove the uterus
Hysterosalpingo-oophorectomy	Surgery to remove all of the internal female reproductive organs
Hysterosalpingography	Taking an x-ray of the uterus and the uterine tubes

Iatrogenic	Response (usually unfavorable) to a treatment or surgery
Icterus	Too much bile (Brown-yellow-green liquid made in the liver and stores in the gallbladder that helps with digestion) in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eyes, and other tissues; jaundice
IDE	Investigational device exemption – the license to test an unapproved new medical device
Idiopathic	Of unknown cause
Idiosyncrasy	Rare side effect of a drug; unusual reaction of a person to a drug
Ileum	Third and last part of the small intestine
Ileus	Blockage of the intestines
Iliac regions	Area to the right and left below the navel
Ilium	Wing-shaped upper part of the hip bone
Immobilization	Stopping movement
Immune system	The cells and substances that protect the body from infection and foreign matter
Immunity	Protection against infection
Immunodeficiency	Weakness of the immune system
Immunoglobulins	Proteins that help protect the body from infection and foreign matter
Immunotherapy	Giving of drugs to help the body's immune response system; usually used to destroy cancer cells
Impaired function	Abnormal function
Impetigo	Skin infection
Implanted	Placed in the body
In situ	In the normal place
In vitro	In a test tube
In vivo	In the body
Incidence	Number of cases
Incidental	Minor
Incision	Cut
Incontinence	Not able to control bladder or bowel actions
IND	Investigational new drug – the license to test an unapproved new drug
Indication	Sign
Induction phase	Beginning phase or stage of a treatment
Induration	Hard spot; hardening
Indwelling	Remaining in a given location, such as a catheter
Infarct	Death of tissue because of lack of blood supply
Infarction	Heart attack
Infectious disease	Disease which is transmitted from one person to another

Inferior	Toward the lower part of the body
Inflammation	Swelling which is generally painful, red and warm
Influenza	The flu
Infusion	Placing a liquid substance into a vein by letting it flow in with gravity
Ingestion	Eating; taking by mouth
Inhalant	Substance given through the nose or mouth to reach the lung
Inherent	Natural
Innervation	Nerve distribution
Insomnia	Sleeplessness
Inspiration	Breathing in
Insulin	The hormone that controls blood sugar levels
Integrity	Wholeness
Integumentary	Of skin
Intention tremor	Shakiness
Intercostal	Between the ribs
Interferon	Agent which acts against viruses; antiviral agent
Interictal	Happening between seizures
Intermittent	Occurring (regularly or irregularly) between two time points
Intermittent claudication	Pain and weakness in the legs when walking is impossible and then goes away after a rest
Interior	Inside the body
Internal	Inside the body
Interstitial	In gaps between tissue
Interval	Space
Intervertebral disks	Pads found between each ring (bone) in the spine
Intoxication	Poisoning
Intracranial	Inside the skull
Intradermally	Given into the skin
Intradermal injection	Injection of a substance into the skin
Intramuscular injection	Injection of a substance into a muscle
Intraocular	Inside the eye
Intraperitoneal	Inside the abdominal cavity
Intrathecal injection	Injection of a substance into the space surrounding the spine (i.e., spinal canal)
Intravenous injection	Injection of a substance into a vein
Intravenous pyelogram	X-ray of the kidneys and ureters using dye that is injected into the blood
Intravesical	In the bladder
Intrinsic	Internal
Intubate	The placement of a tube into the airway
Invasive procedure	Puncture, opening or cutting of the skin
Inversion	Turning inward
Investigation	Study
Investigational method	A treatment method which has not been proven to be beneficial or has not been accepted as standard care

Irrigation	Washing
Irritable bowel syndrome	Bowel disorder in which there is pain and diarrhea or constipation
Ischemia	Low oxygen in tissue due to decreased blood circulation caused by obstruction
Ischium	Lower part of the pelvic bone, part you sit on
Isthmus	Thin strip of tissue that joins two parts of the body

J

Jaundice	Too much bile (Brown-yellow-green liquid made in the liver and stores in the gallbladder that helps with digestion) in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eyes and other tissues
Jejunum	Second and longest part of the small intestine

K

Kaposi's sarcoma	Purple or brown cancerous pimples on the skin, often associated with AIDS
Karyocyte	Cell with a center
Karyoplasm	Material inside the center of a cell
Keloid	Type of scar tissue that keeps growing inside
Keratin	Protein that is found in the hair, nails, and skin
Keratoplasty	Surgery to fix the cornea of the eye
Ketone bodies	Substances that increase in the blood and urine when too much body fat and too many carbohydrates are being broken down, usually because of starvation or serious, untreated diabetes mellitus
Kidney	One of two organs in the lower back that filter blood and make urine
Kyphosis	Hunchback

L

Labile	Unstable
Labyrinth	Structure in the inner ear
Labyrinthectomy	Surgery to remove the inner ear
Labyrinthitis	Inflammation of the inner ear
Laceration	Torn, ragged cut
Lacrimal	Having to do with the tears
Lacrimal duct	Passageway in the eyelids that drains tears; A type of tear duct
Lactating	Nursing or breast feeding; making milk
Lactic dehydrogenase	Substance measured in a blood test to assess damage to heart and other organs
Lactogenic	Causing the making of breast milk
Lactorrhea	Too much discharge of milk from the breast
Laminectomy	Surgery to remove the top of vertebra
Laparoscope	Tool used to look into the abdominal cavity
Laparotomy	A procedure in which an opening is made in the abdominal wall to enable a physician to look at the organs
Large intestine	A bowel between the small intestine and the anus, including the cecum, colon, and rectum
Laryngeal	Having to do with the voice box
Laryngectomy	Surgery to remove the voice box
Laryngitis	Inflammation of the voice box
Laryngoplasty	Surgery to fix the voice box
Laryngoscope	Tool used to look into the voice box
Laryngospasm	Sudden, uncontrolled cramp in the voice box
Laryngostomy	Surgery to make an opening into the voice box
Larynx	Voice box
Lassitude	Weariness
Latent	Inactive
Lateral	Toward or having to do with the side of the body
Laxative	Drug used to stop constipation
Legionnaires' Disease	Serious disorder caused by bacterial infection in which there is high fever, stomach pain, and pneumonia
Leiomyoma	Smooth muscle growth
Lens	Structure in the eye that is normally clear and helps to focus light coming into the eye
Lesion	Abnormal area of tissue, such as a wound, sore, rash, or boil
Lethargy	Sleepiness
Leukemia	Cancer of white blood cells
Leukocyte	One of the infection-fighting cells in the blood and body tissues; white blood cells
Leukocytosis	Increase in the number of white blood cells in the blood

