

IRB

Glossary of Lay Terminology

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A	
Abdomen	belly
Abdominal	having to do with the belly
Abdominal cavity	space in the belly containing the stomach and other organs
Abdominocentesis	use of needle or tube to drain fluid from the belly
Abdominoperineal resection	surgery to remove the middle and end of the large intestine
Abdominoplasty	surgery to fix the stomach
Abduction	Spreading of the arms or legs; movement away from the middle of the body
Ablative Therapy	Treatment that involves removing or destroying tissue
Abortion	Early stopping of pregnancy
Abrasion	area where skin or other tissue is scraped away
Abruption placentae	when the placenta separates too soon from the mother
Abscess	swelling filled with pus
Absorb	take up fluids, take in
Absorption	Soaking up; taking in; the way a drug or other substance enters the body
Abstinence	Choosing not to
Acapnia	less than normal amount of carbon dioxide in the blood or tissue
Acceptable	good; decent; capable
Acetabulum	pocket in the hip bone that holds the top of the upper leg bone
Acidosis	increase of acid in the blood
Acne	pimples
Acoumeter	tool used to measure hearing
Acoustic neuroma	growth in the ear canal
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	virus disease that attacks the immune system; illness that results in decreased ability of the body to protect itself from other illnesses; development of the disease or conditions associated with the disease results from Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
Acromegaly	too much growth of parts of the body, caused by too much growth hormone
Actinic keratosis	thick, scaly patches of skin caused by too much

	exposure to the sun, may turn into cancer
Activated partial thromboplastin time	measurement of how long it takes blood to clot
Acuity	Clearness of vision or airways
Acute	Lasting a short time but often serious
Acute Myocardial Infarction (MI)	Heart attack
Addison's disease	hormone disease that causes weakness, low blood pressure, and other serious problems
Adduction	movement toward the middle of the body
Adenohypophysis	Part of the pituitary gland in the brain that makes many hormones that control body functions
Adenoidectomy	surgery to take out the adenoids
Adenoiditis	pain and swelling of the adenoids
Adenoids	infection-fighting glands in the back of the throat
Adenomyosis	a growth of muscle in the uterus
Adenopathy	swollen lymph nodes (glands)
Adenotome	tool used to remove adenoids
Adequate	Reasonably good
Adhesion	tissue stuck together
Adipose	Fat; having to do with fat
Adjuvant	Addition that helps
Adjuvant Therapy	Added treatment
Adjuvant Treatment	added treatment
Administer	give (to)
Administration (of)	giving (of)
Adrenal gland	a gland found over each kidney that helps control heart rate, blood pressure and other functions
Adrenalectomy	surgery to remove an adrenal gland
Adrenaline	hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body functions
Adrenalitis	inflammation of one or both adrenal glands
Adrenocortical Hormone	any of the hormones made by the outer layer of the adrenal glands
Adrenocorticohyperplasia	increased growth of one or both adrenal glands
Adrenocorticotropic Hormone	hormone made by the brain that activates the adrenal glands
Adrenomegaly	increase in size of one or both adrenal glands
Adrenopathy	disease of one or both adrenal glands
Adverse Effect/Event/Reaction	harmful, bad side effect
Aerosol	drug or substance made as a mist to be breathed in
Afferent	going toward the center area
Afterbirth	material that provides nutrition for the unborn baby and comes out after the baby is born

Airway	tube through which air passes in and out of the lungs
Akathisia	feeling of restlessness
Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)	chemical in blood that is measured to check for liver disease
Albino	white; lacking color
Albuminuria	protein in the urine
Alcohol	drug found in whisky, wine, and beer that slows down the central nervous system
Aldosterone	hormone made by the adrenal glands that controls the balance of salt and water in the body
Allele	An allele is an alternative form of a gene (one member of a pair) that is located at a specific position on a specific chromosome.
Allergen	substance that causes the immune system to produce an allergic reaction
Allergic Reaction	rash, swelling, or trouble breathing
Allergy	Too much sensitivity to something
Alopecia	hair loss
Alpha-Fetoprotein	chemical in blood that is measured to check for liver cancer, testicular cancer, and spina bifida
Alternative Therapy	Non-conventional treatment used instead of conventional therapy
Alzheimer's Disease	disorder that causes mental confusion
Ambulate/Ambulation/Ambulatory	walk, able to walk
Amenorrhea	when a woman has no menstrual period
Amniocentesis	removal of some of the waters from around an unborn baby for laboratory testing
Amniochorial	having to do with the tissues that surround the unborn baby
Amniography	taking an X-ray picture of the uterus (womb) and unborn baby
Amnion	tissue that covers the unborn baby
Amnionitis	inflammation of the amnion
Amniorrhea	leaking of waters from around the unborn baby
Amniorrhexis	breaking of the amnion
Amnioscope	a lighted tube inserted through the cervix to look at the amniotic sac and the unborn baby
Amniotic Fluid	waters around the unborn baby
Amniotic Sac	bag of tissue that surrounds the unborn baby
Amniotomy	rupture of the membranes (breaking of the tissues around the unborn baby)- done to start labor
Amphetamines	drugs that speed up metabolism and decrease appetite ("speed")
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)	a disease of the nerves and muscles that causes weakness
Anal	having to do with the anus
Analgesic	drug used to control pain
Anaphylactic shock	A very serious allergic reaction to a something (e.g.,

	food, drug)
Anaphylaxis	Sudden and very serious, potentially life threatening, allergic reaction
Androgen	male sex hormone
Anemia	decreased number of red blood cells
Anesthesia	numbing or putting to sleep to stop pain; loss of sensation or feeling
Anesthetic	drug that is used to keep a person from feeling pain
Anesthetic (General)	drug used to stop pain by putting you to sleep
Anesthetic (Local)	Drug used to numb an area of your body so you do not feel pain there
Anesthetic (Regional)	drug used to block pain from the muscle and the skin
Aneurysm	Bulge in the wall of a blood vessel
Aneurysmectomy	surgery to take out an aneurysm
Angina/Angina Pectoris	pain resulting from not enough oxygen to the heart
Angiocarditis	inflammation of the heart and the blood vessels entering the heart
Angioma	growth made up of blood vessels or lymph vessels
Angioplasm	cramp in the blood vessels
Angioplasty	surgery to open up a narrow blood vessel
Angiorrhaphy	stitching a blood vessel
Angiostenosis	narrowing of the inside of a blood vessel
Ankylosing Spondylitis	inflammation of the spine causing pain and stiffness
Ankylosis	joint stiffness
Anoplasty	surgery to fix the anus
Anorexia	when the fear of getting fat causes severe weight loss; no appetite for food
Anorexia Nervosa	when the fear of getting fat causes severe weight loss
Anoxia	no oxygen
Antacid	drug used to decrease acid in the stomach (e.g., Tums, Rolaids)
Antecubital	in front of the elbow
Antepartum	before childbirth
Anterior	having to do with the front of the body
Anterior And Posterior Colporrhaphy	surgery to fix weak muscles in the pelvic area
Anterior Chamber	The front inner part of the eye
Anterior Lobe	front part of an organ
Anterior Lobe Of The Pituitary	part of the pituitary gland that discharges many hormones
Antianginal	drug used to relieve chest pain
Antiarrhythmic	drug used to restore the natural rhythm of the heart
Antibiotic	A drug that kills bacteria; drug used to stop or slow down the growth of germs
Antibody	particle that sticks to germs and foreign matter to protect the body from infection; type of protein that helps protect the body against foreign matter, such as bacteria and viruses
Anticoagulant	drug used to thin blood; drug used to stop blood from

	clotting
Anticonvulsant	drug used to stop seizures
Anticubital	area inside the elbow
Antidiarrheal	drug used to stop diarrhea
Antidiuretic Hormone	hormone made by the pituitary gland that helps the kidneys keep water in the body by making less urine
Antidote	substance used to treat allergic reactions
Antiemetic	drug used to stop vomiting
Antihistamine	drug used to treat allergic reaction
Anti-inflammatory	Drug that reduces inflammation
Antilipidemic	a drug that decreases the level of fat(s) in the blood
Antimicrobial	drug that kills bacteria and other germs
Antinauseant	drug used to stop nausea and vomiting
Antipruritic	drug used to stop itching
Antiretroviral	drug that fights certain viruses
Antiseptic	substance used to stop or slow down the growth of germs
Antitussive	a drug used to relieve coughing
Antrectomy	surgery to remove the lower part of the stomach
Antrum	lower part of the stomach
Anuria	no urine being made
Anus	ring of muscle that keeps the opening at the end of the digestive tract closed
Aorta	biggest artery in the body
Aortic Stenosis	narrowing of the aorta where it comes out of the heart
Aortogram	x-ray of the aorta
Apepsia	without digestion
Aphagia	not able to swallow
Aphasia	not able to speak or write and not able to understand spoken or written words
Apnea	To stop breathing
Aponeurorrhaphy	stitching of strong tissue that joins muscle to bone
Aponeurosis	strong tissue that joins muscle to bone
Appendectomy	surgery to remove the appendix
Appendicitis	inflammation of the appendix
Appendix	short tube off the large intestine that had no known function
Appropriate	(the) right; correct
Approximately	nearly, about
Aqueous Humor	liquid in the eyes
Aqueous shunt	Flexible plastic tube to help drain fluid from the eye
Arachnoid	middle layer of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Areola	dark-colored skin around the breast nipple
Arrhythmia	uneven heart beat
Arteriogram	x-ray picture of an artery
Arterioles	small branches of arteries
Arteriorrhesis	breaking of an artery

Arteriosclerosis	hardening of the artery
Artery	blood vessel that carries blood and oxygen from the heart to the rest of the body
Arthralgia	pain in a joint
Arthritis	joint pain; swelling of one or more joints
Arthrocentesis	use of a needle to remove fluid from a joint
Arthroclasia	surgery to free up a joint that it is stiff so it cannot move
Arthrodesia	surgery to fasten a joint so it cannot move
Arthrogram	x-ray of a joint
Arthroplasty	surgery to fix a joint
Arthrosclerosis	stiffening of the joints
Arthroscope	A lighted tube used to look into a joint
Arthrotomy	surgery to cut into a joint
Articular Cartilage	smooth tissue that covers the bones inside a joint
Artificial Insemination	using a device to put sperm into the vagina to begin pregnancy
Ascites	fluid in the belly
Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)	chemical in blood that is measured to detect liver disease
Aspermia	no sperm
Asphyxia	Suffocation; unable to get enough oxygen
Aspirate	remove fluid using suction; breath in fluid
Aspiration	fluid entering lungs
Assay	lab test
Assent	agreement
Assess	to learn about (the health/wellness of)
Assigned	placed in (into a group)
Associated (with)	having to do (with)
Asthma	A lung disease that causes wheezing and difficulty breathing
Astigmatism	imperfect curve of the eye
Asymptomatic	having no symptoms or problems
At Risk	having a possibility that something negative may happen
Ataxia	unable to coordinate muscle movement; uncontrolled muscle movement
Atelectasis	collapse of a lung
Atherosclerosis	hardening of the arteries
Atraumatic	not damaging to tissue
Atrioventricular Defect	hole in the heart present at birth
Atrophy	wasting away, or decrease in size, of a body organ
Audiogram	report of a hearing test

Audiologist	doctor who studies and treats hearing
Audiology	the study of hearing
Audiometer	device used to measure hearing
Audiometry	measurement of hearing
Audiotape	a cassette tape that is listened to
Aural	having to do with the ear
Auricle	outside flap of the ear
Auscultation	use of a stethoscope to listen to sounds inside the body
Autism	condition causing abnormal perceptions and relationships
Autoimmune Disease	disorder in which a person's immune system attacks parts of his or her own body
Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation	removing your bone marrow, treated it for a disease, and then returning it to tyour body
Axilla	armpit

B

Bacteria	type of germs
Bacterial	having to do with bacteria
Bacterial Analysis	test used to detect and identify bacteria
Bacterial Endocarditis	bacterial infection of the inner lining of the heart
Bag Of Waters	sack containing liquid that surrounds the unborn baby
Balanitis	inflammation of the end of the penis
Balanorrhagia	balanitis with discharge of pus from the end of the penis
Balanorrhea	discharge of fluid from the penis
Banking	storing a sample of blood, tissue, etc., for future research use
Barbiturates	group of drugs that are used for different reasons, including general anesthesia, sedation, and stopping seizures
Barium Enema	taking an X-ray picture of the large intestine using a dye given as an enema
Bartholin's Adentitis	inflammation of the mucus-producing glands in the vagina
Bartholin's Glands	mucus-producing glands in the vagina
Basal Cell Carcinoma	tumor of the skin (type of skin cancer)
Baseline	a patient's medical status before any treatment or research is done
Benefit	a good effect
Benign	Not cancerous; not malignant, without serious consequences

Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia	an enlargement of the prostate caused by disease or inflammation
Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy	increase in size of the prostate gland
Beta Blocker	drug used to slow down the heart
Beta-HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin)	chemical in blood that is measured to detect cancer of the testicles
BID	Twice a day
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 fluid made in the liver and stored in the gallbladder that helps with digestion
Bile Acids	acids made by the liver that work with bile to break down fats
Bile Duct	tube that carries bile from the liver to the gallbladder and intestines
Bilirubin	a yellow-red chemical made from hemoglobin; too much causes jaundice
Binding/Bound	carried by, to make stick together, transported
Binocular	having to do with both eyes
Bioavailability	the extent to which a drug or other substance becomes available to the body
Biological Therapy	Using substances that boost the body's immune system to fight against cancer
Biomarker	Physical or chemical feature; a substance sometimes found in the blood, other body fluids or tissues
Biopsy	Removal of tissues so that it can be looked at under a microscope; removing a small sample of tissue for evaluation
Bleb	Large blister filled with fluid
Bleeding Time	test to measure how long it takes for a small cut to stop bleeding
Blepharitis	inflammation of the eyelid
Blepharoplasty	surgery to fix the eyelid
Blepharoptosis	drooping of the upper eyelid
Blood	red liquid pumped by the heart
Blood Chemistry	Chemicals in the blood
Blood Clot	lump of blood that is stuck together
Blood Collection	Taking of blood
Blood Components	red blood cells, white blood cells, electrolytes (salts & minerals), enzymes
Blood Counts	Number of white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets in a blood sample
Blood Draw	Taking of blood; insert needle through the skin and

	take out blood
Blood Pressure (BP)	the pressure of blood flowing through blood vessels
Blood Profile	series of blood tests
Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)	chemical in blood that is measured to check kidney function
Blood Vessels	tubes that carry blood through the body
Bolus	a large amount; an 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 tested
Bone Marrow Transplant	putting normal bone marrow from one person into another person
Bone Mass	bone density; amount of calcium in a given amount of bone
Bone Scan	taking an X-ray picture of a bone
Bone Survey	taking X-ray pictures of all the bones of the body
Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD)	characterized by instability in mood and interpersonal relationships, suicide attempts, self-injury, role confusion, and impulsive behaviors
Bowel	the intestine
Bradycardias	slow irregular heart beats
Bradycardia	slow heart beat
Bradykinesia	moving slow
Bradypepsia	slow digestion
Brain	main part of the central nervous system
Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF)	protein, widely secreted in the hippocampus; has been found to play a role in hippocampal morphology and associated cognitive functions such as memory
Brain Scan	taking a picture of the brain using a radioactive dye
Brain Stem	lowest part of the brain just above the spinal cord; joins the brain to the spinal column
Brand Name	commercial name for a drug
Breasts	milk-producing glands of women
Breech Birth	when feet, buttocks, or knees come out before head at birth
Brochoconstrictor	drug that makes airways in the lungs tighten up
Bronchi	Airways in the lungs
Bronchitis	coughing and chest discomfort, inflammation of the airways in the lungs
Bronchoconstriction	Tightness in the lungs; difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
Bronchodilator	Drug that makes the airways in the lungs open up
Bronchogenic	beginning in the bronchus

Bronchogram	x-ray of the airways in the lungs
Bronchoplasty	surgery to fix the airways in the lungs
Bronchopneumonia	inflammation and often infection of the airways in the lungs
Bronchoscope	a lighted tube used to look into the airways in the lungs
Bronchospasm	sudden breathing distress caused by narrowing of the airways in lungs
Bronchus	Tube that carries air from the windpipe to the lungs
Bulimia	an eating disorder in which a person cannot stop eating and often vomits to make room for more food
Bunion	bone growth inside the base of the big toe
Bursa	small sack filled with liquid that cushions moving parts, such as two bones in a joint
Bursitis	inflammation of the bursa
Bursolith	stone in a bursa
Bursotomy	surgery to cut into a bursa
Bypass	an artificial passageway from one blood vessel to another to get around a blood clot