Leukopenia	Low white blood cell count
Ligament	Elastic tissue that connects bone or cartilage
Lipid	Fat
Lipoma	Growth made up of fat cells
Lipoprotein electrophoresis	Blood test that measures the amounts of fat and protein in the blood
Liposome	Fatty or oily globule
Lithotripsy	Surgery or other method to crush a stone
Liver	Large organ that helps in many body functions, including digestion, metabolism, and storage of substances
Lobar pneumonia	Bacterial infection of one or more sections of the lung
Lobectomy	Surgery to remove a section of the lung
Local anesthesia	Creation of insensitivity to pain in a small local area of the body
Localized	Limited to a specific area
Lower GI Series	X-ray using a dye given as an enema to outline the large intestine
Lumbar puncture	Spinal tap using a needle to remove spinal fluid for testing from the lower back
Lumbar region	Lower back of the body
Lumbar vertebrae	Bones of the spine in the lower back
Lumen	The space inside a tube-like body structure, such as a blood vessel
Lung lobe	One of five sections of the two lungs
Lungs	The two main organs for breathing
Lupus Erythematosus (LE)	Chronic disorders of connective tissues in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems
Lymph	Clear liquid tissue
Lymph node	Tissue that filters disease germs from the blood, also called a lymph gland
Lymphadenitis	Inflammation of the lymph nodes
Lymphangiography	X-ray of the lymph nodes or tissues after injection of dye in lymph vessels
Lymphocyte	Type of white blood cell important in the body's defense against infection
Lymphoid tissue	Tissue that contains lymphocytes
Lymphoma	Cancerous growth made up of lymphoid tissue, particularly lymphocytes

M

Maceration	Soaking
Macro -	Describes something that is large or long
Macule	Flat, colored spot on the skin
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	The use of magnetic waves to look at soft tissues of the body
Malabsorption	Poor digestion
Malaise	A vague feeling of bodily discomfort, feeling bad
Malfunction	Condition in which something is not functioning properly
Malignancy	Cancer or other progressively enlarging and spreading tumor, fatal if not successfully treated
Malignant	Cancerous; occurring in a severe form (that may even cause death) not responding to treatment
Mallet	Hammer-like tool used for striking objects
Mammary glands	Milk-producing tissue in the breasts
Mammogram	X-ray of the breast
Mammoplasty	Surgery to reconstruct the breast
Mandible	Lower jaw bone
Manifest	Visible
Manifestation	sign
Mastectomy	Surgery to remove a breast
Mastitis	Inflammation of the mammary gland or of the breast
Mastoid cells	Air spaces inside the protruding part of the bone located in the skull behind the ear
Mastoid process	The protruding part of the bone located in the skull behind the ear
Mastoidectomy	Surgery to remove the protruding part of the bone located in the skull behind the ear
Mastoiditis	Inflammation of the air spaces in the mastoid process that communicate with the middle ear
Maxilla	Upper jaw bone
Medial	Toward or having to do with the middle of the body
Median	Average
Medications	Medicine, drugs
Mediastinum	Tissue and organs in the middle of the chest between the two lungs
Medulloblastoma	Type of brain tumor
Medulla oblongata	Part of the brain that controls breathing, blood pressure, and other important body functions; brain stem
Megaloblastosis	Change in red blood cells
Melanin	Material that makes the color of the skin and hair
Melanoma	Cancerous black growth on the skin
Meniere's Disease	Disorder of the inner ear in which there is dizziness, ringing in the ears, and loss of hearing

Meninges	Three-layered tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Meningitis	Inflammation of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Meniscus	One of two crescent-shaped pads inside the knee joint
Menometrorrhagia	Too much bleeding from the uterus during menstruation and at other times
Menopause	Time in life when a woman stops having a menstrual period
Menses	Discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not pregnant
Menstruation	Discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not pregnant
Metabolism	Total of all the important actions in the body that keep it alive
Metabolize	Process of breaking down substances in the cells
Metacarpal bones	Bones of the hand between the wrist and fingers
Metastasis	Spread of disease from one place in the body to another place in the body that is not nearby
Metatarsal bones	Foot bones
Micro-	Describes something that is small or delicate
Microcephalus	Person with a very small head
Microorganism	Germ
Micturate	Urinate
Middle ear	The space between the eardrum and the inner ear
Migraine	Type of severe headache that occurs periodically and is often associated with nausea, vomiting, and constipation or diarrhea
Minimal	Slight
Minimize	Reduce
Miotic	Substance that makes the pupil of the eye smaller (eg. Narcotic)
Miscarriage	Loss of an unborn baby from the uterus before it is able to survive outside the mother's body
Mitral valve	Valve between two chambers on the left side of the heart
Mobility	Ease of movement; able to move around
Monitor	Keep track of
Mononucleosis	Glandular fever
Monoparesis	Weak muscle movement and loss of feeling in one arm or one leg
Monoplegia	Loss of movement and loss of feeling in one arm or one leg
Monotherapy	Therapy with one drug
Morbidity	Undesired result or complication; serious disease
Mortality	Death or death rate
Motility	Ability to move

MRI – magnetic resonance imaging	Body pictures created using magnetic rather than x-ray energy
Mucopurulent	Slimy and with pus in it
Mucosa	Moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts
Mucous membrane	Moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts
Mucus	Slimy fluid
Multicenter	The same study being carried out at several centers
Multigravida	Woman who has been pregnant two or more times
Multipara	Woman who has given birth two or more times
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	Slowly worsening disorder of the central nervous system that causes weakness, incoordination, numbness, and problems talking and seeing
Muscle	Type of tissue that causes movement
Muscular Dystrophy (MD)	Genetic problem resulting in muscle weakness and wasting away of the muscle(s)
Myalgia	Muscle aches
Myasthenia	Muscle weakness
Myasthenia Gravis	Disorder that causes muscles to get tired quickly
Mycosis	Fungal disease
Mydriatic	Substance that makes the pupil of the eye bigger
Myelogram	X-ray of the spinal cord using dye that is injected into the spinal area
Myeloma	Cancer of the types of cells normally found in bone marrow
Myelomalacia	Softening of the spinal cord
Myocardial	Pertaining to the muscle of the heart
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Heart attack; death of heart muscle
Myocardial ischemia	Not enough blood going to the heart
Myocarditis	Inflammation of the heart muscle
Myocardium	Muscle of the heart
Myoma	Growth made up of muscle tissue
Myomectomy	Surgery to remove a piece of muscle
Myometrium	Muscle of the uterus
Myopathy	Muscle disorder
Myopia	Nearsightedness
Myoplasty	Surgery to fix a muscle
Myositis	Muscle inflammation
Myringitis	Inflammation of the eardrum
Myringoplasty	Surgery to fix a ruptured eardrum
Myxedema	Disorder caused by lack of thyroid hormone in which areas of the skin are swollen

N

Nail	Tough plate of tissue covering the top of the end of each finger and toe
Narcotic	Strong potentially habit-forming drug that may relieve pain and depresses the central nervous system
Nasal septum	Wall that divides the nose into two sides
Nasogastric tube	Tube that goes from the nose and into the stomach; used for feeding liquid food to a patient
Nasolacrimal duct	Tube that drains tears from the eye into the nose; tear duct
Natal	Having to do with childbirth
Nausea	Sick to the stomach
NCI	The National Cancer Institute
Nebulizer	Device used to turn liquids into mists for breathing treatments
Necrosis	Death of tissue or skin
Neonate	Newborn infant
Neonatology	The study of disorders of newborn infants
Neoplasia	Tumor, may be cancerous or non-cancerous
Neoplasm	New growth that is not normal; tumor
Nephrectomy	Surgery to remove a kidney
Nephritis	Inflammation of the kidney(s)
Nephroblastoma	Type of malignant kidney tumor
Nephrogram	X-ray of the kidney
Nephrohypertrophy	Overgrowth of the kidney
Nephrolithiasis	Stones in the kidney
Nephroma	Growth of the kidney
Nephromegaly	Overgrowth of the kidney
Nephropexy	Surgery to tie down a kidney
Nerve	String-like tissue that carries messages to and away from the brain and spinal cord and tells muscles to move
Nervous tissue	Type of tissue that makes up the central nervous system and nerves
Neuralgia	Nerve pain
Neurectomy	Surgery to remove part of a nerve
Neuritis	Inflammation of a nerve
Neuroarthropathy	Disorder of the joints and the central nervous system or nerves
Neuroblast	Cell that will develop into a nerve
Neuroblastoma	A cancer of the nerve tissue
Neurological	Pertaining to the nervous system
Neurologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the central nervous system and nerves

Neurolysis	Surgery to open the covering of a nerve to destroy a nerve
Neuroma	Growth made up of nerve tissue
Neuropathy	A disturbance in the function of the brain or spinal cord that may affect the nerves and muscles of the body
Neuroplasty	Surgery to fix a nerve
Neurosis	Mental and emotional disorder
Neurotomy	Surgery to make a break in a nerve
Neutropenia	Decrease in the main part of the white blood cells
Nevus	Mole; birthmark
NIH	National Institute of Health
Nocturia	Waking up to urinate at night
Non-compliance	To not follow the set procedure
Non-invasive	Not breaking, cutting or entering the skin
Norepinephrine	Hormone discharged from nerves, the brain and the glands over the kidneys that helps the body deal with stress and low blood pressure
Normotensive	With normal blood pressure
Noscomial pneumonia	Pneumonia acquired in the hospital
Nucleus	Center of a cell
Nulligravida	Woman that has never given birth
Nullipara	Woman that has never given birth to an infant that lived
Nyctalopia	Difficulty seeing at night



Obesity	Extremely overweight
Objective	Aim or goal
Obstetrician	Doctor who takes care of pregnant women and delivers babies
Obstetrics	The study of pregnant women and childbirth
Obstipation	Severe constipation
Obstructive sleep apnea	Breathing problems while sleeping because the airways collapse or get closed off
Occlude	Close off
Occlusion	Closing; obstruction
Occult	Concealed, hidden
Ocular	Eye related
Oculmycosis	Fungus infection in the eye
Ocologyric	Involving circular eye movements
OHRP	Office for Human Research Protection; oversees IRBs and related matters, and research with humans to be sure that the federal regulations are followed
Oliguria	Decreased amount of urine
Oncogenic	Causing tumors to form
Oncologist	Doctor who treats cancer
Oncology	The study of tumors or cancer
Onychomalacia	Softening of the nails
Onychomycosis	Fungal infection of the nail
Oophorectomy	Surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries
Ophthalmic	Having to do with the eye
Ophthalmologist	Doctor who treats eye disorders
Ophthalmology	The study of eye disorders
Ophthalmopathy	Disorder of the eye
Ophthalmorrhagia	Bleeding from the eye
Opiate	Opium-like drug
Opportunistic	Disease usually excluded by body defenses
Optic	Having to do with the eyes
Optic nerve	Nerve that carries visual messages from the retina to the brain
Optician	Person who makes glasses
Optimal	Best; most favorable
Optometer	Tool used in eye examinations
Optometry	The study of the eye and vision
Oral	Having to do with the mouth
Oral administration	Given by mouth
Orbital	Related to the eye socket
Orchiectomy	Surgery to remove one or both testicles
Orchitis	Inflammation of a testicle

Organ	Two or more kinds of tissues that work together to make up a part of the body with a unique function
Orientation	Awareness of your environment
Orthodontist	Dentist who treats teeth and jaw disorders
Orthopedics	The study of the bones and joints
Orthopedist	Doctor who treats bone and joint disorders
Orthopnea	Difficulty breathing except when sitting up
Orthostatic	Related to the upright position
Orthotist	Person who designs and teaches the use of braces and splints
Ossicles	Bones of the middle ear that carry sound
Ossification	Bone formation
Osteoarthritis (OA)	Disorder, which is seen mostly in older persons, in which the joints become painful and stiff
Osteoblasts	Cells that make bone
Osteocarcinoma	Bone cancer growth
Osteochondritis	Inflammation of the bone and cartilage
Osteocyte	Bone cell
Osteofibroma	Benign tumor of bone and connective tissue
Osteomalacia	Soft bones
Osteomyelitis	Infection and inflammation of bone
Osteonecrosis	Death of bone tissue
Osteopetrosis	Rare bone disorder characterized by dense bone
Osteoplasty	Surgery to fix a bone
Osteoporosis	Loss of calcium from bone tissue resulting in bones that break easily; prevalent in postmenopausal women
Osteosarcoma	Cancer of bone
Otalgia	Earache
Otitis	Inflammation of the ear
Otitis externa	Inflammation of the outer ear canal
Otitis interna	Inflammation of the inner ear
Otitis media	Inflammation of the middle ear
Otologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the ear
Otology	The study of the ear
Otomycosis	Fungus infection in the outer ear canal
Otosclerosis	Bone deposits in the inner ear
Otoscope	Tool used to look into the ear
Outcome	An observed event in a subject (usually used to determine the effectiveness of a treatment)
Ovaries	Female sex glands; female organs which release eggs
Ovulation	Discharge of an egg from the ovary
Ovum	The female sex cell that joins with the male sperm to make a zygote and, eventually, a baby; egg
Oxidation	Adding oxygen
Oximeter	Tool used to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood
Oxytocin	Hormone made by the brain that makes the uterus cramp and milk come out of the breasts