C

Cachexia	Wasting away caused by disease; general weakness
Caffeine	drug in coffee, tea and soft drinks that speeds up heart rate and causes other effects
Calcaneus	heel bone
Calcipenia	Low in calcium; Not enough calcium in the blood and tissues
Cancellous Bone	a type of bone that looks like a sponge
Cancer	abnormal tissue that grows and spreads in the body without control
Cancer Chemotherapy	treatment of cancer using drugs
Cancer Radiotherapy	treatment of cancer using x-rays
Cancer Susceptibility Gene	a gene that, when mutated, gives a person a risk for developing certain types of cancer
Cancerous	having to do with cancer
Capillary	tiny blood vessel
Capsule Endoscopy	looking inside the body with a camera in a pill
Carbohydrates	type of fuel for the body that includes sugars and starches
Carbuncle	Large boil
Carcinoembryonic Antigen	substance in blood that is measured to detect tumors of stomach or intestines
Carcinogenic	Can cause cancer
Carcinoma	a cancer of the tissue that covers organs, glands and

	body structures
Carcinoma In Situ	Cancer that has not spread
Cardiac	having to do with the heart
Cardiac Arrest	stopping of the heart
Cardiac Catheter	a tube in the heart to test for or treat a heart problem
Cardiac Catheterization	putting a catheter into the heart to test for or treat a heart problem
Cardiac Pacemaker	battery-powered device put under the skin to control the heart rate
Cardiac Sarcoma	A rare cancer that develops in the tissues of the heart
Cardiac Scan	using sound waves to look at the structure of the heart
Cardiac Tamponade	squeezing of the heart caused by fluid or blood build-up in the sac around the heart
Cardiodynia	pain in the heart
Cardiogenic	beginning in the heart
Cardiologist	doctor who treats heart problems
Cardiology	the study and treatment of the heart
Cardiomegaly	enlargement of the heart
Cardiomyopathy	disease of the heart muscle
Cardiopulmonary Bypass	artificial passageway through which blood goes around the heart during open-heart surgery
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	restoring normal breathing and heart beat with mouth-to-mouth breathing and pressing on the chest
Cardiotonic	drug used to strengthen the pumping action of the heart
Cardiovalvulitis	inflammation of the heart valves
Cardioversion	use of electric shock to make the heart beat with normal rhythm
Carotid Artery	artery to the head
Carotid Intima-Media Thickness Study (Carotid IMT)	ultrasound test on blood vessels in the neck; painless test that uses sound waves from a small, hand-held machine
Carpal	having to do with the wrist
Carpal Bones	wrist bones
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	pain caused by a pinched nerve in the wrist
Carpectomy	surgery to remove a wrist bone
Carpoptosis	drooping wrist
Cartilage	a rubbery type of tissue that pads the joints and keeps the shape of the nose and outside ear flaps
Cataract	clouding of the lens of the eye
Cathartic	drug used to stop constipation
Catheter	Flexible tube; tube inserted in the body for inserting or taking out fluids

Catheter – Epidural	a tube placed near the spinal cord used for anesthesia indwelling epidural during operations
Caudal	toward the "tail end" or lower or back side
Cecum	the first part of the large intestine, which is shaped like a pouch
Celiotomy	Cutting into the belly
Cell	the basic building block of all living things
Cell Culture	Growing cells outside the body in a laboratory
Cell Membrane	layer that surrounds a cell
Cellulitis	inflammation of the tissue under the skin
Central Nervous System (CNS)	the brain and spinal cord
Central Nervous System Drugs	drugs that speed up or slow down the central nervous system
Central Venous Access Device or Catheter	a catheter placed in a large vein in the chest; such as a Port or PICC
Cephalagia	headache
Cephalic	Having to do with the head
Cephalosporin	type of antibiotic
Cerebellitis	inflammation of the cerebellum
Cerebellum	the part of the brain that controls the movement of the muscles and helps maintain balance
Cerebral	having to do with the cerebrum
Cerebral Aneurysm	bulge in a blood vessel in the brain
Cerebral Angiography	x-ray of the blood vessels in the brain
Cerebral Palsy (CP)	Birth disorder of the brain that makes it hard to move
Cerebral Thrombosis	blood clot in the brain
Cerebral Trauma	damage to the brain
Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)	the liquid around and in the brain and spinal cord
Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)	stroke
Cerebrum	largest part of the brain, divided into right and left side
Cerumen	ear wax
Ceruminoma	growth inside the gland that makes ear wax
Cervical Vertebrae	bones of the neck
Cervicectomy	surgery to remove the cervix
Cervicitis	inflammation of the cervix
Cessation	stopping
Chalazion	pimple on the eyelid caused by an inflamed gland
CHD	coronary heart disease
Cheilorrhaphy	surgery to stitch a lip
Chemical Name	Not the brand name; chemical formula for a drug (generic)

Chemotherapeutic Agent	anticancer drug
Chemotherapy	using drugs to treat disease; treatment of disease, usually cancer, by chemical agents
Chest Cavity	Space inside the rib cage; space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea, bronchi, and thymus are located
Chiropodist	doctor who treats problems of the feet
Chiropractor	doctor who treats disorders of the spine and nerves
Chlamydia	type of germ that usually infects the eyes, lungs, or sex organs
Chloasma	Dark spots on the skins; tumor arising from the skin and other organs
Cholangiogram	x-ray picture of the gallbladder and bile ducts
Cholangioma	cancer of a bile duct
Cholecystectomy	surgery to remove the gallbladder
Cholecystitis	inflammation of the gallbladder
Choledocholithiasis	gallstones in a bile duct
Choledocholithotripsy	surgery to crush gallstones in a bile duct
Cholelithiasis	gallstones
Cholinergic	Type of drug that treats nerve problems
Chondrectomy	surgery to remove cartilage
Chondromalacia	softening of joint cartilage, usually inside the knee
Chorea	disease of the nerves that can cause spasms and lack of coordination; Involuntary movements
Chorioamnionitis	inflammation of the tissue that covers the unborn baby
Chorion	outside layer of the tissue that covers the unborn baby
Choroid	middle layer of the eyeball or the layer of the eye lying between the retina and sclera
Choroidal Effusion	Build up of fluid between the middle layer of the eyeball and outer protective layer of the eye "whites of the eyes"
Chromosomes	structures in the nucleus of a cell that contain the genes
Chronic	lasting a long time
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	Disease that blocks the flow of air into the lungs (e.g., emphysema)
Cicatrix	scar
Circumcision	surgery to remove the foreskin
Cirrhosis	serious liver disorder in which connective tissue replaces normal liver tissue, and liver failure often occurs
Clavicle	collarbone
Cleft Lip And Plate	birth defect in which there is a split in the lip and the roof of the mouth

CLIA Lab	certified clinical laboratory that is authorized to release results from patient tests for clinical and diagnostic purposes
Clinical	Having to do with medical treatment
Clinical Endpoint	Result of treatment; e.g., disease cure that triggers the end of a subject's participation in a study
Clinical Trial	Scientific human research study
Clinically Significant	Important to your health and medical care
Clitoris	sensitive female sex tissue located above the opening for urination
Coagulation	sticking together in a lump
Coagulation Time	how long it takes for blood to clot
Coarctation Of The Aorta	birth disorder in which an area of the aorta is very narrow
Coccyx	tailbone
Cochlea	part of the organ of hearing inside the ear
Cochlear Implant	a small, complex electronic device that can help to provide a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard-of-hearing
Cognitive	mental functioning
Coitus	sexual intercourse between a man and a woman
Colectomy	surgery to remove part or all of the colon
Colon	Part of the large intestine
Colon Polyp	small, mushroom-shaped growth in the colon
Colonoscope	A lighted tube used to look into the colon
Colonoscopy	Looking inside the colon with a lighted tube
Colorectal Cancer	cancer of the colon and rectum
Colostomy	making an opening from the outside of the body to the colon
Colpitis	inflammation of the vagina
Colporrhaphy	stitching of the vagina
Colposcope	tool with magnifying glass used to look into the vagina and at the cervix
Coma	unconscious state from which you may not wake up
Compact Bone	hard layers of the bone
Compensation	payment or gift to a research subject/volunteer
Complete Blood Count	measuring the size, number and maturity of all the blood cells in a volume of blood
Complete Response	total disappearance of disease
Complications	difficulties, problems
Complimentary Therapy	Non-conventional treatment used with conventional therapy

Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT)	x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the body
Computerized Tomography (CT)	x-ray machine that uses a computer to make pictures of the organs of the body
Conception	the beginning of pregnancy when the fertilized egg implants in the uterus
Conclude/Conclusion	end
Concomitant	given at the same time
Concussion	blow to the head that injurs the brain
Condom	cover worn over the penis during sexual intercourse to prevent infection or pregnancy
Cone Biopsy	cutting a relatively large cone-shaped piece of tissue from the cervix
Confidentiality	Other people will not find out; keeping all information about a research subject/volunteer private
Congenital	Present at or before the time of birth
Congenital Anomaly	birth defect
Congenital Heart Disease (CHD)	heart disease present at birth
Congenital Heart Failure (CHF)	failure of the heart resulting in fluid build-up in the lungs, other body tissues, or both
Congestive Heart Failure	when the heart cannot pump blood and fluid builds up in the lungs
Conjunctiva	tissue that lines the inside of the eyelids and covers part of the eye inside its socket
Conjunctivitis	irritation and redness of the tissue covering the eye
Connective Tissue	type of tissue that connects, supports, touches, and surrounds various body parts
Conscious	awake and aware
Consequence	result; effect; outcome
Consists Of	includes
Consolidation Phase	treatment phase intended to make a remission permanent, follows induction
Constipation	decreased number of or difficulty making bowel movements
Contagious	easily spread
Contraception	Birth control
Contraindications	medical reasons that prevent a person from using a certain drug or treatment
Control Group	group not receiving the experimental treatment
Controlled Trial	study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard (control) treatment or procedure
Contusion	bruise
Convulsion	seizure

Coombs' Test	a test of red blood cells for blood compatibility
Cooperative Group	association of research sites that work on clinical trials together
Cor Pulmonale	heart disease caused by problems in the lungs
Cornea	clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
Corneal Abrasion	Scrape or scratch of the clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
Corneitis	inflammation of the cornea and iris
Coronary	Having to do with the heart
Coronary Artery	artery that supplies blood to the heart
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)	surgery to add a new blood vessel to supply blood to the heart
Coronary Artery Disease	when the arteries to the heart narrow and reduce blood flow to the heart
Coronary Ischemia	not enough blood going to the heart
Coronary Thrombosis	blood clot in an artery that supplies blood to the heart
Corpus	Body; main part of an organ
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
Corticotropin	hormone made by the brain that turns on the adrenal glands
Cortisol	hormone made by the adrenal gland that may increase in amount due to stress
Costectomy	surgery to remove a rib
Cough	sudden, loud flow of air from the lungs
Cranial	having to do with the skull and the space inside the skull
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
Cranium Bifidum	birth defect in which there is a crack in the skull
Creatinine Clearance Test	blood test used to see if the kidneys can effectively remove creatinine from the blood
Cretinism	a birth defect in which lack of thyroid hormone results in stopping of physical and mental development
Crohn's Disease	serious inflammation in lower part of the digestive system
Crossmatch	blood test to check if it is safe to give one person's blood to another person
Crossover	method used to switch subjects from one study group to another in a clinical trial
Croup	children's disease that causes coughing and harsh

	breathing
Cryoe extraction of the Lens	surgery using low temperatures to remove a cataract
Cryoretinopexy	surgery to repair a detached retina
CT Scan (CAT)	Computerized series of x-rays
Culdocentesis	removing fluid surrounding the ovaries to test for ovarian cancer
Culdoscope	a lighted tube used to look into the pouch between the vagina and the rectum
Culture	grow germs to check for their presence; test for infection or organisms that could cause infection
Cumulation	increased action of a drug when given over a period of time
Cumulative	total sum (of individual events, experiences, treatments)
Curt (Curette)	spoon shaped tool used for scraping or cutting
Curved	having a curved handle or a curved blade
Cushing's Syndrome	disease caused by too much of production of adrenal hormones or long-term use of cortisone-type drugs, causing many symptoms, including a fat, round face and weakness
Cutaneous	relating to the skin
CVA	stroke (cerebrovascular accident)
Cyanosis	blue color of tissues such as the skin or gums caused by too little oxygen
Cyesciology	the study of pregnancy
Cyesis	pregnancy
Cyst	a closed sac in the body that contains fluid; may be filled with pus
Cystectomy	surgery to remove a cyst or the urinary bladder or gallbladder
Cystic Fibrosis (CF)	genetic disease 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 picture of the urinary bladder
Cystolith	stone in the urinary bladder
Cystolithotomy	surgery to remove a stone from the urinary bladder
Cystoscope	lighted tube used to look into the urinary bladder
Cystostomy	surgery to make an opening into the urinary bladder
Cystotrachelotomy	surgical cut into the neck of the urinary bladder
Cystoureterogram	x-ray of the urinary bladder and ureters
Cytogenic	making cells

Cytoid	like a cell
Cytology	the study of cells
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	type of herpes virus
Cytoplasm	material inside a cell
D	
Dacryocystorhinostomy	surgery to make an opening between the tear sac and the nose
Dacryocystitis	inflammation of the tear sac
Debridement	surgery to clean foreign material and dead tissue out of a wound
Decubital Ulcer	bedsore
Deep	inside the body
Deep Sclerectomy	Incision into the white of the eye, a portion of which is removed to create a drainage space for relief of eye pressure
Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)	blood clot in a deep vein
Defecation	making a bowel movement
Defibrillation	use of electric shock to make the heart start beating, or to correct an abnormal heart rate or rhythm
Dehydration	No enough water in the body.
Delusion	a false belief held in the face of strong differing evidence, especially as a symptom of psychiatric disorder
Dementia	Decreasing mental ability; mental decline
Demographic Personal Statistics	personal information; information about you
Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA)	genetic material in the cells in the body that serve as blueprints for making proteins; material that makes up genes
Depressant	drug that slows down the action of the brain
Dermabrasion	method used to remove scars from the skin
Dermatitis	Skin rash, inflammation
Dermatoautoplasty	skin grafting using skin from another area of the patient's body
Dermatofibroma	type of benign skin growth
Dermatoheteroplasty	skin grafting using skin from another person
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
Dermatoplasty	surgery to repair the skin
Dermis	inner layer of the skin

Detached Retina	When the retina comes loose from the layer behind it
Determine	find out, see if
Deviated Septum	when the inside wall between the two sides of the nose is off to one side
DHHS	A federal agency: US Department of Health & Human Services; formerly the Department of Health, Education, & Welfare (DHEW)
Diabetes Insipidus	hormone disease that causes too much urination and extreme thirst
Diabetes Mellitus	disease in which problems with insulin cause high blood sugar, increased thirst and urine and many other side effects
Diagnosis	finding out the cause of a medical problem
Diagnostic (Procedure)	Tests used to identify a disorder or disease in a living person
Diaphoresis	heavy sweating
Diaphragm	flat muscle between the chest cavity and the belly that helps with breathing
Diaphragmatocele	a hole in the diaphragm
Diaphysis	the long part of arm and leg bones
Diarrhea	frequent, loose bowel movement
Diastole	when the heart is resting and filling with blood
Diastolic	lower number in blood pressure reading; pertaining to resting or relaxation phase of heart beat
Digital Rectal Exam	exam using a finger inside the rectum to feel internal organs such as the prostate gland and uterus
Dilation and Curettage (D&C)	surgery to remove the contents and inner lining of the uterus after a miscarriage or abortion; procedure is also used to treat abnormal bleeding
Dilator	tool used for stretching or enlarging an opening or tube
Diplopia	seeing double
Discomfort	pain
Discectomy	surgery to remove one of the pads between the bones in the spine
Dissector	tool used to cut apart tissue
Disseminate	scatter or spread
Dissociative Symptoms	feeling disconnected from your surroundings, or feeling unreal
Distal	toward the end, away from the center of the body
Distended	stretched out or swollen, such as a full bladder
Diuresis	increased discharge of urine
Diuretic	drug that causes an increase in urination; "water pill"
Diverticulectomy	surgery to remove abnormal pouches in the colon