P

Pachyderma	Thickening of the skin
Palate	Roof the mouth
Palliation	To relieve symptoms and effects of the disease
Palliative treatment	Treatment that relieves symptoms, such as pain, but does not cure the disease
Pallor	Pale color of the skin
Palmar	Having to do with the palm of the hand
Pancreas	Organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices
Pancreatic	Having to do with the organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices
Pancreatitis	Inflammation of the organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices
Panplegia	Total loss of muscle control and feeling
Pansinusitis	Inflammation of all the sinuses on one side of the body
Pap test	Microscopic test used to detect virus infection of the cervix or cancer of the vagina, cervix, or lining of the uterus
Papilloedema	Swollen optical disc
Papule	Pimple
Para	Woman who has given birth
Paracentesis	Fluid removal
Paranasal sinuses	Air cavities inside the bones of the face around the nose
Paraplegia	Complete loss of muscle control and total loss of feeling from the waist downward
Parasympatholytic	Drug that blocks a kind of nerve
Parathyroid gland	Gland that makes and discharges a hormone that helps control the amount of calcium in the blood
Parathyroidectomy	Surgery to remove the parathyroid gland
Parathyroidectomy	Surgery to remove the parathyroid gland
Parenchyma	Functional tissue of an organ
Parenteral administration	Giving a substance by injection rather than by mouth
Paresis	Muscle weakness; partial paralysis
Paresthesia	Feeling of "pins and needles"
Parietal layer	Layer of tissue in the wall of a cavity
Parkinson's Disease	Disorder of the central nervous system, seen usually in older persons, in which there is muscle weakness, trembling, sweating
Paroxysm	Sudden worsening of an illness, or a spasm or seizure
Paroxysmal	In sudden attacks
Patch Test	Allergy test performed by putting an allergy-causing material on the skin to see if it causes a reaction
Patella	Kneecap
Patent	Open

Pathogenesis	The initial cause of a disease
Pathogenic	Causing disease
Pathologist	Doctor who studies the changes in the body and its tissues caused by disease
Pathology	The study of the changes in the body and tissue caused by disease
Pelvic bone	Hip bone
Pelvic cavity	Space where the urinary bladder, certain reproductive organs, part of the large intestine, and the rectum are found
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)	Infection of any of the female reproductive organs inside the pelvic space, including uterus, uterine tubes, and ovaries
Pelvis of the kidney	Place where the urine leaves the kidney
Penicillin	Type of drug used to stop or slow down the growth of germs
Penile implant	Artificial device put into the penis to help a man get an erection
Penis	Outer male sex organ
Peptic	Digestion related
Peptic ulcer	Sore in the stomach or in the lining of the stomach
Percussion	Tapping of a body surface with the fingers to check the organs under the skin by the sound that is made
Percutaneous	Through the skin
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA)	Procedure in which a small balloon is blown up inside the blood vessel to open up the blood vessel
Perennial	Persistent
Perforation	Puncture, tear, or hole
Pericarditis	Inflammation of the two-layer sac of tissue around the heart
Pericardium	The two-layer sac of tissue around the heart
Perimetrium	Outer layer of tissue around the uterus
Perineum	Area between the vulva and rectum in women, and between the scrotum and rectum in men
Perioperative	Immediately pre- and post-operation
Periosteum	Layer of tissue that covers bone
Peripheral	Not central
Peristalsis	Pushing of food through the body
Peritoneal	Inside the body cavity
Pernicious	Fatal
Per os	By mouth
Pertussis	Whooping cough
Petechia	Tiny red or purple spot on skin or other tissue caused by bleeding
Petit mal	Minor epilepsy
Phalanges	Finger and toe bones
Pharmacist	Person licensed to prepare and dispense drugs and fill prescriptions

Pharmacodynamics	The study of how drugs act on the body
Pharmacokinetics	The study of how a drug enters and leaves the blood and tissues over time
Pharyngitis	Sore throat
Pharynx	Area between the mouth and esophagus that performs the swallowing action; throat
Phase I	Initial study of a new drug in humans to determine the limits of tolerance
Phase II	Second phase of study of a new drug intended to obtain initial information, safety assessments
Phase III	Large scale trial to confirm and expand information on safety and usefulness of a new drug
Phenothiazines	Group of drugs for the control of mental illness
Phenylketonuria (PKU)	Dangerous build-up of toxic materials in the body resulting from a genetic defect that affects metabolism
Phlebitis	Irritation or inflammation of a vein
Phlebotomy	Nicking or putting a needle into a vein to remove blood
Phonocardiogram	Detailed record of heart sounds
Photophobia	Irritation of the eye caused by light
Photosensitivity	Overly sensitive to light
Phrenic	Having to do with the mind; or having to do with a diaphragm
Physiological	Normal
Pia mater	Inner layer of the three-layered tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Pigmentation	Skin coloring
Pilot study	An introductory (usually small) study before the actual (usually larger) study begins
Pinna	Outer flap of the ear
Pituitary gland	Gland that sits under the brain and makes many hormones, including some that control other glands
Placebo	A pretend treatment (with no drug in it) that is compared in a clinical trial with a drug to test if the drug has a real effect
Placebo effect	Improvement seen with the administration of a placebo
Placenta	Tissues that provide food for the unborn baby
Plantar	Having to do with the sole of the foot
Plasma	Liquid part of blood where cells float
Plasmapheresis	Removing plasma from blood that has been drawn from a person and pumped through a machine
Platelet count	The number of platelets in the blood
Platelets	Small particles in the blood that help it to clot
Pleura	Thin tissue that covers the lungs and inner walls of the chest
Pleural effusion	Fluid in the chest cavity
Pleurisy	Inflammation of the pleura with discharge in the chest cavity, making breathing painful
Pneumatocele	Bulging of the lungs through an abnormal opening
Pneumonectomy	Surgery to remove a lung