Diverticulitis	inflammation of pouches in the colon wall
Diverticulosis	abnormal pouches coming off the colon
Doppler	way in which the frequency of sound waves changes
Doppler Flow Studies	use of ultrasonography to see blood flow inside blood vessels
Dorsal	having to do with the back of the body
Double Blind(ed)	in a clinical study, when neither you nor the researcher knows what treatment you are getting
Double-Barrier Birth Control Methods	condoms with spermicide, sponge with spermicide, or diaphragm with spermicide
Double-Blind Trial	test or experiment in which neither the person giving the treatment nor the patient knows which treatment the patient is receiving
Double-Masked Design	A study design in which neither the investigators nor the subjects know the treatment group assignments of individual subjects
Down's Syndrome	birth defect in which an extra chromosome causes mental retardation, and changed appearance of the head, hands, and feet
Duct	tube that carries a body fluid
Ductus Deferens	tube that carries sperm out of the testicle
Duodenal Ulcer	sore in the first part of the small intestine
Duodenum	beginning part of the small intestine; first part of the small intestine
Dura Mater	outer layer of the membranes that surround brain and spinal cord
Duritis	inflammation of the dura mater
Dyscrasia	imbalance in the types of blood cells
Dysentery	severe diarrhea with pain and blood in bowel movements
Dysfunction	No functioning right
Dysmenorrhea	painful menstruation
Dyspepsia	upset stomach after eating
Dysphagia	trouble swallowing
Dysphasia	difficulty speaking and putting words together
Dysphonia	trouble with the voice and speaking
Dysplasia	abnormal development or cell growth
Dyspnea	trouble breathing
Dystocia	difficult childbirth
Dystonia	when some muscle has good tone and other muscle does not; disorder that causes focal or generalized sustained muscle contractions, postures, and/or involuntary movements; sudden start of painful

	twisting and abnormal postures
Dysuria	pain when urinating
E	
Ecchymosis	black and blue mark; bruise
Echocardiogram	picture of the heart in motion made using ultrasonography
Echocardiogram	sound wave test of the heart
Echoencephalography	use of sound waves to measure the shape of the brain
Eclampsia	convulsions in a pregnant woman caused by high blood pressure and other medical problems
Ectopic Pregnancy	pregnancy growing outside the uterus, often in fallopian tubes
Eczema	type of itchy skin rash; skin problem that causes redness, scaling, crusting, oozing and itching
Edema	swelling caused by a buildup of fluid in the tissues
Effective	works; works well; works better (than)
Effectiveness	working ability
Effects	good and bad results
Efferent	Going outward; going away from the center of the body
Efficacy	How well it works
Ejaculation	discharge of semen from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse
Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG)	picture of electrical tracing of heartbeat or heart rhythm
Electrocardiograph	machine that records the electrical action of the heart
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	Picture of brain wave activity; electric brainwave measurement
Electroencephalograph	machine that records brain wave activity
Electrolyte Imbalance	imbalance of salts in the blood
Elevate	raise
Elevation of Liver Function Tests	proof of liver or kidney damage
Embolectomy	surgery to remove a blood clot
Embolus	blood clot
Embryo	unborn baby from 2 to 8 weeks after it is formed
Embryoid	looking like an embryo
Embryology	the study of the development of the unborn baby
Emesis	vomiting
Emetic	drug that makes you vomit; useful in treating poisoning
Emmetropia	when the eye focuses light correctly
Emollient	substance that softens the skin
Emphysema	disorder in which too much air collects deep in the lungs

	and cannot be breathed out
Empiric	based on experience
Encephalitis	inflammation of the brain
Encephalomyeloradiculitis	inflammation of the brain, the spinal cord, and the spinal nerve roots
Encephalosclerosis	hardening of the brain
End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)	Chronic kidney failure
Endocervicitis	inflammation of the inner lining of the cervix
Endocrinologist	doctor who treats disorders of the glands that make hormones
Endocrinopathy	disease of the glands that make hormones; hormonal imbalance
Endometrial Biopsy	obtaining a sample of the lining of the uterus
Endometrial Hyperplasia	when the lining of the uterus becomes thick because of too much cell growth
Endometriosis	growths outside the uterus of tissues that normally line the uterus
Endometritis	inflammation of the inner lining of the uterus
Endometrium	inner lining of the uterus
Endophthalmitis	inflammation of the inside of the eye
Endorphin	A chemical made by the body to stop pain
Endoscope	a lighted tube used to look inside the body
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
Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)	x-ray of the bile and pancreatic ducts made using an endoscope
Endoscopy	looking inside the body with a lighted tube
Endosteum	tissue that lines the inside of bone
Endotracheal	inside the windpipe
Enema	liquid that is injected into the rectum to promote bowel movement
Enteral	by way of the intestines
Enteral Feeding	feeding through a tube into the digestive tract
Enteral Nutrition	feeding through a tube into the digestive tract
Enterorrhaphy	surgery to stitch the intestine
Eucleation	surgery to remove the eye
Enzyme Replacement Therapy	Treating a genetic disease by replacing the missing or defective enzyme
Epidermal	having to do with the outer layer of the skin
Epidermis	outer layer of skin
Epididymis	tubes 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
Epiglottitis	inflammation of the epiglottis
Epilepsy	seizure disorder
Epinephrine	hormone made by the adrenal glands that speeds up body organs and helps the body deal with stress
Epiphysis	growth area of a long bone
Episioperineoplasty	surgery to fix the vulva and perineum
Episiorrhaphy	stitching a tear in the vulva
Episiotomy	surgical cut in the vagina to keep it from tearing when a baby is being born
Epistaxis	nosebleed
Epithelial	having to do with the epithelium
Epithelioma	benign or malignant growth made up of epithelial tissue
Epithelium	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)
Erosive Esophagitis	caused by gastroesophageal reflux; deterioration of the protective lining on the inner wall of the lower esophagus
Erythema	redness
Erythrocyte Count	the number of red blood cells in the blood
Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)	blood test for inflammation
Erythrocytes	cells in blood that carry oxygen; red blood cells
Erythrocytosis	increase in number of red blood cells
Erythroderma	red skin
Esophagogastroduodenoscopy	using a lighted tube to look into the upper part of the digestive system (esophagus, stomach, and duodenum)
Esophagoscope	a lighted tube used to look into the esophagus
Esophagus	the passageway between the mouth and the stomach
Estrogen	female sex hormone
Estrogen Receptor Assay	blood test used to detect tumor cells in patients with breast cancer
Etiology	the cause or causes of an illness
Eupnea	normal breathing
Eustachian Tube	tube that connects the middle ear and the throat
Evaluate	rate the level (of health/wellness), judge (the health/wellness of)
Eversion	turning inside out

Excretion	the way that substances leave the body
Exophthalmic	has a bulging eyeball or eyeballs
Exophthalmos	bulging of one or both eyeballs
Exostosis	bony growth on the surface of a bone
Expectant Therapy	Watching the progress of a disease rather than treating it; “watchful waiting”
Experimental Drug	Drug not approved for use by the US FDA
Experimental Group	group receiving the experimental treatment
Extension	the straight position of an arm or leg
External	outside the body
External Auditory Meatus	opening between the outside of the ear and the eardrum
External Beam Therapy	using a narrow beam of radiation to treat cancer
External Conjunctiva Tissue	The delicate tissue covering the eyeball
External Ear	outside part of the ear
External Genitalia	sex organs on the outside of the body: penis, scrotum, and urethra in men; vulva, clitoris, and urethra in women
Extracorporeal	outside of the body
Extravasate	to leak outside of a blood vessel
Extravasation	Leaking out of a blood vessel
Eye Fundus	Back of the eye

F

Fallopian Tube	tube from the ovaries to the uterus down which the egg travels
False-negative test result	A test result that indicates that a person does not have a specific disease or condition when the person actually does have the disease or condition
False-positive result	A test that indicates an individual is affected and/or has a certain gene mutation when he or she is actually unaffected and/or does not have the mutation
False-positive test result	A test result that indicates that a person has a specific disease or condition when the person actually does not have the disease or condition.
Familial	When some or all members of a family share a disease or characteristic
Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP)	An inherited condition in which numerous polyps (growths that protrude from mucous membranes) form on the inside walls of the colon and rectum. It increases the risk for colorectal cancer. Also called FAP and familial polyposis.
Familial atypical multiple mole melanoma syndrome (FAMM syndrome)	An inherited condition marked by the following: (1) one or more first- or second-degree relatives (parent, sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, or uncle) with malignant melanoma; (2) many moles, some of which are

	atypical (asymmetrical, raised, and/or different shades of tan, brown, black, or red) and often of different sizes; and (3) moles that have specific features when examined under a microscope. FAMMM syndrome increases the risk of melanoma and may increase the risk of pancreatic cancer.
Familial cancer	Cancer that occurs in families more often than would be expected by chance. These cancers often occur at an early age, and may indicate the presence of a gene mutation that increases the risk of cancer. They may also be a sign of shared environmental or lifestyle factors.
Familial dysplastic nevi	A condition that runs in certain families in which at least two members have dysplastic nevi (atypical moles) and have a tendency to develop melanoma.
Familial isolated hyperparathyroidism (FIHP)	A rare inherited condition in which one or more tumors form in the parathyroid glands (four pea-sized organs found on the thyroid) and cause them to make too much parathyroid hormone. The increased parathyroid hormone causes a loss of calcium from the bones and too much calcium in the blood.
Familial medullary thyroid cancer	An inherited form of medullary thyroid cancer (cancer that forms in the cells of the thyroid that make the hormone calcitonin).
Familial polyposis (FAP)	An inherited condition in which numerous polyps (growths that protrude from mucous membranes) form on the inside walls of the colon and rectum. It increases the risk of colorectal cancer. Also called familial adenomatous polyposis
Family history	A record of a person's current and past illnesses, and those of his or her parents, brothers, sisters, children, and other family members. A family history shows the pattern of certain diseases in a family, and helps to determine risk factors for those and other diseases.
Family therapy	A type of therapy in which the whole family talks with a professional counselor to solve family problems.
FAMMM syndrome	Familial atypical multiple mole melanoma syndrome. An inherited condition marked by the following: (1) one or more first- or second-degree relatives (parent, sibling, child, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, or uncle) with malignant melanoma; (2) many moles, some of which are atypical (asymmetrical, raised, and/or different shades of tan, brown, black, or red) and often of different sizes; and (3) moles that have specific features when examined under a microscope. FAMMM syndrome increases the risk of melanoma and may increase the risk of pancreatic cancer. Also called familial atypical multiple mole melanoma syndrome.
Fanconi anemia	A rare inherited disorder in which the bone marrow does

	not make blood cells. It is usually diagnosed in children between 2 and 15 years old. Symptoms include frequent infections, easy bleeding, and extreme tiredness. People with Fanconi anemia may have a small skeleton and brown spots on the skin. They also have an increased risk of developing certain types of cancer.
Fanconi syndrome	A group of kidney disorders that cause protein, sugar, minerals, and other nutrients to be lost in the urine. Symptoms include weakness, bone pain, and passing a greater than normal amount of urine. One form of Fanconi syndrome is inherited and is usually found in infants. Fanconi's syndrome may also be caused by other diseases, a lack of vitamin D, or exposure to heavy metals or chemicals, including certain anticancer drugs.
Fast	Nothing to eat or drink (set time varies)
Fast-neutron beam radiation	A type of radiation therapy that uses tiny particles called neutrons made by a machine called a cyclotron
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
Fatigue	tiredness
Fatty acid	A major component of fats that is used by the body for energy and tissue development.
Fatty-replaced breast tissue	A term used in mammography that refers to the replacement of breast tissue with fatty tissue. This commonly occurs as a woman ages.
FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration, the government agency that regulates food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, and other products to make sure they are safe
Febrile neutropenia	A condition marked by fever and decrease in the number of neutrophils in the blood. A neutrophil is a type of white blood cell that helps fight infection. Having too few neutrophils increases the risk of infection.
Fecal incontinence	Not able to hold stool in the rectum
Fecal Occult Blood Test	a test for blood in the stool
Feces	material excreted during bowel movement; stool
Feeding Tube	A device used to provide nutrition to patients who cannot or refuse to obtain nutrition by swallowing
Femoral	having to do with the thigh area
Femoropopliteal Bypass	surgery to make a passageway from one artery to another in the leg
Femur	thigh bone
Fertile	Able to produce children
Fertility	ability to have children
Fetal material	The placenta, amniotic fluid, fetal membranes and

	umbilical cord
Fetus	unborn baby from 9 weeks after it is formed until it is born
Fever	an increase in body temperature
Fiber	In food, fiber is the part of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains that cannot be digested. The fiber in food may help prevent cancer. In the body, fiber refers to tissue made of long threadlike cells, such as muscle fiber or nerve fiber.
Fibrillation	fast uncontrolled heart beat
Fibrin sealant	A type of surgical glue that is made from human blood-clotting proteins, and that is used during surgery to control bleeding
fibroadenoma	A benign (noncancerous) tumor that usually forms in the breast from both fibrous and glandular tissue. Fibroadenomas are the most common benign breast tumors.
Fibroblast	A connective tissue cell that makes and secretes collagen proteins
Fibrocystic breast changes	A common condition marked by benign (noncancerous) changes in breast tissue. These changes may include irregular lumps or cysts, breast discomfort, sensitive nipples, and itching. These symptoms may change throughout the menstrual cycle and usually stop after menopause. Also called benign breast disease, fibrocystic breast disease, and mammary dysplasia.
Fibrocystic breast disease	A common condition marked by benign (noncancerous) changes in breast tissue. These changes may include irregular lumps or cysts, breast discomfort, sensitive nipples, and itching. These symptoms may change throughout the menstrual cycle and usually stop after menopause. Also called benign breast disease, fibrocystic breast changes, and mammary dysplasia.
Fibroid	A benign smooth-muscle tumor, usually in the uterus or gastrointestinal tract. Also called leiomyoma.
Fibroid Tumor	growth made up of fibrous tissue
Fibromatosis	A condition in which multiple fibromas develop. Fibromas are tumors (usually benign) that affect connective tissue.
Fibrosarcoma	A type of soft tissue sarcoma that begins in fibrous tissue, which holds bones, muscles, and other organs in place
Fibrosis	The growth of fibrous tissue
Fibrous	having many fibers, such as scar tissue
Fibula	the lower leg bone behind the shin
Filler	An inactive substance used to make a product bigger or easier to handle. For example, fillers are often used to

	make pills or capsules because the amount of active drug is too small to be handled conveniently.
Fimbria	tissue that looks like a fringe on the end of the fallopian tubes
Fine-needle aspiration	The removal of tissue or fluid with a needle for examination under a microscope. Also called needle biopsy.
First Degree Relative (FDR)	a patient's spouse, mother, father, sister, brother, or child
First-line therapy	The first type of therapy given for a condition or disease
Fissure	crack or groove in tissue
Fifth cranial nerve	The main sensory nerve of the head and face, and the motor nerve of the muscles used in chewing. Also called the trigeminal nerve
Fistula	An abnormal opening or passage between two organs or between an organ and the surface of the body. Fistulas may be caused by injury, infection, or inflammation, or may be created during surgery.
Flatus	passing gas
Flexion	bent position of the arm or leg
Flow cytometry	A method of measuring the number of cells in a sample, the percentage of live cells in a sample, and certain characteristics of cells, such as size, shape, and the presence of tumor markers on the cell surface. The cells are stained with a light-sensitive dye, placed in a fluid, and passed in a stream before a laser or other type of light. The measurements are based on how the light-sensitive dye reacts to the light.
Fluid	liquid
Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody Absorption (Fta-Abs) Test	blood test used to detect syphilis
Fluoroscope	An x-ray machine that makes it possible to see internal organs in motion
Focal	In terms of cancer, limited to a specific area
Follicle	A sac or pouch-like cavity
Follicular large cell lymphoma	A rare type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system) with large cells that look cleaved (split) or non-cleaved under the microscope. It is an indolent (slow-growing) type of lymphoma.
Follicular lymphoma	A type of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (cancer of the immune system) that is usually indolent (slow-growing). The tumor cells grow as groups to form nodules. There are several subtypes of follicular lymphoma.
Follicular mixed cell lymphoma	A slow-growing type of B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system) in which there are both small and large cancer cells.
Follicular thyroid cancer	Cancer that develops from cells in the follicular areas of

	the thyroid. One of the slow-growing, highly treatable types of thyroid cancer.
Follow-Up	returning to see the doctor at a later time
Food And Drug Administration (FDA)	government agency 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
Founder effect	A gene mutation observed with high frequency in a population founded by a small ancestral group that was once geographically or culturally isolated, and in which one or more of the founders was a carrier of the mutant gene.
Fracture	broken bone
Fulguration	use of electric sparks to remove tissue such as tumors
Fundus	top of the uterus; back of the eye; large part of the stomach
Fungal	having to do with fungi
Fungal Test	test used to detect and identify a fungus
Fungating lesion	A type of skin lesion that is marked by breaks on the skin or surface of an organ and death of living tissue and that usually has a bad smell. This kind of lesion may occur in many types of cancer, including breast cancer, melanoma, and squamous cell carcinoma, and especially in advanced disease.
Fungi	more than one fungus
Fungus	type of living organisms, such as yeasts, molds, and mushrooms, some of which cause infection and some of which look like plants
Furuncle	painful skin boil
G	
Gadolinium	contrast material, similar to a dye, to make images appear clearer
Gail Model	A computer program that uses personal and family history to estimate a woman's chance of developing breast cancer.
Gait	the way a person walks
Galactorrhea	too much discharge of milk from the breast
Gallbladder	small sack under the liver that holds bile
Gallbladder cancer	Cancer that forms in the small sack under the liver that holds bile
Gallium Scan	A procedure to detect areas of the body where cells are dividing rapidly. It is used to locate cancer cells or areas

	of inflammation.
Gallstone	Solid material that forms in the gallbladder or common bile duct. Gallstones are made of cholesterol or other substances found in the gallbladder. They may occur as one large stone or as many small ones, and vary from the size of a golf ball to a grain of sand. Also called cholelith.
Gamma Globulin	type of protein in the blood that helps the body fight infection
Gamma Irradiation	A type of radiation therapy that uses gamma radiation. Gamma radiation is a type of high-energy radiation that is different from x-rays.
Gamma Knife Therapy	A treatment using gamma rays, a type of high-energy radiation that can be tightly focused on small tumors or other lesions in the head or neck, so very little normal tissue receives radiation. The gamma rays are aimed at the tumor from many different angles at once, and deliver a large dose of radiation exactly to the tumor in one treatment session. This procedure is a type of stereotactic radiosurgery. Gamma Knife therapy is not a knife and is not surgery.
Gamma Ray	A type of high-energy radiation that is different from an x-ray.
Gamma Scanning	A procedure to find areas in the body where cells, such as tumor cells, are dividing rapidly. A small amount of radioactive material is injected into a vein or swallowed, and travels through the bloodstream. A machine called a scanner measures the radioactivity and produces pictures (scans) of internal parts of the body. The pictures can show abnormal changes in the area of the body containing the radioactive material. Examples of gamma scans include PET scans, gallium scans, and bone scans. Also called radionuclide scanning.
Ganglion	group of nerve cells found outside the central nervous system; a type of benign tumor on muscle connective tissue or on a tendon
Ganglionectomy	surgery to remove a ganglion
Ganglionitis	inflammation of a ganglion
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	Having to do with the stomach
Gastric Atrophy	A condition in which the stomach muscles shrink and become weak.
Gastric Cancer	Cancer that forms in tissues lining the stomach. Also called stomach cancer.
Gastric Lavage	washing the stomach out

Gastric Reflux	The backward flow of stomach acid contents into the esophagus (the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach).
Gastric Ulcer	sore in the stomach
Gastrin	A group of hormones released after eating that control the amount of acid in the stomach.
Gastrinoma	A tumor that causes overproduction of gastric acid. It usually occurs in the islet cells of the pancreas but may also occur in the esophagus, stomach, spleen, or lymph nodes.
Gastriodynia	pain in the stomach
Gastritis	inflammation of the stomach
Gastroenteritis	stomach and intestines upset
Gastroenterologist	A doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating disorders of the digestive system.
Gastroesophageal junction	The place where the esophagus (the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach) is connected to the stomach
Gastroesophageal Reflux	flow of stomach acid up into the passageway between the mouth and the stomach
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)	flow of stomach acid up into the passageway between the mouth and the stomach causing frequent persistent heartburn, flow of bitter fluid into mouth, difficulty swallowing, and upper abdominal pain
Gastrointestinal (GI)	Refers to the stomach and intestines.
Gastrointestinal Carcinoid Tumor	A slow-growing cancer that forms in cells that make hormones in the lining of the stomach and intestines. It usually occurs in the appendix (a small fingerlike pouch of the large intestine), small intestine, or rectum.
Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)	A type of tumor that usually begins in cells in the wall of the stomach & intestines.
Gastrointestinal Tract	The stomach and intestines.
Gastroscope	a lighted tube used to look into the stomach
Gastrostomy	surgery to make an opening from the outside of the body into the stomach
Gavage	feeding you through a tube into your stomach
Gene Deletion	The total loss or absence of a gene
Gene Expression	making proteins based on instructions in genes (DNA)
Gene Expression Profiling	The process by which a gene gets turned on in a cell to make RNA (genetic material in the body that serve as blueprints for making proteins) and proteins
Gene Therapy	Using genetic material to treat a disease
Gene Transfer	Putting a gene into the DNA of cells
Gene-modified	Cells that have been altered to contain different genetic material than they originally contained

General Anesthesia	put you to sleep so you will not feel any pain
Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)	A condition marked by excessive worry and feelings of fear, dread, and uneasiness that last six months or longer. Other symptoms of GAD include being restless, being tired or irritable, muscle tension, not being able to concentrate or sleep well, shortness of breath, fast heartbeat, sweating, and dizziness.
Generic Name	chemical name for a drug
Genes	Are like blueprints in each of our cells that determine traits that we inherit, like eye color and hair color. Genes may also influence what diseases we get and how we respond to treatment; material passed from parent to child that determines the make-up of the body and mind
Genetic	passed down from birth parents in the genes
Genetic Analysis	The study of a sample of DNA to look for mutations (changes) that may increase risk of disease or affect the way a person responds to treatment.
Genetic Counseling	providing information and advice about the genetic aspects of a disease and how to deal with it
Genetic Marker	A change in DNA that may indicate an increased risk of developing a specific disease or disorder.
Genetic Mutation	a change in the DNA
Genetic Predisposition	An inherited increase in the risk of developing a disease. Also called genetic susceptibility.
Genetic Screening	Testing for genes that might cause medical problems
Genetic Susceptibility	An inherited increase in the risk of developing a disease. Also called genetic predisposition.
Genetic Testing	testing for the presence of genes and gene mutations that can cause disease
Genetics	The study of genes and heredity. Heredity is the passing of genetic information and traits (such as eye color and an increased chance of getting a certain disease) from parents to offspring.
Genital	having to do with the sex organs
Genital Wart	A raised growth on the surface of the genitals caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. The HPV in genital warts is very contagious and can be spread by skin-to-skin contact, usually during oral, anal, or genital sex with an infected partner.
Genital Herpes	disease of the genitals caused by a herpes virus
Genitalia	male and female sex organs
Genitourinary System	The parts of the body that play a role in reproduction, getting rid of waste products in the form of urine, or both.
Genome	All the genes
Genomic Imprinting	The process by which one chromosome of a pair is

	chemically changed, depending on whether the chromosome comes from the father or the mother.
Genomics	The study of the complete genetic material, including genes and their functions, of an organism.
Genotype	The genetic makeup of an individual
Genotyping	Testing that reveals the specific forms of genes inherited by an individual
Germ Cell	sex cell of the body: egg or sperm
Germ Cell Tumor	A type of tumor that begins in the cells that make the sex cells of the body: egg or sperm
Germ-free	Free of bacteria, disease-causing viruses, and other organisms that cause infection
Germinoma	The most common type of germ cell tumor in the brain
Germline	The cells from which eggs or sperm (i.e., gametes) come from
Germline Mutation	A gene change in the body's reproductive cells (egg or sperm) that becomes included into the DNA of every cell in the body of the children; germline mutations are passed on from parents to offspring. Also called hereditary mutation.
Gerota's capsule	A fibrous sac of tissue that surrounds the kidney
Gestational	pertaining to pregnancy
Gigantism	A condition in which the whole body or any of its parts grow much larger than normal.
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
Gland of Lieberkuhn	Tube-like gland found in the lining of the colon and rectum. Glands of Lieberkuhn renew the lining of the intestine and make mucus. Also called colon crypt.
Glans Penis	end of the penis
Glaucoma	too much pressure inside the eye that causes visual problems
Glaucoma Shunt	A device that is attached to the eye to help drain fluid from the eye
Globulins	proteins in the blood
Gleason Score	A system of grading prostate cancer tissue based on how it looks under a microscope. Gleason scores range from 2 to 10 and indicate how likely it is that a tumor will spread. A low Gleason score means the cancer tissue is similar to normal prostate tissue and the tumor is less likely to spread; a high Gleason score means the cancer tissue is very different from normal and the tumor is

	more likely to spread.
Glial Cell	A type of cell that surrounds nerve cells and holds them in place
Glial Tumor	A general term for tumors of the central nervous system.
Glioblastoma	A fast-growing type of central nervous system tumor that forms from glial (supportive) tissue of the brain and spinal cord and has cells that look very different from normal cells.
Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM)	A fast-growing type of central nervous system tumor that forms from glial (supportive) tissue of the brain and spinal cord and has cells that look very different from normal cells.
Glioma	A cancer of the brain that begins in glial cells (cells that surround and support nerve cells).
Gliosarcoma	A type of glioma (cancer of the brain that comes from glial, or supportive, cells).
Glomerulonephritis	inflammation of the kidney
Glomerulus	place in the kidney where urine is formed
Glossectomy	Surgical removal of all or part of the tongue
Glossitis	inflammation of the tongue
Glossopathy	disease of the tongue
Glossorrhaphy	surgery to stitch the tongue
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
Glottis	Voice box
Glucagon	A hormone produced by the pancreas that increases sugar in the blood
Glucagonoma	A rare pancreatic tumor that produces a hormone called glucagon
Glucocorticoid	A compound that belongs to the family steroids. Glucocorticoids affect metabolism (processes used by the body to process food and break down drugs) and reduces inflammation and immunosuppressive (reduces the body's defenses against invading substances) effects.
Glucose	type of sugar found in the blood
Glucose Tolerance Test	A test that measures how your blood sugar levels change after you drink a beverage that contains a measured amount of sugar
Glycolysis	A process in which glucose (sugar) is partially broken down by cells in enzyme reactions that do not need oxygen. Glycolysis is one method that cells use to produce energy.
Glycosuria	sugar in urine
Gonad	sex gland: female ovary or male testicle

Gonadal Dysgenesis	Abnormal development of a gonad (ovary or testicle).
Goniotomy	An operation to remove any blockage to the flow of aqueous humor (liquid in the eyes) in the front chamber of the eye; Operation for glaucoma (too much pressure inside the eye that causes visual problems)
Gonorrhea	type of bacterial infection in the sex organs and sometimes in the skin and joints
Gorlin Syndrome	A genetic condition that causes unusual facial features and disorders of the skin, bones, nervous system, eyes, and endocrine glands.
Gout	disorder in which crystals of uric acid deposit in and around joints, causing pain and arthritis
Grade	classification of cancer cells based on how far they are from normal
Grading	A system for classifying cancer cells in terms of how abnormal they appear when examined under a microscope.
Graft	Healthy skin, bone, or other tissue taken from one part of the body and used to replace diseased or injured tissue removed from another part of the body.
Graft-Versus-Host Disease (GVHD)	when the immune cells of a transplant attack the tissues of the person receiving the transplant
Graft-Versus-Tumor	An immune response to a person's tumor cells by immune cells present in a donor's transplanted tissue, such as bone marrow or peripheral blood.
Gram	A unit of weight in the metric system
Granulocyte	A type of white blood cell that fights bacterial infection.
Granulocytopenia	drop in white blood cell count
Granulosa Cell Tumor	A type of slow-growing, malignant tumor that usually affects the ovary.
Grief	The normal response to a major loss, such as the death of a loved one. Grief may also be felt by a person with a serious, long-term illness or with a terminal illness. It may include feelings of great sadness, anger, guilt, and despair. Physical problems, such as not being able to sleep and changes in appetite, may also be part of grief.
Grief Counseling	The process by which a trained counselor or a support group helps a person work through normal feelings of sorrow after a loss, such as the death of a loved one.
Grief Therapy	Treatment that helps a person work through a greater than normal reaction to a loss, such as the death of a loved one. This reaction may include behavioral and physical problems, extreme mourning, and being unable to separate emotionally from the person who died. Grief therapy may be individual or group therapy.
Groin	Genital area; inner thighs

Growth Factor	a naturally occurring substance that causes cells to grow and divide
Growth Hormone (GH)	hormone made by the pituitary gland that controls the growth of the body
Guaiac Test	test for blood in stool
Guardian	An individual who is authorized under state or local law to give permission on behalf of a child or an adult who is not able to make decisions
Gums	The tissue of the upper and lower jaws that surrounds the base of the teeth.
Gynecologic	Of the reproductive system of women
Gynecologic cancer	Cancer of the reproductive system of women
Gynecologic oncologist	Doctor who treats cancer of the reproductive system of women
Gynecologist	doctor who treats problems with the sex organs of women
Gynecology	the study and treatment of the reproductive system of women

H

HAART	Highly active antiretroviral therapy. Treatment for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection that uses a combination of several antiretroviral drugs. The drugs inhibit the ability of the virus to multiply in the body, and they slow down the development of AIDS. Also called highly active antiretroviral therapy.
Hair	thin strands of protein that grow up from the hair follicles
Hair Follicle	A shaft or opening on the surface of the skin through which hair grows.
Hairy Cell Leukemia	A rare type of leukemia in which abnormal white blood cells are present in the bone marrow, spleen, and peripheral blood. When viewed under a microscope, these cells appear to be covered with tiny hair-like projections.
Hallucinations	imagining things
Halsted Radical Mastectomy	Surgery for breast cancer in which the breast, chest muscles, and all of the lymph nodes under the arm are removed.
Hamartoma	A benign (noncancerous) growth made up of an abnormal mixture of cells and tissues normally found in the area of the body where the growth occurs.
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)	common illness of infants and children; a virus that causes fever, sores in the mouth, and a rash with blisters.
Hand and Foot Syndrome; Palmar-Plantar Erythrodysesthesia	palms of the hands or soles of the feet tingle, become numb, painful swollen, or red

Hard Palate	The front, bony part of the roof of the mouth
Heart	muscle that moves or pumps blood through the body
Heart Failure	when the heart does not pump enough blood through the body
Heart Murmur	soft swishing sound when blood does not flow right through the heart heard when listening to the heart through a stethoscope
Hemangiopericytoma	A type of cancer involving blood vessels and soft tissue
Hemangiosarcoma	A type of cancer that begins in the cells that line the blood vessels
Hematemesis	blood in vomit
Hematocrit	amount of red blood cells in the blood
Hematocytopenia	not enough blood cells
Hematologic cancer	A cancer of the blood or bone marrow, such as leukemia or lymphoma
Hematologist	doctor who treats blood disorders
Hematology	the study of blood
Hematoma	a bruise, a black and blue mark
Hematopoiesis	the making of blood cells
Hematopoietic Growth Factor	A group of proteins that causes blood cells to grow and mature
Hematopoietic Tissue	Tissue in which new blood cells are formed
Hematosalpinx	blood in the uterine tube
Hematuria	blood in the urine
Hemihypertrophy	A condition in which one side of the body or a part of one side is larger than the other.
Hemilaryngectomy	An operation to remove one side of the larynx (voicebox).
Hemiparesis	muscle weakness or partial paralysis, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body
Hemiplegia	total loss of muscle movement, usually with loss of feeling, on half of the body
Hemochromatosis	When the body absorbs more iron from food than it needs [The extra iron is stored in and may damage the liver, heart, and pancreas. It may cause organ failure, cancer, heart problems, and liver disease. Hemochromatosis may also cause bronze skin, diabetes, pain in the joints and abdomen, tiredness, and impotence.]
Hemodialysis	method used to remove waste material from the blood
Hemodynamic	Having to do with blood flow
Hemodynamic Measuring	Measuring for blood flow
Hemoglobin (Hgb)	substance that carries oxygen and gives blood its red color
Hemolysis	breakdown in red blood cells

Hemolytic Anemia	destruction of red blood cells
Hemophilia	genetic disease that causes blood to clot too slowly
Hemoptysis	Coughing or spitting up blood
Hemorrhage	Fast loss of blood; bleeding from blood vessels
Hemorrhagic Stroke	stroke due to bleeding
Hemorrhoidectomy	surgery to remove hemorrhoids
Hemorrhoids	twisted and bulging veins in the rectal area
Hemostasis	the stopping of bleeding
Hemothorax	blood in the chest cavity
Heparin	A drug that helps stop blood clots from forming
Heparin Lock	needle placed in the arm with blood thinner to keep the blood from clotting
Hepatectomy	Surgery to remove all or part of the liver
Hepatic	Refers to the liver
Hepatic Artery	The major blood vessel that carries blood to the liver
Hepatic Portal Vein	A blood vessel that carries blood to the liver from the stomach, small and large intestines, spleen, pancreas, and gallbladder.
Hepatic Veno-Occlusive Disease	A condition in which some of the veins in the liver are blocked.
Hepatitis	inflammation of the liver
Hepatitis A Vaccine	A vaccine used to prevent infection with the hepatitis A virus, which causes a serious liver disease.
Hepatitis A Virus	A virus that causes a serious liver disease. It is usually spread by contact with an infected person's stool by eating food he or she has handled after not washing hands, but it can be spread in other ways. Symptoms of infection include jaundice, dark urine, and fever and other flu-like symptoms.
Hepatitis B Virus	A virus that causes hepatitis (inflammation of the liver). It is carried and passed to others through blood or sexual contact. Also, infants born to infected mothers may become infected with the virus.
Hepatitis C Virus	A virus that causes hepatitis (inflammation of the liver). It is carried and passed to others through blood or sexual contact. Also, infants born to infected mothers may become infected with the virus.
Hepatobiliary	Having to do with the liver, bile ducts, and/or gallbladder
Hepatoblastoma	A type of liver tumor that occurs in infants and children
Hepatocyte	A liver cell
Hepatoma	cancer or tumor of the liver; growth on the liver
Hepatomegaly	Enlarged liver
Herbal medicine	A type of medicine that uses roots, stems, leaves,