Pneumonia	Inflammation of the lungs in which the lungs become heavy
Pneumonitis	Inflammation of the lungs
Pneumothorax	Free air in the chest cavity
Podiatrist	Foot doctor
Poliomyelitis	Infection with a virus in which there can be fever, headache, and stiff neck followed by paralysis and wasting away of muscles
Polyarteritis	Inflammation of many arteries
Polycystic kidney	Kidney with many cysts in it
Polydipsia	Too much thirst; drinking excessively
Polymorphic	In a variety of shapes
Polymyositis	Inflammation of more than one muscle
Polyneuritis	Inflammation of several nerves
Polyp	Type of growth that sticks up out of tissue
Polypectomy	Surgery to remove a polyp
Polyuria	Too much urine being made
Pons	Part of the brain through which the two sides and different areas of the brain communicate
Porphyria	Disturbance of metabolism that can be seen as disorders of the skin or other organs
Posterior	Having to do with the back of the body
Postictal	Happening after a seizure
Postpartum	After childbirth
Postprandial	After eating
Potential	Possible
Potentiate	Increase or multiply the effect of a drug or toxin by administration of another drug or toxin at the same time
Preclinical	Before the disease becomes recognizable
Precordial	Related to the chest and heart
Precursor	Forerunner
Predisposition	Tendency
Preeclampsia	Serious problem of pregnancy in which there is high blood pressure and excess fluid in the tissues of the mother
Pregnancy	Carrying an unborn baby
Preictal	Happening before a seizure
Premature infant	Infant born before it has fully developed; weight less than 5.5 pounds
Prenatal	Before birth
Preoperative	Before an operation
Prepuce	Fold of skin (foreskin) that covers the penis and is removed during circumcision
Presbycusis	Loss of hearing because of old age
Presbyopia	Problems with vision because of old age
Presentation	Angle
Primigravida	Woman going through her first pregnancy
Primipara	Woman who has had one pregnancy that lasted at least 20 weeks

PRN	As needed
Proctologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the rectum and anus
Proctology	The study of disorders of the rectum and anus
Proctoscope	Tool used to look into the rectum
Progestins	Type of female hormones that prepare the uterus for pregnancy
Prognosis	Forecast of the probable outcome of a disease
Progresses	Worsens
Prolapsed uterus	Fallen uterus protruding from the body
Proliferation	Multiplication
Prone	Lying face down
Prophylaxis	A drug given to prevent disease or infection
Prospective study	Study following patients forward in time
Prostate gland	Gland that makes fluid that aids movement of sperm
Prostatectomy	Surgery to remove all or part of the prostate gland
Prostatic cancer	Cancer of the prostate gland
Prostatitis	Inflammation of the prostate gland
Prosthesis	Artificial body part
Prothrombin time	A test of blood clotting time used to measure substances that help the blood to clot
Protocol	Plan of study
Proximal	Nearest; closer to the center of the body, away from the end
Pruritis	Itchiness
Psoriasis	Scaly skin rash
Psychiatry	The study of mental disorders
Psychogenic	Caused by the mind (rather than the body)
Psychologist	Person who treats disorders of the mind, thoughts, and behavior
Psychology	The study of mental action and behavior
Psychomotor	Involving motor effects of mental activity
Psychopathy	Any disorder of the mind
Psychosis	Severe mental disorder
Psychosomatic	Having a connection between the mind and physical symptoms
Psychotropic	Mood altering
Puberty	Period of adolescence (life) during which the sex organs mature
Pulmonary	Having to do with the lungs
Pulmonary edema	Fluid in the lungs
Pulmonary embolism	Blood clot in the lungs
Pulmonary neoplasm	Lung tumor
Pupil	Black spot in the middle of the eye, which is the opening in the center of the iris
Pupillometer	Tool that measures how wide the pupil is
Purgative	Drug used to cause the bowels to empty
Purpura	Small purple-red marks in skin or other tissue caused by bleeding
Pustule	Pimple filled with pus

Pyelitis	Inflammation of the kidney and its pelvis
Pyelogram	X-ray of the kidney and ureters
Pyelolithotomy	Surgery to remove a kidney stone
Pyelonephritis	Inflammation of the kidney and its pelvis
Pyloric sphincter	Ring of muscles between the stomach and the small intestine
Pylorus	The opening of the stomach into the small intestine
Pyrexia	Fever
Pyrosis	Heartburn
Pyuria	Pus in the urine

Q

QRC complex	Part of heart monitor readout
QT interval	Space between two seizures; Part of heart monitor readout
Quadriplegia	Loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs
Quiescent	Inactive
qd	Every day; daily
qid	Four times a day

R

Rachiotomy	Surgery to cut into a bone or bones of the spine
Radial keratotomy	Surgery to fix nearsightedness
Radiation therapy	X-ray or cobalt treatment
Radiculitis	Inflammation of a spinal nerve root
Radiography	X-ray
Radioimmunoassay	Laboratory method to measure a substance, such as a hormone
Radiological	X-ray related
Radius	One of the two lower arm bones
Random	By chance
Randomization	Assignment of treatment groups by chance, similar to tossing a coin (when there are two treatment choices), or rolling a die (when there are multiple treatment choices)
RBC	Red blood cells
Reabsorption	Absorbing again
Reagent	Reactive substance
Recombinant	Formation of new combinations of genes
Reconstitution	Putting back together the original parts or elements
Rectal	Related to the bowel
Rectal administration	Giving a substance by putting it into the rectum
Rectocele	Bulging of the rectum into the vagina
Recur	Happen again
Red blood cell (RBC)	A cell in blood that carries oxygen
Red blood cell count	The number of red blood cells in the blood
Red blood cell morphology	The size and shape of individual red blood cells as seen under a microscope
Refractory	Not responding to treatment
Regeneration	Regrowth of a structure or of lost tissue
Regimen	Pattern of administering treatment
Regurgitation	Bringing back
Rehabilitation	Training and education to recover lost skills or learn new ones to compensate for the loss
Relapse	The return or reappearance of a disease
Remission	Condition that occurs when signs of an illness are decreased or gone
Renal	Having to do with the kidney
Renal biopsy	Removing a piece of the kidney tissue to look at it under a microscope
Renal calculi	Kidney stones
Renal pelvis	Place where urine leaves the kidney
Renal transplant	Kidney transplant
Renogram	X-ray to check kidney function by measuring how fast a dye passes through the kidneys and to the urinary bladder