	flowers, or seeds of plants to improve health, prevent disease, and treat illness.
Hereditary	Transmitted from parent to child by information contained in the genes.
Hereditary Mutation	A gene change in the body's reproductive cells (egg or sperm) that becomes incorporated into the DNA of every cell in the body of offspring; hereditary mutations are passed on from parents to offspring.
Heritable Disease	a disease that can be passed from parent to child through the genes
Hernia	bulging of an organ through an abnormal opening in a muscle wall
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 a herpes virus
Heterogeneous	Made up of elements or ingredients that are not alike
Heterogenic	Resulting from a different source or species.
Heterogenous	Resulting from a different source or species.
Heterosexual	person who is attracted to the opposite sex
Hiccup	sudden, uncontrolled spasm of the diaphragm
Hidradenitis	inflammation of a sweat gland
High Grade	When referring to cancerous and precancerous growths, a term used to describe cells that look abnormal under a microscope. These cells are more likely to grow and spread quickly than cells in low-grade cancerous and precancerous growths.
High-Dose Chemotherapy	An intensive drug treatment to kill cancer cells
High-Dose Radiation (HDR)	An amount of radiation that is greater than that given in typical radiation therapy.
High-Grade Lymphoma	A type of lymphoma that grows and spreads quickly, and has severe symptoms.
High-Risk Cancer	Cancer that is likely to come back or spread
Hilar	Refers to an area where nerves and blood vessels attach to an organ
Hip Bone	bone at the lower part of the body trunk
Hirsutism	abnormal hairiness (in women, an adult male pattern of hair distribution)
Histologic Examination	Look at tissue under a microscope
Histology	the study of tissue under the microscope
Histopathologic	pertaining to the disease status of body tissues or cells
Histopathology	The study of diseased cells and tissue using a microscope
Historic Cohort Study	A research study in which the medical records of groups

	of individuals who are alike in many ways but differ by a certain characteristic are compared for a particular outcome or reason
Historic Control Subject	An individual treated in the past and used in a comparison group when researchers analyze the results of a clinical study that had no control group.
Hodgkin's Disease	a cancer of white blood cells
Hodgkin Lymphoma	A type of cancer of the lymphatic system
Holter Monitor	a portable machine for recording heart beats
Homosexual	person who is attracted to the same sex
Hordeolum	infection of the oil glands of the eyelids; stye
Hormonal Birth Control Methods	birth control pill, Norplant, etc.
Hormonal Therapy	Treatment that adds, blocks, or removes hormones.
Hormone	substance made by a gland in the body that regulates another part of the body
Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)	Hormones (estrogen, progesterone, or both) given to women after menopause to replace the hormones no longer produced by the ovaries.
Hormone Responsive	describes cancer that responds to hormone treatment
Hormone Therapy	Treatment that adds, blocks, or removes hormones.
Hormone Treatment	Treatment that adds, blocks, or removes hormones.
Horner Syndrome	A condition in which one side of the face is flushed, does not produce sweat, and has a small pupil and drooping eyelid.
Hospice	A program that provides special care for people who are near the end of life and for their families, either at home, in freestanding facilities, or within hospitals.
Hospital Formulary	list of drugs and their proper doses maintained by each hospital
Host Cell	A cell that is infected by a virus
Hot Flash	A sudden, temporary start of body warmth, flushing, and sweating
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	a life-threatening infection which you can get from an infected person's blood or from having sex with an infected person
HIV Antibody	A substance produced by certain white blood cells in reaction to contact with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus
HIV Positive	Infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the cause of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	A member of a family of viruses that can cause abnormal tissue growth (for example, genital warts) and other changes to cells.
Humeral	having to do with the upper arm bone

Humerus	upper arm bone
Hydration	Combining with water
Hydrocephalus	increase in fluid in usually causing pressure on the brain; water on the brain
Hydronephrosis	a kidney swollen with too much urine
Hydrosalpinx	fluid in the uterine tube
Hydroureter	Abnormal enlargement of the ureter caused by any blockage that prevents urine from draining into the bladder.
Hymen	fold of tissue at the opening of the vagina
Hymenectomy	surgery to remove the hymen
Hyperactivity	Much more active than normal
Hypercalcemia	too much calcium in the blood
Hypercapnia	too much carbon dioxide in the blood
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	high blood sodium level
Hyperopia	farsightedness
Hyperplasia	increase in the number of cells that is not normal
Hypersensitivity	Too much sensitivity
Hypertension	high blood pressure
Hypertensive Heart Disease	heart problems caused by high blood pressure
Hyperthermia	High body temperature
Hyperthyroidism	overactive thyroid gland
Hyperuricemia	A buildup of uric acid (a byproduct of metabolism) in the blood
Hypervascular	Having a large number of blood vessels
Hyperventilation	breathing that is too fast
Hyphema	Blood in the front area of the eye
Hypnotic	drug used to make a person sleep
Hypocalcemia	not enough calcium in the blood
Hypocapnia	not enough carbon dioxide on the blood
Hypochondriac Region	area to the right or left above the naval
Hypodermic	under the skin
Hypodermic Injection	injection of a substance under the skin
Hypoesthesia	Having less than normal feeling in the skin
Hypogastric Region	area below the naval

Hypoglycemia	not enough sugar in the blood
Hypokalemia	not enough potassium in the blood
Hyponatremia	low blood sodium level
Hyponea	weak, slow breathing
Hypopharynx	The bottom part of the throat
Hypospadias	birth defect in which the urethra opens under the penis instead of the tip of the penis
Hypotension	low blood pressure
Hypothalamus	The area of the brain that controls body temperature, hunger, and thirst.
Hypothermia	low body temperature
Hypothesis	Theory that can be test in an experiment
Hypothyroidism	underactive thyroid gland
Hypotonia	decreased muscle tone
Hypotony	Low intraocular pressure (IOP) or pressure inside the eye
Hypoventilation	too little air entering the lungs
Hypoxemia	a decrease of oxygen in the blood
Hypoxemia	not enough oxygen in the blood
Hypoxia	not enough oxygen in the tissues
Hysteratresia	birth defect in which the uterus does not open to the outside of the body
Hysterectomy	surgery to remove the uterus
Hysteropexy	surgery to fasten down the uterus in its normal position
Hysterosalpingography	taking an x-ray of the uterus and the uterine tubes using a dye to outline them
Hysterosalpingo-Oophorectomy	surgery to remove all of the internal female reproductive organs
Hysteroscope	tool used to look into the uterus

I

Iatrogenic	accidentally caused by a medical treatment
Iatrolgy	the science of medicine
Icterus	too much bile in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eye, and other tissues
Idiopathic	of unknown cause
Idiopathic Myelofibrosis	A progressive, chronic disease in which the bone marrow is replaced by fibrous tissue and blood is made in organs such as the liver and the spleen, instead of in the bone marrow.
Idiopathic Pneumonia Syndrome	A set of pneumonia-like symptoms (such as fever, chills, coughing, and breathing problems) that occur with no sign of infection in the lung.

Idiosyncrasy	rare side effect of a drug; unusual reaction of a person to a drug
Ileocecal	having to do with the ileum and the cecum
Ileostomy	An opening into the ileum, part of the small intestine, from the outside of the body. An ileostomy provides a new path for waste material to leave the body after part of the intestine has been removed.
Ileum	third and last part of the small intestine
Ileus	blockage of the intestines
Iliac Regions	areas to the right and left below the naval
Iliofemoral	having to do with the hip and thigh bones
Ilium	wing-shaped upper part of the hip bone
Imagery	A technique in which the person focuses on positive images in his or her mind.
Imaging	Tests that produce pictures of areas inside the body
Imaging procedure	A method of producing pictures of areas inside the body
Immortalized Cell Lines	Also known as “transformed cells”, cells whose growth properties have been altered and they may continue to grow and divide indefinitely for as long as the correct culture conditions are maintained
Immune	Can’t catch
Immune Function	Production and action of cells that fight disease or infection
Immune Globulins	proteins that help protect the body from infection and foreign matter
Immune Reaction	body's defense against an invading substance
Immune Response	body's defense against an invading substance
Immune Suppression	reduction in body's defenses against invading substances
Immune System	the cells and substances that protect the body from infection and foreign matter
Immune System Tolerance	The failure of the immune system to respond to invading substances that it previously caused the body’s defense against the invading substance
Immunity	protection against infection
Immunodeficiency	weakness of the immune system
Immunoglobulin	a protein that makes antibodies
Immunosuppressive	Weakness of the immune system; drug which suppresses the body's immune response, used in transplantation and diseases caused by disordered immunity; reduces the body's defenses against invading substances
Immunotherapy	Treatment to help the body's immune (protective) system; usually used to destroy cancer cells
Immunization	A technique or method used to cause a response in the immune system that results in resistance to a specific

	disease
Immunoassay	A test that uses the binding of antibodies to antigens to identify and measure certain substances. Immunoassays may be used to diagnose disease.
Immunocompetence	The ability of the body to produce a defense against an invading substance
Immunocompetent	Having the ability to produce a defense against an invading substance
Immunocompromised	Having a weakened immune system caused by certain diseases or treatments
Immunodeficiency	The decreased ability of the body to fight infection and disease
Immunodeficiency Syndrome	The inability of the body to fight against an invading substance
Immunoglobulin	A protein that acts as an antibody (particle that sticks to germs and foreign matter to protect the body from infection)
Immunological Adjuvant	A substance used to help boost the immune response to a vaccine so that less vaccine is needed.
Immunology	the study and treatment of the body's defenses against invading substances
Immunomodulation	Change in the cells and substances that protect the body from infection and foreign matter, caused by agents
Immunophenotyping	A process used to identify cells, based on the types of antigens (substance that causes an immune response or allergic reaction) or markers on the surface of the cell.
Immunosuppression	reduction in body's defenses against invading substances
Immunosuppressive	Describes the ability to lower the body's defense against an invading substance
Immunosuppressive Therapy	Therapy used to lower the body's defense against an invading substance, such as drugs given to prevent transplant rejection
Immunotherapy	Treatment to boost or restore the ability of the immune system to fight cancer, infections, and other diseases.
Immunotoxin	An antibody (particle that sticks to germs and foreign matter to protect the body from infection) linked to a toxic substance.
Impaired function	abnormal function
Impairment	Not working as well as usual
Impedance Plethysmography	test used to find blood clots
Impetigo	skin infection
Implant	Put into the body
Implant Radiation	radiation treatment from a source inside the body, close to the diseased area
Implantable pump	A small device put under the skin to give a steady dose of drugs.

Implanted	placed in the body
Impotent	not able to have or to keep an erection during sexual intercourse
Impotence	not able to have or to keep an erection during sexual intercourse
Incapacity	Refers to a person's mental status and an inability to understand information present to
Incidence	The number of new cases of a disease diagnosed each year
Incision	A cut made in the body to perform surgery
Incisional biopsy	When part of a lump or suspicious area is removed for diagnosis then the tissue is examined under a microscope
Inclusion Criteria	reasons for including you; the characteristics a subject must have to be included in a medical research study
Inconclusive	Open to doubt; uncertain
Incontinence	not able to control bladder or bowel actions
Incubated	Grown in a laboratory in a controlled environment
Indeterminate	Not known exactly
Indication	Sign, symptom
Indirect Ophthalmoscopy	An exam of the inside of the back of the eye using a beam of light and a hand-held lens.
Indolent	A type of cancer that grows slowly
Indolent lymphoma	A type of lymphoma (a cancer of the lymph nodes) that tends to grow and spread slowly, and has few symptoms.
Induction Phase	beginning phase or stage of a treatment
Induction Therapy	First step in cancer treatment to shrink the cancer and examine the response to drugs and other agents
Induration	Hardening; hard spot
Indwelling	remaining in a given location, such as a catheter
Indwelling Epidural Catheter	tube placed near the spinal cord, used for anesthesia during an operation
Infection	Illness, sickness, disease
Infarct	death of tissue because it does not get enough blood
Infectious Disease	disease which is transmitted from one person to next
Inferior	toward the lower part of the body
Inferior Vena Cava	A large vein that empties into the heart
Infertile	Not able to get pregnant; unable to produce children
Infertility	The inability to produce children
Infiltrating Breast Cancer	Cancer that has spread from where it started in the breast into surrounding, healthy tissue.
Infiltrating Cancer	Cancer that has spread from where it started and is growing into surrounding, healthy tissues.
Inflammation	the response of tissues to irritation or injury: redness,

	heat, swelling and pain
Inflammatory	Having to do with inflammation (redness, swelling, pain, and a feeling of heat)
Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)	A general term that refers to the inflammation of the colon (part of the large intestine) and rectum (bottom end of the large intestine); Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, indeterminate colitis
Influence	affect
Influenza	the flu; disease caused by the flu virus
Inform	tell
Informed Consent	Deciding to get a certain treatment or be in a research study after thinking about the pros and cons (risks and benefits)
Infrared Coagulation	A technique in which abnormal tissue is exposed to a burst of infrared light (a type of radiation).
Infrared Thermography	a procedure in which an infrared camera (one that senses heat) is used to measure temperature differences on the surface of the body
Infusion	slowly putting a liquid into a vein; a fluid or a medicine delivered into a vein by way of a needle
Ingest	Eat or drink
Ingestion	eating; taking by mouth
Inhalant	substance given through the nose or mouth to reach the lungs
Inhale	Breathe in
Inhaler	A device for giving medicines in the form of a spray that is breathed in through the nose or mouth.
Inheritance	something passed down from birth parents
Inherited	a characteristic or condition that is passed down from birth parents to their children
Inherited Bone Marrow Failure Syndrome (IBMFS)	A rare disorder in which a person's bone marrow is unable to make enough blood cells and there is a family history of the same disorder.
Inhibit	stop
Inhibitor	Drug that slows down or stops something from happening
Initial	first
Injection	Shot
In lieu of	Instead of
Innovation	New idea, new way
Inquire	ask
Inoperable	a condition that cannot be treated by surgery
Insomnia	sleeplessness
Institute	Start, set up

Institutional Review Board (IRB)	the committee that oversees research at the institution
Instrument	tool
Insufficient	Not enough, too little
Insulin	the hormone that controls blood sugar levels
Intake	What you eat or drink; what goes into your body
Intensification Therapy	A type of high-dose chemotherapy often given as the second phase (after induction therapy) of a cancer treatment regimen for leukemia.
Intent, Intention	Aim, goal, purpose
Interface	Meet, work with
Interfere	get in the way of
Interfering Thought	An bad memory or idea that occurs often in a person's everyday thoughts and keeps him or her from thinking about other things.
Interferon	a natural substance and a drug that fights virus infections
Interictal	happening between seizures
Interior	inside of the body
Interleukin	A drug that stimulates the immune system to fight cancer
Intermittent	off and on; occurring (regularly or irregularly) between two time points
Intermittent Claudication	On-again, off-again pain and weakness in legs which interferes with walking
Internal	within the body
Internal Cardiac Defibrillator	a device inside the body that makes an electrical shock to make the heart return to its normal rhythm
Internal Examination	A physical exam in which a doctor or nurse will feel for lumps or changes in the shape of the female sex organs
Internal Radiation Therapy	A type of radiation therapy in which radioactive material sealed in needles, seeds, wires, or catheters is placed directly into or near a tumor.
Internist	Doctor of internal medicine
Interrupt	stop
Interstitial Radiation Therapy	A type of internal radiation therapy in which radioactive material sealed in needles, seeds, wires, or catheters is placed directly into a tumor or body tissue.
Intervention	a treatment given during the course of a research study
Intervention Group	The group receiving the study agent that is being tested in a clinical trial or clinical study.
Intervertebral Disks	pads found between each ring (bone) in the spine
Intestinal	Of the digestive tract below the stomach
Intestine	Digestive tract
Intra-arterial	Inside an artery (blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the tissues and organs in the body)

Intracarotid infusion	Putting fluids and drugs directly into the carotid artery, the main artery in the neck that carries blood from the heart to the brain.
Intracavitary	Within a space such as the abdomen, pelvis or chest
Intracavitary radiation therapy	A type of internal radiation therapy in which radioactive material sealed in needles, seeds, wires, or catheters is placed directly into a body cavity such as the chest cavity or the vagina.
Intracellular	Inside a cell
Intracolonic	Within the colon (part of the large intestine)
Intracavity Injection	injection of a substance into a body cavity
Intracoronary Thrombolytic Therapy	injection of medicine to dissolve a blood clot in an artery of the heart
Intracranial	inside the skull
Intracranial Tumor	A tumor [a benign (not cancerous) or malignant (cancerous) mass of tissue] that occurs inside the brain
Intracutaneous	Within the skin
Intradermal	Within the skin
Intradermal Injection	injection (shot) of a substance into the skin
Intradermal Tests	allergy tests performed by injecting allergy-causing substances underneath the skin to see if they cause a reaction
Intradermally	given into the skin
Intraductal carcinoma	A condition in which abnormal cells are found in the lining of the breast duct
Intraductal Papilloma	A benign (noncancerous), wart-like growth in a milk duct of the breast.
Intraepithelial	Within the layer of cells that form the surface or lining of an organ
Intrahepatic	Within the liver
Intramuscular (IM)	into the muscle
Intramuscular Injection (IM)	injection of a substance into a muscle (e.g., upper arm pr backside)
Intraocular	within the eye
Intraocular melanoma	A rare cancer of melanocytes (cells that produce the pigment melanin) found in the eye.
Intraocular pressure	Pressure inside the eye
Intrapelvic	With the pelvis, the lower part of the stomach between the hip bones
Intraperitoneal	In the belly
Intrapleural	Within the chest cavity
Intraspinal	Within the backbone
Intrathecal	into the spinal fluid