Replicable	Capable of being duplicated
Reproduction	Making babies
Resection	Surgical removal of a partial or whole organ
Resect	Remove or cut out (surgically)
Resectoscope	Tool used to remove or biopsy tissue from the urinary bladder, prostate, or urethra
Retard	Delay
Retina	Innermost layer of the eye
Retinal	Having to do with the retina
Retinopathy	Eye disease
Retractor	Tool used for holding back tissue
Retrograde pyelogram	X-ray of the kidney and ureter made by injecting dye backward into the ureter
Retrospective study	Study looking back over past experience
Retrosternal	Behind the breastbone
Revoke	Cancel or take back
Reye's Syndrome	Serious disorder of children, which often occurs after a viral infection, affecting the brain, liver, and other body organs
Rhabdomyoma	Benign tumor of a muscle
Rhabdomyosarcoma	Cancer of a muscle
Rheumatic Fever	Bacterial disease in which there is fever and inflammation of the heart, blood vessels, and joints
Rheumatic Heart Disease	Damage to the heart caused by rheumatic fever, especially deformed heart valves
Rheumatoid factor	Substance in the blood that is measured to check for rheumatoid arthritis
Rhinitis	Inflammation of the nose
Rhinoplasty	Surgery to fix the nose
Rhinorrhagia	Nosebleed
Rhinorrhea	Runny nose
Rhytidectomy	Surgery to remove wrinkles
Rhytidoplasty	Surgery to remove wrinkles from the face
Rigidity	Stiffness
Rongeur	Tool used for cutting hard tissue, such as bone

S

Sacrum	Large triangle-shaped bone at the bottom of the spine above the tailbone
Sagittal plane	Divides the body into a right and left side
Saline	Salt water
Saliva	Liquid in the mouth that helps with swallowing food; spit
Salivary glands	Glands that make saliva
Salpingectomy	Surgery to remove the uterine tube
Salpingitis	Inflammation of the uterine tubes
Salpingo-oophorectomy	Surgery to remove an ovary and uterine tube
Salpingocele	Uterine tube bulging out of an abnormal opening
Salpinx	Tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
Sample size	Number of people enrolled in the study
Sarcoma	Cancer of connective tissue cells
Saw	Tool with notched blade used for cutting
Scabies	Itchy skin infection by a microscopic bug called a mite; mange
Scapula	Shoulder blade
Schick Test	Skin test used to detect diphtheria
Sciatica	Pain running down from the lower back to the buttocks to the back or side of the leg
Scissors	Tool with two sharp blades used for cutting tissue
Sclera	Outer protective layer of the eye; "whites of the eyes"
Scleral buckling	Surgery to fix a detached retina
Scleroderma	Hardening and thickening of the skin
Sclerokeratitis	Inflammation of the sclera and the cornea
Scleromalacia	Softening of the sclera seen in patient with rheumatoid arthritis
Sclerosis	Hardening
Sclerotomy	Surgery to cut into the sclera
Scoliosis	S-shaped (side-to-side) curve of the spine
Scratch Test	Allergy test performed by putting a small amount of allergy-causing material on small skin patches to see if it causes a reaction
Scrotum	Pouch that holds the testicles
Sebaceous gland	Gland that discharges oil into the skin
Seborrhea	Very oily skin
Sedation	Calmness
Sedative	A drug used to calm or relax a person
Seizure	Sudden, uncontrolled muscle spasms and loss of consciousness resulting from abnormal brain function
Self-retaining	Stays in place without being held
Semen	Fluid containing sperm, which is discharged from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse

Semicircular canals	Channels in the labyrinth of the ear
Semilunar valves	Valves that control the flow of blood out of the heart by opening and closing with each heart beat
Septicemia	Blood poisoning
Septoplasty	Surgery to fix the wall inside the nose
Septum	A dividing wall
Sequelae	Condition following as a consequence of a disease
Sequentially	In a row
Serrations	Small grooves in the edges or tips of tools that help to hold tissue
Serum	Clear liquid part of the blood
Serum bilirubin	Blood test used to detect liver disorder
Serum calcium	Blood test used to measure how much calcium is in the blood
Serum enzyme test	Blood test used to detect the presence of certain chemical discharges into the blood from dying heart muscle
Serum phosphorus	Blood test used to measure the amount of phosphorus in the blood
Sexually transmitted disease (STD)	Disorder spread by sexual contact
Sharp	With an edge or tip that cuts
Shingles	Painful, fluid-filled blisters caused by herpes virus infection
Shock	A reaction of the body to severe physical or emotional injury that affects the whole body; causes a decrease in all vital processes such as blood flow, breathing and heart function, with a large decrease in blood pressure
Shunt	Artificial or natural channel running between two other channels
Sickle cell anemia	Genetic defect of hemoglobin causing red blood cells to change shape; symptoms include pain in the joints and belly, and ulcers on the legs
Side effect	An effect of a drug that is not related to the reason the drug is used
Sigmoid	S-shaped
Sigmoid colon	The lower part of the colon just before the rectum
Sigmoidoscope	Tool used to look into the sigmoid colon
Single-blind trial	Test or experiment in which the person giving the treatment, but not the patient, knows which treatment the patient is receiving
Sleep apnea	Breathing problems while sleeping
Slipped disk	Bulging out of a pad between bones of the spine, which often causes pinched nerve roots
Small intestine	The bowel between the stomach and the large intestine, including the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum
Smooth	Without teeth or grooves; not rough
Snare	Tool with a wire loop used for removing tissue growth
Software	Computer program