Intrathecal Injection	injection of a substance into the space around the spinal cord (i.e., spinal canal)
Intratumoral	Within a tumor [a benign (not cancerous) or malignant (cancerous) mass of tissue]
Intravenous (IV)	into a vein
Intravenous (IV) Catheter	Tube into a blood vessel
Intravenous (IV) Infusion	drip into a blood vessel through a plastic tube
Intravenous (IV) Injection	injection into a vein
Intravenous (IV) Line	a special needle designed to stay in a vein
Intravenous (IV) Push	injection into a vein
Intravenous Pyelogram	x-ray picture of the kidneys and ureters using dye that is injected into the blood
Intravenous (IV) Therapy	treatment with injection of a substance into a vein
Intravesical	in the bladder
Intubate	put a breathing tube into the throat
Intussusception	telescoping of the intestine into itself
Invasive breast cancer	Cancer that has spread from where it started in the breast into surrounding, healthy tissue.
Invasive Cancer	cancer that spreads into the tissues around it
Invasive Cervical Cancer	Cancer that has spread from the surface of the cervix to tissue deeper in the cervix or to other parts of the body.
Invasive Disease	A disease that can or has spread to other parts of the body
Invasive Procedure	To go into the body through a cut, slit or puncture
Inversion	turning inward
Investigation	study
Investigational	the study drug or device or biologic that is being tested in research studies and is not approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as treatment for your condition; experimental
Investigational Device Exemption (IDE)	the license to test an unapproved new medical device
Investigational New Drug (IND)	drug not yet approved by the FDA
Investigational Method	A treatment method which has not been proven to be beneficial or has not been accepted as standard care
Investigator(s)	A researcher(s), people doing the study
Inviable	Not able to survive
In Vitro	Refers to processes that are done outside of the body, usually in the laboratory
In Vivo	In the body
Involuntary	Not by choice; forced
Involuntary Nervous System	The part of the nervous system that controls muscles of internal organs (such as the heart, blood vessels, lungs,

	stomach, and intestines) and glands (such as salivary glands and sweat glands).
Iridectomy	To remove surgically a small piece of the iris that will allow a better flow of fluid in the eyes
Iridotomy	Laser used to create a hole in the iris (colored part of the eye) to improve the drainage passages blocked by a portion of the iris
Iris	The colored part of the eye that contains the pupil in the center.
Iritis	inflammation of the iris
Irradiated	Treated with radiation
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	type of bowel disease that causes pain and diarrhea or constipation
Ischemia	decreased oxygen in a tissue (usually because of decreased blood flow)
Ischemic Stroke	stroke due to a blood clot
Ischium	lower part of the pelvic bone, part you sit on
Islets Of Langerhans	part of the pancreas that makes insulin
Issue	give
Isthmus	thin strip of tissue that joins two parts of the body

J

Jaundice	When the whites of the eyes and the skin look yellow; too much bile in the blood causing a yellow color to the skin, gums, eye, and other tissues
Jejunum	second and longest part of the small intestine
Joint	Connection between 2 bones
Juvenile (condition)	Childhood (condition)

K

Kahler's Disease	A type of cancer that begins in plasma cells (white blood cells that produce antibodies).
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
Keratitis	Inflammation of the clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
Keratoplasty	surgery to fix the cornea
Ketone Bodies	substances that increase in the blood and urine during starvation or uncontrolled diabetes

Kidney	one of two organs in the lower back that filter blood and make urine
Kidney Cancer	Cancer that forms in tissues of one of two organs in the lower back that filter blood and make urine
Kidney Dialysis	using a machine to remove waste products from the blood after the kidneys have stopped working
Kidney Failure	when kidneys stop working
Kidney Impairment	when kidneys don't work as well as they should
Kyphosis	hunchback
L	
Labial mucosa	The inner lining of the lips
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	type of tear duct
Lacrimal Gland	A gland that secretes tears
Lactase	An enzyme that breaks down lactose, a type of sugar found in milk and milk products
Lactating	making milk
Lactation	Period of time during which a woman is providing her breast milk to an infant or child
Lactic Dehydrogenase (LDH)	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
Lactose	Sugar found in milk
Lactose intolerance	unable to digest lactose, the sugar in milk
Laminectomy	surgery to remove the top of vertebra
Lanolin	An oily substance taken from sheep's wool.
Laparoscope	tool used to look into the abdominal cavity (stomach area)
Laparoscopic Prostatectomy	Surgery to remove all or part of the prostate with the aid of a laparoscope (a thin, tube-like instrument with a light and a lens for viewing)
Laparoscopic-Assisted Colectomy	Surgery done with the aid of a laparoscope (a thin, tube-like instrument with a light and a lens for viewing) to remove all or part of the colon through several small incisions made in the wall of the belly
Laparoscopy	surgery using an laparoscope to see internal organ through a small incision

Laparotomy	surgery to make an opening into the wall of the belly to look inside with a laparoscope
Large Cell Carcinoma	Lung cancer in which the cells are large and look abnormal when viewed under a microscope
Large Intestine	the bowel between the small intestine and the anus, including the cecum, colon, and rectum
Laryngeal	having to do with the voice box
Laryngeal Cancer	Cancer that forms in tissues of the larynx (area of the throat that contains the vocal cords and is used for breathing, swallowing, and talking).
Laryngeal Nerve	nerve in the throat
Laryngectomy	A person whose larynx (voice box) has been removed
Laryngectomy	surgery to remove the voice box
Laryngitis	inflammation of the voice box
Laryngocentesis	surgery to puncture 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
Laryngotracheobronchitis	inflammation of the larynx, windpipe, and bronchi; croup
Larynx	voice box
Laser	A device that concentrates light into an intense, narrow beam used to cut or destroy tissue.
Laser Acupuncture	The use of a low-level laser beam instead of an acupuncture needle to cause the body to respond at an acupuncture point
Laser Angioplasty	using a laser light to open blocked arteries
Laser Surgery	Surgery that uses the cutting power of a laser beam to make bloodless cuts in tissue or to remove a surface lesion such as a tumor.
Laser Therapy	The use of an intensely powerful beam of light to kill cancer cells
Lassitude	A feeling of tiredness, weakness, and lack of interest in daily activities
Late Effects	Side effects of cancer treatment that appear months or years after treatment has ended.
Latent	Dormant; not active
Lateral	toward or having to do with the side of the body
Latex Agglutination Test	blood test used to detect antibodies involved in rheumatoid arthritis
Laxative	drug used to stop constipation; substance that promotes bowel movements
LE (Lupus Erythematosus)-Cell Test	blood test used to detect the presence of a certain type of white blood cell seen in people with lupus erythematosus

	and similar disorders
LED Therapy (Light-emitting Diode Therapy)	Treatment with drugs that become active and may kill cancer cells when exposed to light.
LEEP (Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure)	A procedure that uses electric current passed through a thin wire loop to remove abnormal tissue.
Legionnaires' Disease	serious disorder caused by bacterial infection in which there is high fever, stomach pain, headache, and pneumonia
Leiodermia	disorder in which the skin is too smooth and shiny
Leiomyoma	smooth muscle growth
Leiomyosarcoma	cancer of smooth muscle
Lens	structure in the eye that is normally clear and helps to focus light coming into the eye
Leptomeningeal	Having to do with the two innermost meninges (thin layers of tissue that cover and protect the brain and spinal cord).
Lesion	abnormal area of tissue, such as a wound, sore, rash, or boil
Lethargic	Sluggish; very sleepy
Lethargy	sleepiness
Leukemia	blood cancer
Leukocoria	white pupil
Leukocyte	white blood cell that fights infection
Leukocyte Count	number of white blood cells in the blood
Leukocytosis	increase in number of white blood cells in the blood
Leukoderma	white skin
Leukokoria	white pupil
Leukopenia	low white blood cell count
Leukoplakia	An abnormal patch of white tissue that forms on mucous membranes in the mouth and other areas of the body
Libido	sexual desire
Lidocaine	Numbing medication
Ligament	elastic tissue that connects bone or cartilage
Ligation	Tie up; repair
Light microscope	A microscope (device to magnify small objects) in which objects are lit directly by white light
Limb	Arm or leg
Limbic System	Set of brain structures that support emotion, behavior, long term memory, and sense of smell
Lingual	tongue
Linkage	traits that tend to be inherited together as a result of a relationship between their genes; all of the genes of a

	given chromosome are linked (where one goes they all go)
Linkage Analysis	Study aimed at establishing a link between genes
Lipid Content	fat content in the blood
Lipid Profile (Lipid Panel)	Lab test to measure the amount of fats in the blood
Lipid Tests	blood tests that measure how much fat is in the blood
Lipids	Fats in the blood
Lipoid	fatty
Lipoma	growth made up of fat cells
Lipophilic	Able to dissolve or absorb fats
Lipoprotein Electrophoresis	blood test that measures the amounts of fat and protein in the blood
Liposarcoma	A rare cancer of the fat cells
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
Liver Cancer	Cancer that forms in the large organ that helps in many body functions, including digestion, metabolism, and storage of substances
Liver Function Test	A blood test to measure the blood levels of certain materials released by the liver
Liver Metastasis	Cancer that has spread from the original (primary) tumor to the liver
Liver Scan	An image of the liver created on a computer screen or on film
Living Will	A legal document in which patients instruct doctors/nurses about their wishes regarding medical care should they become injured or laid up
Lobar Pneumonia	bacterial infection of one or more sections of the lung
Lobe	One of the 5 sections of the lungs
Lobectomy	surgery to remove a section of the lung
Local Anesthesia	numbing an area of your body so you do not feel pain there
Local Cancer	Cancer that is restricted entirely to the organ where it began
Local Therapy	Treatment that affects cells in the tumor and the area close to it
Locality	place
Locally, Localized	In one area; restricted to one area; limited to one area
Locally Invasive Tumor	A tumor that sends out “fingers” of cancerous cells into the normal tissue around it
Locate	find
Location	place

Lochia	normal discharge from the vagina for 1 to 2 weeks after childbirth
Locus	Specific place where something is found or occurs
Long Bone	bone that is long and slender, such as a leg or arm bone
Long-Term Extension	continuation of a research study
Lordosis	forward curving of the spine, causing saddle back or swayback
Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS)	a disease of the nerves and muscles that causes weakness
Lower GI (Gastrointestinal) Series	taking X-ray pictures of the large intestine using a dye given as an enema
Lubricant	An oily or slippery substance
Lumbar Puncture	using a needle to inject drugs or remove spinal fluid from the lower back; spinal tap
Lumbar Region	lower back of the body
Lumbar Vertebrae	bones of the spine in the lower back
Lumen	the space inside a tube such as a blood vessel
Lumpectomy	Surgery to remove the tumor and a small amount of normal tissue around it
Lung Cancer	Cancer that forms in tissues of the lung, usually in the cells lining air passages
Lung Fibrosis	excess of fibrous tissue in the lung
Lung Lobe	one of five sections of the two lungs
Lung Metastasis	Cancer that has spread from the original (primary) tumor to the lung
Lungs	the two main organs for breathing
Lupus	a disease of the immune system that causes skin rash, arthritis, and other problems
Lupus Erythematosus (LE)	chronic disorders of connective tissue in which there can be skin rash, arthritis, kidney problems, and anemia, among other problems
Lymph	clear fluid that flows through the lymphatic vessels to fight disease
Lymph Gland	tissue that filters germs from the blood and kills them
Lymph Node	tissue that filters disease germs from the blood; also called a lymph gland
Lymph Node Dissection	Surgery in which the lymph nodes are removed and examined to see whether they contain cancer
Lymph Vessels	thin tubes that carry lymph fluid through the body
Lymphadenectomy	Surgery in which the lymph nodes are removed and examined to see whether they contain cancer
Lymphadenitis	inflammation of the lymph nodes
Lymphadenography	x-ray of the lymph nodes
Lymphadenopathy	Disease or swelling of the lymph nodes

Lymphangiography	taking an X-ray picture of the lymph nodes
Lymphatic System	part of the immune system produces and carries white blood cells to fight disease
Lymphocyte	type of white blood cell that fights infection
Lymphoid Tissue	tissue that contains lymphocytes; a type of white blood cell
Lymphoma	a cancer of the lymph nodes (or tissues)
Lytic Lesion	Destruction of an area of bone due to a disease such as cancer

M

Macro	Large or long
Macula	Located in the center of the retina (layer at the back of the eye that is sensitive to light) responsible for detailed central vision.
Macular Degeneration	Eye disorder that results in loss of vision in the center of the visual field because of damage to the retina (layer at the back of the eye that is sensitive to light)
Macrophage	Type of white blood cell that kills microorganisms, removes dead cells, and triggers the action of other immune system cells
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	using magnetic waves to take pictures of the body
Magnitude	size
Maintain	Keep, support
Maintenance Therapy	Treatment that is given to help the original treatment keep working
Majority (of)	most
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, usually fatal if not successfully treated
Malignant, Malignancy	Harmful, poisonous; cancer that may spread to other parts of the body
Malingering	Pretending to be sick
Malnutrition	Condition that occurs when the body does not get enough nutrients
Mammary	Having to do with the breast
Mammary Glands	milk-producing tissue in the breasts
Mammary Papilla	breast nipple
Mammogram	x-ray of the breast
Mammoplasty	surgery to reconstruct the breast
Mandible	lower jaw bone

Manifestation	sign
Manner	way
Mantoux Test	skin test used to check for tuberculosis
Margin	The edge or border of the tissue removed in cancer surgery
Marker	A diagnostic (to find the cause of a medical problem) sign that disease may develop
Mastalgia	pain in the breast
Mastectomy	surgery to remove a breast
Mastitis	inflammation of the mammary gland or of the breast
Mastoid Cells	air spaces inside the mastoid process
Mastoid Process	protruding part of a bone located in the skull behind the ear
Mastoidectomy	surgery to remove the mastoid process or mastoid cells
Mastoiditis	inflammation of the air spaces in the mastoid process that communicate with the middle ear
Mastoidotomy	surgery to cut into the mastoid process
Mastoptosis	drooping breasts
Matatarsal Bones	foot bones
Materialize	appear
Maternal	Having to do with or coming from the mother
Maxilla	upper jaw bone
Maxillectomy	surgery to remove the upper jaw bone
Maxillitis	inflammation of the upper jaw bone
Maximum	Greatest, largest, most
Meconium	first stool of the newborn
Medial	toward or having to do with the middle of the body
Mediastinum	space between the lungs
Medical History	information about a patient obtained by questioning the patient and the patient's family
Medical Record	a chart containing all of the patient's personal information, doctor's notes, nurse's notes, test results, and treatment information that may be kept by a hospital or clinic
Medications	medicines, drugs
Medulla Oblongata	part of the brain that controls breathing, blood pressure, and other important body functions; brain stem
Medullablastoma	a type of brain tumor
Megaloblastosis	change in red blood cells
Meibomian Cyst	pimple on the eyelid caused by an inflamed gland (stye)
Melanin	material that makes the color of the skin and hair
Melanoma	cancerous black growth on the skin

Melasma	a blotchy brown stain on the skin, usually over the cheeks, forehead, or neck; often associated with pregnancy, menopause, or the use of oral contraceptives
Membrane	A very thin layer of tissue that covers a surface
Menarche	time in life when a girl starts having a menstrual period
Meniere's Disease	disorder of the inner ear in which there is dizziness, ringing in the ears, and loss of hearing
Meninges	tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Meningitis	infection or inflammation of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Meningocele	bulging of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord through the skull or bones of the spine
Meningomyelradiculitis	inflammation of the tissue that covers the spinal cord and the roots of the spinal nerves
Meniscectomy	surgery to remove one or both of the pads in the knee joint
Meniscitis	inflammation of the meninges and roots of the spinal nerves
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
Menorrhagia	Abnormal heavy menstrual bleeding
Menses, menstruation	discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus that happens about every 4 weeks in women who are not pregnant
Menstrual	having to do with the monthly discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus when females are not pregnant
Menstrual Cycle	The monthly cycle of hormonal changes from the beginning of one menstrual period (the time of the monthly discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus when females are not pregnant) to the beginning of the next
Menstrual Period	the time of the monthly discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus when females are not pregnant
Menstruation	monthly discharge of blood and tissue from the uterus when females are not pregnant
Mesothelioma	A benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous) tumor affecting the lining of the chest or abdomen (belly)
Metabolic	Having to do with the processes used by the body to process food and break down drugs
Metabolism	total of all the important actions in the body that keep it alive
Metabolize	process of breaking down substances in the cells to obtain energy