Somatic	Having to do with the body
Somatogenic	Caused by the body (rather than the mind)
Somnolence	Sleepiness
Soporific	Sleep-inducing
Spasm	A muscle contraction that produces pain and interferes with use of the muscle
Spasmolytic	Anti-spasm agent
Spasticity	Muscle stiffness
Specific gravity	Test used to measure the amount of solid material and minerals in a liquid, such as the urine
Speculum	Tool used to stretch and hold open an opening into a body channel, such as the nose or vagina
Sphincter	Bottom
Sphygmocardiograph	Tool used to record arterial blood pressure
Sphygmomanometer	Tool used for measuring blood pressure
Spina Bifida	Birth defect in which the spine does not develop fully
Spinal cavity	Space inside the spinal column where the spinal cord is found
Spinal cord	The cord of nerve cells and nerve fibers running down the spine that helps guide messages to and from the brain
Spirometer	Tool used to measure the amount of air going into and out of the lungs during breathing
Spleen	Largest lymph organ in the body
Splenectomy	Surgery to remove the spleen
Splenomegaly	Enlarged spleen
Sporadic	Random
Sputum	Fluid and material brought up from the lungs and windpipe, and spit out through the mouth
Squamous cell carcinoma	Cancer that usually occurs on the skin or in the lungs
Staging	A determination of the extent of the disease
Standard of care	Treatment plan which the majority of the medical community would accept as appropriate
Staphylococcus	Type of bacteria
Stasis	Keeping in check
Stenosis	Narrowing of a duct, tube, or one of the heart valves
Stereotactic breast biopsy	Biopsy of breast tissue taken by using a three-dimensional body map to locate the tissue
Sterilization	The killing of all living germs; or, a process to make a man or woman not able to have children
Sternoclavicular	Having to do with the breastbone and the collarbone
Sternum	Breastbone
Stethoscope	Tool used to listen to the sounds made by the heart, lungs, intestines, and other organs
Stimulant	Drug used to heighten awakesness or awareness
Stomach	The first part of the intestines that holds food for digestion after it is swallowed

Stomatitis	Inflammation inside the mouth that sometimes occurs as an allergic reaction; can also result from infection or virus
Stool	Bowel movement; feces
Stool culture	Test for bacteria in the stool
Strabismus	Abnormal position of the eye, as in wall eye or crossed eyes
Stratify	Arrange in groups for analysis of results (e.g., stratify by age, sex, etc.)
Streptococcus	Type of bacteria
Streptomycin	Type of antibiotic
Stricture	Where a tube in the body is too narrow
Stupor	Stunned state in which it is difficult to get a response or the attention of the subject
Stye	Pimple on the eyelid
Subarachnoid	In the brain
Subclavian	Under the collarbone
Subclavicular	Under the collarbone
Subcostal	Below the ribs
Subcutaneous	Under the skin
Subdural	Below the outer layer of the three-layered tissue that covers the brain and the spinal cord
Sublingual	Under the tongue
Sublingual administration	Giving a substance by placing it under the tongue, not to be swallowed (e.g., nitroglycerin)
Submandibular	Below the lower jaw
Submaxillary	Below the upper jaw
Subscapular	Below the shoulder blade
Sulfonamide	Type of antibiotic
Superficial	Close to the outside of the body
Superior	Toward the top of the body
Supine	Lying on the back
Supportive care	General medical care aimed at symptoms, not intended to improve or cure underlying disease
Suppository	Drug that is given by putting it into the rectum, vagina, or urethra
Suprarenal	Above the kidney
Suprascapular	Above the shoulder blade
Supraventricular	Above the heart chambers
Sweat glands	Structures in and under the skin that make sweat
Sympatholytic	Drug used to slow down the action of certain types of nerves
Sympathomimetic	Drug used to speed up heart rate, raise blood pressure, and open up air passages
Symptomatic	Having symptoms
Syncope	Fainting spell
Syndrome	A condition characterized by a set of symptoms that happen at the same time in the body

Synergism	Combined action of two drugs used together than using each drug alone
Syphilis	Bacterial infection spread by sexual contact
System	Having to do with the whole body
Systematically	Distributed throughout the body
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	Chronic disorder of connective tissue in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems
Systole	The time when the heart contracts to pump blood to the body
Systolic	Top number in blood pressure; pertaining to the contraction phase of the heart beat

T

Tachycardia	Fast heart beat
Tachypnea	Fast breathing
Tardive	Late
Tarsal bones	Ankle bones
Tendon	Elastic band that attaches muscle at each end
Tendonitis	Inflammation of the tendons
Tenosynovitis	Inflammation of the covering layer of a tendon
Tenotomy	Surgery to cut the tendon of an eye muscle to fix strabismus
Teratogenic	Causing deformity of the fetus
Terminate	Stop
Testicle	One of two male sex glands that make sperm
Testicular carcinoma	Cancer of the testicles
Testis	One of two male sex glands that make sperm
Tetracycline	Type of antibiotic
Thalamus	Part of the brain
Therapeutic	Treatment of condition, disease or disorder
Thoracentesis	Using a needle to remove fluid from the chest cavity
Thoracic cavity	Space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea, bronchi, and thymus are found
Thoracic vertebrae	Bones of the spine in back of the chest
Thoracotomy	Surgery to cut into the chest
Thorax	The chest
Throat	Area between the mouth and esophagus that performs the swallowing action
Thrombocytopenia	Low blood platelet count
Thrombolytic	Dissolving blood clots
Thrombosis	Blood clotting within blood vessels
Thrombus	A clotting of blood factors that frequently blocks blood flow
Thyroid gland	Gland in the neck that makes the thyroid hormones, which are important in controlling metabolism
Thyroid-stimulating Hormone (TSH)	Hormone that makes the thyroid gland active
Thyroidectomy	Surgery to remove the thyroid gland
Tibia	The larger of the two lower leg bones; the shin bone
TID	Three times a day
Tinea	Fungal infection of the skin; ringworm
Tinnitus	Ringling, roaring, buzzing, or clicking noises in the ears
Tissue	Group of cells that work together
Titration	Slow increase in drug dosage, based on patient's response, to determine the desired effect or the most beneficial strength of drug

T-lymphocytes	Type of white blood cells involved in the immune reactions
Tolerance	Decrease in response to a fixed dosage of drug; over time, higher and higher doses of a drug are needed to get the desired effect
Tonsil	Lymphoid tissue in the back of the mouth
Tonsillectomy	Surgery to remove a tonsil or tonsils
Topical anesthetic	Applied to certain area of the skin to reduce pain to the specific area to which applied
Topical application	Giving a medication by putting it directly on the skin
Torsion	Twisting
Toxemia	Blood poisoning
Toxicity	Any undesirable or harmful effect of a drug or poison
Trachea	Windpipe
Tracheoplasty	Surgery to fix the windpipe
Tracheostomy	Surgery to make a hole through the neck from the windpipe to the outside of the body
Tranquilizer	Drug used to control anxiety
Transdermal	Through the skin
Transdermal patch	Patch containing a drug that is put on the skin so the drug will enter the body through the skin
Transient ischemic attack (TIA)	Sudden loss of blood flow to the brain that lasts for a few minutes to an hour but has no lasting effect
Transiently	Temporarily
Transitory	Brief
Transverse plane	Divides the body to make a top and bottom
Trauma	Injury; wound; shock
Traumatic	Causing damage, like a tool used to crush tissue
Treadmill	Walking machine often used to determine heart function
Trichomoniasis	Parasite infection that is spread by sexual contact
Tricuspid valve	A valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heart beat
Tricyclic	Drug used to treat depression
Tubal ligation	Surgery to close the uterine tubes to prevent pregnancy
Tuberculin	Substance used in skin tests to test for tuberculosis
Tuberculosis	Bacterial infection that usually results in a serious lung disorder
Tympanic membrane	Eardrum
Tympanitis	Inflammation of the eardrum
Tympanometer	Tool used to fix the eardrum
Tympanoplasty	Surgery to fix the eardrum and bones of the middle ear

U

Ulcer	Sore
Ulcerative colitis	Sores in the colon
Ulna	One of the two lower arm bones
Ultrasonography	Making a picture of internal organs by bouncing sound waves off them and recording the echoes
Ultrasound	Making a picture of internal organs by bouncing sound waves off them and recording the echoes
Umbilical region	Area around the navel
Umbilicus	Navel; belly button
Unconscious	Not awake and not aware; knocked out
Ungual	Having to do with the nails
Unilateral	Having to do with only one side of a structure
Upper Gastrointestinal (GI) series	X-ray using a dye to show the upper part of the digestive system
Upper respiratory infection (URI)	A cold or runny nose
Uptake	Absorption and incorporation of a substance by living tissue; absorb and incorporate a substance
Uremia	Build-up of poisons in the blood, usually because of kidney failure
Ureter	Tube that carries urine from a kidney to the urinary bladder
Ureterogram	X-ray of a ureter taken after putting a dye in it to outline it
Urethra	Tube that carries urine from the urinary bladder to the outside of the body
Urethritis	Inflammation of the urethra
Urethroplasty	Surgery to fix the urethra
Urgency	Needing to urinate
Uric acid test	Blood test used to measure the amount of uric acid in the blood
Urinal	Container that holds urine
Urinalysis	Series of tests done on urine
Urinary	Having to do with urine
Urinary bladder	Sac that holds urine before it leaves the body
Urinary catheterization	Passing a tube into the urinary bladder to remove urine
Urinary retention	Abnormal holding of urine
Urinary tract	All the structures that make and pass urine, including the kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder, and urethra
Urinary tract infection (UTI)	Infection of the urinary system
Urination	The act of passing urine
Urine	Pale yellow liquid waste material and sediment

Urine casts and crystals	Urine test to check mineral levels and sediment in the urine and to check for infection and inflammation in the urinary tract
Urine color	Normal color for urine is straw yellow
Urine pH	Urine test to find out the chemical make-up of urine (acidity)
Urine protein	Urine test used to measure how much protein is in the urine
Urodynamics	The force and flow of urine
Urologist	Doctor who treats disorders of the urinary tract of men and women, and the genital tract of men
Urticaria	Hives
Uterine tube	Tube down which the egg travels from the gonad (egg factory) to the womb
Uterus	Organ where the unborn baby develops and grows
Uvula	V-shaped tissue that hangs from the roof and the back of the mouth
Uvulectomy	Surgery to remove the uvula
Uvulitis	Inflammation of the uvula

V

Vagal	Related to the nerve
Vagina	Tube that connects the uterus to the outside of the body
Vaginitis	Inflammation of the vagina
Vaginoplasty	Surgery to fix the vagina
Vagotomy	Surgery to cut the vagus nerve or nerves, usually done to slow down the making of stomach acid
Valvuloplasty	Plastic repair of a valve, especially of the heart
Varicella	Chicken pox
Varices	Enlarged veins, usually in the legs or lining of the tube between the mouth and stomach
Varicose veins	Twisted and bulging veins that are larger than normal
Vascular	Related to a blood vessel
Vasculitis	Inflammation of a blood vessel
Vas deferens	Tube that carries sperm out of the testicle
Vasectomy	Surgery to cut out part or all of the ductus deferens – done to make a man not able to produce children
Vasoactive	Affecting a blood vessel
Vasoconstrictor	Drug used to make blood vessels tighten up and become narrower
Vasodilator	Drug used to make blood vessels open up and become bigger
Vasomotor	Related to blood flow
Vasospasm	Narrowing of blood vessels due to spasm of vessel walls
Vasovasostomy	Surgery to undo a vasectomy by connecting up the ductus deferens again – done to make a man able to produce children
Vector	A carrier that transmits disease
Vegetative	Without consciousness
Vein	The type of blood vessel that carries blood back to the heart from the rest of the body
Vein ligation and stripping	Surgery to remove twisted (varicose) veins in the legs
Vena cava	Largest vein in the body
Venipuncture	Putting a needle into a vein, usually through the skin
Venogram	X-ray of a vein
Ventilator	Machine used to help a person breathe
Ventral	Toward or having to do with the front of the body
Ventricle	Small space, such as one of several that hold spinal fluid inside the brain and the two lower chambers of the heart
Venule	Little vein
Vertebra	One of the 33 bones in the spine
Vertigo	Light-headedness, dizziness
Vesicle	Blister

Viral	Having to do with a virus
Virus	Tiny type of germ
Visceral	Having to do with the internal organs
Vital capacity	Lung capacity
Vitreous body	Jelly-like liquid found in the back chamber of the eye
Void	Urinate
Vomit	Matter discharged from the stomach out of the mouth
Vulva	The tissues around the opening to the vagina
Vulvectomy	Surgery to remove the vulva
Vulvovaginitis	Inflammation of the vagina and vulva

W

Waive	Give up
Washout	Period after stopping medication or treatment
Wheal	Hive; welt
White blood cell (WBC)	One of several types of infection-fighting cells in the blood and body tissues
White blood cell differential	Blood test to find out the types and numbers of mature and immature forms of white blood cells in the blood
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Bacterial infection, usually seen in young children, in which there is a serious, loud, dry cough
Withdraw	Discontinue; stop taking part



Xanthochromic	Having a yellow color
Xanthoderma	Yellow color to the skin
Xanthoma	Fatty skin tumor
Xanthosis	Yellow color
Xeroderma	Dry skin
Xeroma	Abnormally dry membranes of the eye
Xerostomia	Dryness of the mouth due to dysfunction of the salivary gland
Xiphoid process	Lower part of the breastbone

Y

Z

Zygote	The cell made by joining of the female egg and male sperm at the beginning of pregnancy