Metacarpal Bones	bones of the hand between the wrist and fingers
Metastasis	spread of cancer cells from one part of the body to another
Metastasize	Spread from one part of the body to another
Metastatic	Cancer that has spread
Metrorrhea	discharge from the uterus
Micro-	describes something that is small or delicate
Microcephalus	person with a very small head
Microorganism	An organism that can be seen only through a microscope
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
Mild	not serious
Miliaria	Prickly heat
Mineral	A nutrient required to maintain health
Minimal (minimum)	Least, smallest, slight (at least)
Minimize	Decrease, lower, reduce
Miotic	substance that makes the pupil of the eye smaller (e.g., narcotic)
Miscarriage	loss of an unborn baby from the uterus before it is able to survive outside the mother's body
Mitigate	Make milder or less painful
Mitral Commissurotomy	surgery to repair the mitral valve to enlarge the opening between the two parts of the left side of the heart
Mitral Valve	valve between two chambers on the left side of the heart
Mobility (mobile)	Able to move around; ease of movement
Modality	A method of treatment
Moderate	Limit, control, medium level of seriousness
Modify, modification	change
Modulate	To adjust or change
Monitor	watch carefully
Monoclonal Antibody	antibodies that all target the same thing
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
Morbidity	undesired result or complication
Mortality	death
Motility	ability to move

Motor	In medicine, having to do with the movement of body parts
Mouth	opening through which food passes into the body to be digested
Mucopurulent	slimy and with pus in it
Mucoid	slimy
Mucosa	lining
Mucosa, Mucous Membrane	moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts
Mucus	slimy fluid; type of slippery fluid
Multicenter	when a study is carried out at more than one research site; when more than one hospital or medical school team work on a medical research study
Multigravida	women who has been pregnant two or more times
Multipara	woman who has given birth two or more times
Multiple Dose	getting more than one dose of medicine
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	slowly worsening disorder of the central nervous system that causes weakness, in coordination, numbness, and problems talking and seeing
Multiplicity	A large number or variety
Muscle	type of tissue that causes movement
Muscular Dystrophy (MD)	genetic problem resulting in muscle weakness and atrophy
Musculoskeletal	Muscles and bones and cartilage
Mutate	To change the genetic material of a cell
Mutation	Any change in the DNA of a cell; Genetic defect
Myalgia	muscles aches
Myasthenia	muscle weakness
Myasthenia Gravis	disorder that causes muscles to get tired quickly
Mydriasis	Enlargement of the pupil due to disease, trauma or drugs
Mydriatic	substance that makes the pupil of the eye bigger
Myelodysplasia	blood cancer
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 heart
Myocardial Infarction (MI)	heart attack
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 myoma (growth made up of muscle tissue) or a piece of muscle
Myometritis	inflammation of the muscle of the uterus
Myometrium	muscle of the uterus
Myopathy	muscle disorder
Myopia	Nearsightedness, when it is hard to see things that are far away
Myoplasty	surgery to fix a muscle
Myorrhaphy	surgery to stitch a muscle
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 habit-forming drug that stops pain and depresses the central nervous system
Narrow Angle Glaucoma	too much pressure develops suddenly inside the eye that causes eye pain, redness, and visual problems
Nasal	having to do with the nose
Nasal Septum	wall that divides the nose into two sides
Nasogastric	Passage from the nose to the stomach
Nasogastric Tube (NG Tube)	tube that goes through the nose and into the stomach
Nasolacrimal Duct	tube that drains tears from the eye into the nose; tear duct
Nasopharyngeal	having to do with the nasopharynx
Nasopharyngitis	inflammation of the nasopharynx
Nasopharynx	Passage from the inside of the nose to the back of the throat
Nasoscope	A thin tube-like instrument used to look at the inside of the nose
Nasoscopy	Examine the inside of the nose using A thin tube-like instrument
Natal	having to do with childbirth
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	institute that supports cancer centers, funds research and training, and provides cancer information
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	the nation's premier biomedical research organization
Nausea	feeling sick to your stomach
Nebulizer	device used to turn liquids into mists for breathing treatments

Nebulous	Vague, not clear
Necessary	Needed, need to
Necrosis	death of an area of tissue or skin
Needle Biopsy	using a needle to remove tissue, cells or fluid for testing
Negligible	small
Neoadjuvant Therapy	additional treatment given before the primary treatment
Neonate	newborn infant
Neonatology	the study of disorders of newborn infants
Neoplasia	tumor, may be benign or malignant
Neoplasm	new growth that is not normal; tumor
Nephrectomy	surgery to remove a kidney
Nephritis	kidney inflammation
Nephroblastoma	type of malignant kidney tumor
Nephrogram	x-ray of the kidney
Nephrohypertrophy	overgrowth of the kidney
Nephrolithiasis	stones in the kidney
Nephrologist	Doctor who treats diseases of the kidneys
Nephroma	growth in the kidney
Nephromegaly	overgrowth of the kidney
Nephropathy	Kidney disease
Nephropexy	surgery to tie down a kidney
Nephroptosis	sagging kidney
Nerve	string-like tissue that carries messages to and away from the brain and spinal cord and tells muscles to move
Nerve Block	A procedure in which medicine is injected onto or near nerves for temporary control of pain
Nerve Grafting	Replacing a damaged nerve with a section of healthy nerve that has been removed from another part of the body
Nervous System	Brain and spinal cord
Nervous Tissue	type of tissue that makes up the central nervous system and nerves
Neural	Having to do with nerves or the nervous system (brain and spinal cord)
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 nerve tissue

Neurohypophysis	part of the brain that discharges hormones including oxytocin and vasopressin
Neuroid	like a nerve
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	A tumor that arises in nerve cells; growth made up of nerve tissue
Neuropathy	A nerve problem that causes pain, numbness, tingling, swelling, or muscle weakness in different parts of the body
Neuropharmacologic Drug	drug that acts on the nervous system
Neuroplasty	surgery to fix a nerve
Neurorrhaphy	stitching a cut nerve
Neurosis	mental and emotional disorder
Neurosurgeion	A doctor who specializes in surgery on the brain, spine, and other parts of the nervous system
Neurotomy	surgery to make a break in a nerve
Neurotoxicity	The tendency of some treatments to cause damage to the nervous system (brain and spinal cord)
Neurotoxin	A substance that is poisonous to nerve tissue
Neutropenia	a decrease in white blood cells
Nevus	mole; birthmark
Nicotine	A habit-forming, poisonous chemical found in tobacco
Nicotine gum	Chewing gum that contains a small dose of nicotine (A habit-forming, poisonous chemical found in tobacco), which enters the blood by being absorbed through the lining of the mouth
Nicotine inhaler	A device used to breathe in a small dose of nicotine (A habit-forming, poisonous chemical found in tobacco) through the mouth
Nicotine lozenge	A hard candy-like tablet that contains a small dose of nicotine (A habit-forming, poisonous chemical found in tobacco)
Nicotine Nasal Spray	A nose spray that contains a small dose of nicotine (A habit-forming, poisonous chemical found in tobacco)
Nicotine Patch	A patch that sticks on the skin and contains a small dose of nicotine (A habit-forming, poisonous chemical found in tobacco)
Nicotine Replacement Therapy	A type of treatment that uses special products to give small, steady doses of nicotine to help stop cravings and relive symptoms that occur when a person is trying to quit smoking
Nocturia	too much urination at night

Nodule	Lump or growth that may be cancerous or non-cancerous
Non-Blinded	Describes a study in which the researchers know what treatments are being given to each study subject or group
Non-compliant	Not following a treatment plan
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)	cancer of the lymph nodes
Non-invasive	Without using surgery, needles, or cutting the skin; not breaking, cutting or entering the skin
Nonmalignant	Not cancerous
Non-metastatic	Cancer that has not spread from the original site to other sites in the body
Nontoxic	Not harmful
Norepinephrine	hormone discharged from nerves, the brain, and the adrenal glands that helps the body deal with stress and low blood pressure
Nosocomial	acquired in the hospital
Nosocomial Pneumonia	Pneumonia acquired in the hospital
Notification, notify	To tell, let know
NPO	Nothing by mouth
NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug)	A drug that decreases fever, swelling, pain and redness
Nucleus	center of a cell
Nulligravida	woman that has never given birth
Nullipara	woman that has never given birth to an infant that lived
Numerate	count
Numerous	many
Nutrient	A compound that makes up food
Nutrition	Taking in and use of food and other nourishing material by the body
Nutrition Therapy	Treatment based on nutrition (process of nourishing the body)
Nutritional Status	A person's health in terms of the nutrients in his/her diet
Nutritional Supplement	A product that is added to the diet
Nutritionist (Dietitian)	A health professional which special training in nutrition who can help with food choices
Nyctalopia	difficulty seeing at night
O	
Obese	Very overweight
Obesity	very overweight
Objective	Aim, goal
Obligate, Obligation	Require, bind, means that (you) have to, duty

Obligated	have to; must
Observational Study	A type of study which subjects are watched or certain outcomes are measured (no treatment is given)
Observe	watch; look at; see
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	An anxiety disorder in which people have recurrent, unwanted thought and or repeat behavior
Obstetrician	doctor who takes care of pregnant women and delivers babies
Obstetrics	the study of pregnant women and childbirth
Obstruct	Block or close
Obstruction	block, blockage
Obstructive Sleep Apnea	breathing problems while sleeping because the airways close up
Obtain	get; determine
Occasionally	sometimes
Occlude	close off
Occlusion	closing; obstruction
Occult Blood Test	a test for small amounts of blood in the stool
Occupational Therapist	A health professional trained to help people who are ill or disabled learn to manage their every day activities
Occur(s)	take(s) place
Oculmycosis	fungus infection in the eye
Oculus Dexter (OD)	right eye
Oculus Sinister (OS)	left eye
Oculus Uterque (OU)	each eye
Odor	smell
Odorant	A substance that gives off a smell
Off-label	The legal use of a drug to treat a disease or condition for which the drug has not been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Ointment	Substance used on the skin to soothe or heal wounds, burns, rashes, scrapes, or other skin problems
Olfaction	The sense of smell
Olfactory	Having to do with the sense of smell
Olfactory System	Parts of the body used for smelling including the nose and parts of the brain
Oligomenorrhea	occasional and irregular menstruation that occurs every 35 days to 6 months
Oligospermia	decreased amount of sperm in semen
Oliguria	decreased amount of urine
Omphalitis	inflammation of the belly button
Omphalocele	a birth defect in which there is bulging of the intestine

	through the body wall in the belly button region
Oncogenic	causing tumors to form
Oncologist	doctor who treats cancer
Oncology	the study of tumors or cancer
One Tablespoon	3 teaspoons, 15cc = 15ml
One Teaspoon	5cc = 5ml
One-Time Donation	only one sample will be obtained, no further test and/or specimens will be required
Onset	start
Onychectomy	surgery to remove a nail
Onychocryptosis	ingrown nail
Onychomalacia	softening of the nails
Onychomycosis	fungal infection of the nail
Onychophagia	nail biting
Oophorectomy	surgery to remove one or both ovaries
Oophoritis	inflammation of the ovary
Oophorohysterectomy	surgery to remove the uterus and ovaries
Opacification	A problem that causes your vision to be cloudy
Open Angle Glaucoma	too much pressure inside the eye develops slowly over time and that causes visual problems
Open Biopsy	A procedure where a surgical incision (cut) is made through the skin to reveal and remove tissues
Open Label Study	a medical research study in which subjects and researchers are told which treatments the subjects are receiving; when the drug or device is known to the subject and the investigator; “unblinded”
Operable	A condition that can be treated by surgery
Ophthalmic	having to do with the eye
Ophthalmalgia	pain in the eye
Ophthalmic	having to do with the eye
Ophthalmologist	doctor who treats eye problems
Ophthalmology	the study and treatment of the eyes
Ophthalmopathy	disorder of the eye
Ophthalmorrhagia	bleeding from the eye
Ophthalmoscope	A lighted instrument used to examine the inside of the eye
Opiates	morphine-like medications
Opportunistic Infection	An infection caused by an organism that does not normally cause disease
Opportunity	chance
Optic	having to do with the eye

Optic Nerve	nerve that carries visual messages from the retina to the brain
Optician	person who makes glasses
Optimal, Optimum	best, most favorable or desirable
Option	Choice, way
Optometer	tool that measures how well the eyes can see
Optometry	the study of the eye and vision
Oral	having to do with the mouth
Oral Administration	Giving a drug by mouth
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon	Dentist who specializes in surgery of the mouth, face and jaw
Oral Cancer	Cancer that forms in the tissues of the lip or mouth
Oral cavity	mouth
Oral Contraceptive Pill	A pill used to prevent pregnancy
Oral Surgeon	A dentist with special training in surgery in the mouth and jaw
Orally	taken by mouth; to be swallowed
Orchidopexy	surgery to tie down a testicle in the scrotum
Orchiectomy	surgery to remove one or both testicles
Orchiepididymitis	inflammation of a testicle and epididymis
Orchiopexy	surgery to move an undescended testicle down into the scrotum
Orchioplasty	surgery to fix a testicle
Orchitis	inflammation of a testicle
Organ	a part of the body (such as the heart or lungs) composed of two or more types of tissue that performs a function
Organism	A living thing, such as an animal, plant, bacterium, or fungus
Orgasm	the climax of sexual excitement
Oropharyngeal cancer	Cancer that forms in the back of the mouth, including the soft palate, the base of the tongue and the tonsils
Oropharynx	Part of the throat at the back of the mouth
Orthodontist	dentist who treats teeth and jaw disorders
Orthopedic	pertaining to the bones
Orthopedics	the study of the bones and joints
Orthopedist	doctor who treats bone and joint problems
Orthopnea	difficult breathing except when sitting up
Orthostatic Hypotension	low blood pressure with change of position
Orthotist	person who puts on and teaches the use braces and splints
Ossicles	bones of the middle ear that carry sound
Osteoarthritis (OA)	disease in which the joints become painful and stiff

Osteoblasts	cell that makes bone
Osteocarcinoma	Type of bone cancer
Osteochondritis	inflammation of bone and cartilage
Osteoclasts	surgery to break a bone
Osteocyte	bone cell
Osteofibroma	Non-cancerous tumor of bone and connective tissue
Osteogenesis Imperfecta	genetic disease that causes brittle bones
Osteogenic Sarcoma	Cancer of the bone that usually affect the large bones of the arm or leg
Osteolytic	Causing the breakdown of bone
Osteomalacia	soft bones
Osteomyelitis	infection and inflammation of bone
Osteonecrosis	death of bone tissue
Osteopetrosis	rare genetic disease that causes bones to get thick and hard
Osteoplasty	surgery to fix a bone
Osteoporosis	disease that causes bones to lose calcium and become fragile
Osteosarcoma	cancer of bone
Ostomy	An operation to make an opening from an area inside of the body to the outside
Otalgia	earache
Otherwise	If not
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
Otolaryngologist (ENT)	Doctor who treats diseases of the ear, nose, and throat
Otologist	doctor who treats problems of the ear
Otology	the study of the ear
Otomastoiditis	inflammation of the ear together with the air spaces in bone behind the ear
Otomycosis	fungus infection in the outer ear canal
Otopyorrhea	discharge of pus from the ear
Otorhinolaryngologist	doctor who treats problems of the ear, nose, and throat
Otosclerosis	bone deposits in the inner ear
Otoscope	tool used to look into the ear
Outcomes	Results, (long-term) changes
Outpatient	A patient who visits a health care facility for diagnosis or treatment without spending the night
Ovarian	Having to do with the ovaries (the female sex glands that

	make eggs)
Ovarian Cancer	Cancer that forms in the tissues of the ovary (female sex gland that makes eggs)
Ovaries	Two female sex glands that make eggs
Over-the-Counter	Medicine that can be bought without a doctor's order (prescription)
Overdose	An amount of drug that is more than what should be taken at one time
Overweight	Being too heavy for one's height
Ovulation	discharge of an egg from the ovary
Ovum	Egg; the female sex cell that joins with the male sperm to make a zygote and eventually a baby
Oximeter	tool used to measure the amount of oxygen in the blood
Oxygen	A colorless, odorless gas
Oxygen saturation test	A test that measures the amount of oxygen being carried by red blood cells
Oxygen therapy	Treatment in which tanks of oxygen or a machine called a compressor is used to give oxygen to people with breathing problems.
Oxytocin	hormone made by the brain that makes the uterus cramp and milk come out of the breasts
P	
Pacemaker	An electronic device that is implanted in the body to monitor heart rate and rhythm
Pachyderma	thickening of the skin
Paget Disease	Chronic condition in which both the breakdown and growth of bone are increased
Pain threshold	The point at which a person becomes aware of pain
Palate	roof of the mouth
Palatitis	inflammation of the roof of the mouth
Palatoplasty	surgery to fix the roof of the mouth
Palliative Care	care intended to relieve pain
Palliative Therapy	Treatment given to relieve symptoms and reduce suffering
Pallor	pale color of the skin
Palmar	having to do with the palm of the hand
Palpable Disease	Cancer that can be felt by touch, usually present in the lymph nodes, skin or other organs of the body
Palpate	feel
Palpation	Examination by pressing on the surface of the body to feel the organs or tissues underneath
Palpitation	Fast heartbeat
Pancreas	organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and

	digestive juices
Pancreatectomy	Surgery to remove all or part of the pancreas
Pancreatic	having to do with the pancreas (organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices)
Pancreatic juice	Fluid made by the pancreas (organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices)
Pancreatitis	inflammation of the pancreas (organ that makes hormones, including insulin, and digestive juices)
Panic	Sudden extreme anxiety or fear that may cause irrational thoughts or actions
Panplesia	total loss of muscle control and feeling
Pansinusitis	inflammation of the all the sinuses on one side of the body
PAP Smear	A procedure in which cells are scraped from the cervix for examination under a microscope
Pap Test	microscope test used to detect virus infection of the cervix or cancer of the vagina, cervix, or lining of the uterus
Papule	pimple
Para	woman who has given birth
Parageusia	Bad taste in the mouth
Parallel-Design	a medical research study comparing the response in two or more groups of subjects receiving different interventions (treatments)
Paralysis	Loss of ability to move all or part of the body
Parameter	Limit, boundary
Paranasal Sinuses	air cavities inside the bones of the face around the nose
Paranoia	Mental disorder in which a person has an extreme fear and distrust of others
Paranoid	showing signs of paranoia
Paraplegia	total loss of muscle control and feeling from the waist down
Parasympatholytic	drug that blocks the activity of a kind of nerve
Parasympathomimetic	drug that imitates the action of a kind of nerve
Parathyroid Gland	gland that makes a hormone to control the amount of calcium in the blood
Parathyroidectomy	surgery to remove the parathyroid gland
Parathyroidoma	growth or cancer on the parathyroid gland
Paralysis	loss of ability to move muscles and loss of feeling
Parenchyma	The essential or functional elements of an organ
Parenteral	administration by injection
Parenteral Administration	giving a drug by injection
Parenteral Feeding	feeding a patient in a way that does not use the digestive

	tract, such as by injection into a vein
Parenteral Nutrition	feeding a patient in a way that does not use the digestive tract, such as by injection into a vein
Paresis	muscle weakness; partial paralysis
Paresthesia	Tingling, prickling, or burning feeling on the skin that can't be explained or doesn't seem to have any cause
Parietal Layer of the Pericardium	layer of tissue in the sac around the heart
Parietal Layer	layer of tissue in the wall of a body part or space
Parkinson's Disease	disease of the central nervous system that causes muscle weakness, trembling and sweating
Paronychia	inflammation around the nail
Paroxysm	sudden worsening of an illness; or a spasm or seizure
Partial Cystectomy	Surgery to remove part of the bladder (organ that holds urine)
Partial Hysterectomy	Surgery to remove the uterus only
Partial Laryngectomy	An operation to remove part of the voice box
Partial Mastectomy	An operation to remove the cancer as well as some of the breast tissue around the tumor
Partial Nephrectomy	Surgery to remove part of one kidney or a kidney tumor but not an entire kidney
Partial Oophorectomy	Surgery to remove one ovary or part of both ovaries
Partial Remission (Response)	Decrease in the size of a tumor in response to treatment
Partial Vulvectomy	Surgery to remove most, but no all, of the vulva (the external female genital organs)
Partial Seizure	seizure that is not as large as it could be
Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)	a test of how long it takes blood to clot
Participant	person taking part
Participate	take part
Participation	taking part
Parturition	childbirth
Patch Test	allergy test performed by putting an allergy-causing material on the skin to see if it causes a reaction
Patella	kneecap
Patellectomy	surgery to remove the kneecap
Patency	condition of being open
Patent	open
Pathogen	Cause of a disease
Pathogenesis	The initial cause of a disease
Pathogenic	causing disease
Pathologic fracture	Broken bone caused by 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 body tissue caused by disease
Pathology Report	The description of cells and tissues by a pathologist (doctor who identifies disease by studying cells and tissues under a microscope) and sometimes used to make a diagnosis of a disease
Pathology Samples	Bone marrow and tissue samples
Patient Advocate	A person who helps a patient work with others who have an effect on the patient's health, including doctors, insurance companies, employers, case managers, and lawyers.
Pediatric	Having to do with children
Pediatric Hematologist	Doctor who specializes in treating blood disorders in children
Pediatric Nurse Specialist	A nurse with an advanced degree in nursing who specializes in the care of children
Pediatric Surgeon	A surgeon who specializes in the treatment of children. A surgeon removes or repairs a part of the body by operating on the patient.
Pediculosis	infection with lice, which are tiny bugs
PEG Tube	a tube inserted through the wall of the belly and into the stomach
Pelvic	Having to do with the pelvis (the lower part of the abdomen (belly) located between the hip bones).
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 Examination	A physical examination in which the health care professional will feel for lumps or changes in the shape of the vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, and rectum.
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)	infection of the female reproductive organs, including the uterus, uterine tubes, and ovaries
Pelvic Wall	The muscles and ligaments that line the part of the body between the hips.
Pelvis	The lower part of the abdomen (belly), located between the hip bones.
Pelvimetry	X-ray picture of the pelvis of a pregnant woman to make sure her pelvis is large enough for the baby to come through during birth
Pelvis of the Kidney	place where urine leaves the kidney
Penicillin	type of antibiotic; a type of drug used to stop or slow down the growth of germs (bacteria)
Penile Implant	device put into the penis to help a man get an erection

Penis	outer male sex organ
Peptic Ulcer	sore in the stomach or in the lining of the stomach
Per Os (PO)	by mouth
Peripheral cornea	The clear window in the front of the eye
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 Endoscopic Gastrostomy	a tube inserted through the wall of the belly and into the stomach
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA)	blowing up a small balloon inside a blood vessel to open it up
Perforation	Hole; tear
Perform	do
Performance Status	ability to do activities; a measure of how well a patient is able to perform ordinary tasks and carry out daily activities.
Perfusion	Bathing an organ or tissue with a fluid.
Pericardial effusion	An abnormal collection of fluid inside the sac that covers the heart
Pericardiotomy	surgery to make an opening into the sac of tissue around the heart
Pericarditis	inflammation of the pericardium
Pericardium	two-layer sac of tissue around the heart
Peripheral vision	Refers to objects that can be seen in the side vision
Perimenopausal	The time of a woman's life when menstrual periods become irregular.
Perimetritis	inflammation of the perimetrium
Perimetrium	outer layer of tissue around the uterus
Perineorrhaphy	Surgery to stitch a tear in the perineum
Perineum	area between the anus and the sex organs (the vulva and rectum in women and between the scrotum and rectum in men)
Perineural	Around a nerve or group of nerves
Periodically	From time to time
Perioperative	Around the time of surgery.
Perioral	Around the mouth
Periosteum	layer of tissue that covers bone
Peripheral	On the edge, not central
Peripheral blood	Blood circulating throughout the body
Peripheral Neuropathy	A nerve problem that causes pain, numbness, tingling, swelling, or muscle weakness in different parts of the body.

Peritoneal	Having to do with the tissue that lines the abdominal wall (belly) and pelvic cavity and the tissue that covers most of the organs in the abdomen (belly), including the intestines.
Peritoneum	The tissue that lines the abdominal wall and covers most of the organs in the abdomen (belly)
Peritonitis	Inflammation of the peritoneum (tissue that lines the abdominal wall and covers most of the organs in the abdomen (belly)).
Permitted	Allowed, let
Persist	Last, keep going, doesn't stop
Persistent	lasting
Personnel	Staff, people
Pertaining to	About, of, on
Perturbation	Disruption or disturbance
Pertussis	whooping cough
Peruse	Read, study, examine with care
Pervasive	widespread
Petechia	tiny red or purple spot on skin or other tissue caused by bleeding
Phacoemulsification	method of removing a cataract by using sound waves to break it up
Phalanges	finger and toe bones
Phalanx	Finger or toe bone
Phantom Limb Pain	The feeling of pain or other unpleasant feelings in the place of a missing limb (arm or leg).
Pharmaceutical	drug
Pharmacist	person licensed to prepare and dispense drugs and fill prescriptions
Pharmacodynamics	the study of how drugs act on the body
Pharmacogenomics	the study of how an individual's genetic inheritance affects the body's response to drugs
Pharmacokinetics (PK)	the study of how drugs enter and leave the body; the activity of drugs in the body over a period of time
Pharmacology	The study of the origin, chemistry, and uses of drugs and their effects on the body.
Pharmacotherapy	Use drugs to treat a disease or condition
Pharyngeal cancer	Cancer that forms in tissues of the pharynx (the hollow tube inside the neck that starts behind the nose and ends at the top of the windpipe and esophagus).
Pharyngitis	sore throat
Pharynx	Throat; area below the mouth that performs the swallowing action
Phase I	first step in testing a new drug in humans that uses

	healthy volunteers, primarily to determine safe dosage levels; initial safety testing of a new drug
Phase II	second step of testing a new drug in humans, primarily to obtain initial information about the efficacy and safety at the chosen dose
Phase III	third step of testing a new drug in humans, primarily for information on safety and how well it works; a controlled, randomized study testing a specific dose of a new drug and its effectiveness in treating a condition or disease
Phase IV	after a drug has been approved by the FDA and is available for use; a study that looks at how well the drug is being used in the medical community
Phenothiazines	group of drugs used for the control of mental illness
Phenylketonuria (PKU)	genetic disease that causes poisons to build up in the body
Phlebitis	irritation or inflammation of the vein
Phlebography	x-ray of a vein or veins using a dye to outline them
Phlebotomy	putting a needle into a vein to remove blood
Phlectomy	surgery to remove part or all of a vein
Phlegm	A more than normal amount of thick mucus
Phobia	An extreme, irrational, fear of something that may cause a person to panic.
Phonocardiogram	Printed recording of heart sounds
Photophobia	when the eye is very sensitive to light
Photoretinitis	inflammation of the back of the eye caused by strong light
Phototoxicity	A condition in which the skin or eyes become very sensitive to sunlight or other forms of light.
Phrenic	having to do with the mind; or having to do with a diaphragm
Phrenopathy	mental problem
Phthisis	Wasting away
Physical dependence	A condition in which a person takes a drug over time, and unpleasant physical symptoms occur if the drug is suddenly stopped or taken in smaller doses.
Physical examination	An exam of the body to check for general signs of disease
Physical Therapist	A health professional who teaches exercises and physical activities that help condition muscles and restore strength and movement
Physician	doctor
Physiologic	Having to do with the functions of the body
Physiological	Having to do with the body

Pia Mater	inner layer of the tissue that covers the brain and spinal cord
Pigmentation	color
Pilot Study	The initial study examining a new method or treatment
Pinkeye	A condition in which the conjunctiva (membranes lining the eyelids and covering the white part of the eye) become inflamed or infected. Also called conjunctivitis.
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	an inactive substance; a pretend drug or treatment; "sugar pill"
Placebo Controlled	Refers to a study in which a group of the patients receive an inactive substance
Placebo Effect	when your health improves after taking a placebo ("sugar pill")
Placebo Response	when your health improves after taking a placebo ("sugar pill")
Placenta	tissues that provide food for the unborn baby
Plantar	having to do with the sole of the foot
Plaque (artery)	Fatty deposit
Plasma	liquid part of blood where cells float; clear, yellowish, fluid part of the blood that carries the blood cells.
Plasma Cell	A type of white blood cell that produces antibodies
Plasma Glucose	Blood sugar
Plasmapheresis	removing plasma from blood that has been drawn from a person and pumping the rest of the blood back into the body
Plastic Surgeon	A surgeon who specializes in reducing scarring that may occur as a result of accidents, birth defects, or treatment for diseases.
Plastic Surgery	An operation that restores or improves the appearance of parts of the body
Platelet Count	the number of platelets in the blood
Platelets	cells that help the blood clot; a decrease can lead to bleeding
Pleura	thin tissue that covers the lungs and inner walls of the chest
Pleural Cavity	The space enclosed by the pleura, which is a thin layer of tissue that covers the lungs and lines the interior wall of the chest cavity.
Pleural Effusion	fluid in the chest cavity
Pleurisy	inflammation of the lining of the chest with too much fluid in the chest, making breathing painful
Pleuropexy	surgery to fix the film that covers the lungs

Pneumatocele	Swelling caused by too much air; bulging of the lungs through an abnormal opening
Pneumobronchotomy	cutting into the lungs
Pneumoconiosis	dust in the lungs
Pneumocystis Carinii	type of parasite or fungus that causes pneumonia in infants and weakened patients, such as those with AIDS
Pneumectomy	surgery to remove a lung
Pneumonia	Lung infection; inflammation of the lungs in which the lungs become heavy
Pneumonitis	inflammation of the lungs
Pneumothorax	when air is inside the chest but outside the lungs
Podiatrist	foot doctor
Poliomyelitis (Polio)	virus infection in which there can be fever, headache, and stiff neck followed by paralysis and wasting away of muscles
Polyarteritis	inflammation of more than one artery
Polycystic Kidney	kidney with many cysts in it
Polydipsia	too much thirst
Polymyositis	inflammation of more than one muscle
Polyneuritis	inflammation of several nerves at the same time
Polyp	type of growth that sticks up out of tissue
Polypectomy	surgery to remove a polyp (type of growth that sticks up out of tissue)
Polyuria	too much urine being made
Pons	part of the brain through which the left and right sides communicate
Porphyria	genetic disease that causes an excess of a type of chemicals called porphyrins ; disturbance of metabolism that can be seen as disorders of the skin or other organs
Port	An implanted device through which blood may be withdrawn and drugs may be infused without repeated needle sticks.
Port-a-cath	An implanted device through which blood may be withdrawn and drugs may be infused without repeated needle sticks.
Portion	part
Positive Test Result	A test result that reveals the occurrence of a specific disease or condition
Positron Emission Tomography (PET)	imaging scanner for determining cancer, heart disease, and brain disorders
Possess	Have, own
Post	after
Posterior	Back; having to do with the back of the body

Posterior Lobe Of The Pituitary	part of the pituitary gland that discharges oxytocin, vasopressin, and some proteins
Postherpetic Neuralgia	pain lasting after condition has healed
Postictal	happening after a seizure
Postmortem	After death
Postoperative (post-op)	After surgery
Postpartum	after childbirth
Postprandial	After a meal
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	An anxiety disorder that develops in reaction to physical injury or severe mental or emotional distress, such as military combat, violent assault, natural disaster, or other life-threatening events.
Potential	possible
Potentially	could be; possibly
Potentiate	Using one drug to make another drug work better
Potentialiation	Using one drug to make another drug work better; the effect of increasing the potency or effectiveness of a drug or other treatment
Potentiator	A drug that helps another drug work better
Pre	before
Preadolescent	preteen
Precancerous	a condition that may (or is likely to) become cancer.
Preclinical	Isn't causing symptoms yet, no signs yet
Preclude	Prevent; rule out
Predisposed, predisposition	Likely to, inclined to
Preeclampsia	serious problem of pregnancy in which there is high blood pressure and excess fluid in the tissues of the mother that can cause convulsions
Pregnant/Pregnancy	carrying an unborn baby
Preictal	happening before a stroke or seizure
Premature Infant	infant born before it has fully developed; weight less than 5.5 lbs
Prenatal	before birth
Prenatal Diagnosis	diagnosing a disease or condition in an unborn baby
Prepuce	Foreskin; fold of skin that covers the end of the penis and is removed in circumcision
Presbycusis	loss of hearing because of old age
Presbyopia	Loss of vision because of old age
Presently	Right now
Present with	have
Preserve	keep
Prevalence, prevalent	How often it happens, common, happens often

Prevent	Stop, put a stop to, to keep from happening
Previous, Previously	Before; other; done before; earlier
Primary Endpoint	The main result that is measured at the end of a study to see if a given treatment worked
Primary Tumor	Original tumor
Primigravida	woman in her first pregnancy
Primipara	woman who has had one pregnancy that lasted at least 20 weeks
Principal Investigator (PI)	Head researcher; scientist in charge; the main individual who is responsible and accountable for conducting a medical research study
Prior (to)	Before; earlier
Prioritize	Rank, order, put in order of importance
PRN	As needed
Proactive	Taking action on your own
Procedure	Something that is done, a process
Proceed	Do, go ahead, start, try
Proctologist	doctor who treats problems with the rectum, anus, and lower part of the colon
Proctology	the study and treatment of the rectum, anus, and lower part of the colon
Proctoptosis	fallen anus protruding from the body
Proctoscope	tool used to look into the rectum
Procure, procurement	Buy, get
Proficiency, proficient	Skill, skilled
Progeny	offspring
Progesterone	A type of hormone made by the body that plays a role in the menstrual cycle and pregnancy.
Progestins	type of female hormones that prepare the uterus for pregnancy
Prognosis	outlook, probable outcomes; likely outcome or course of a disease
Progress (verb), progressive	Worsen, get(s) worse
Progressive Disease	Disease that is growing, spreading or getting worse
Prohibit, prohibitive, prohibited from	Prevent, restrict(ive), strict, may not, don't allow
Prolapsed Uterus	fallen uterus protruding from the body
Proliferating	Increasing in number
Promulgate	Make, issue, publish
Prone	lying face down; lying on your stomach
Prophylactic	Something that prevents or protects
Prophylaxis	a drug given to prevent disease or infection

Prospective Study	study following patients forward in time
Prostate	gland in men that makes a component of semen
Prostate Gland	gland in men that makes fluid that aids movement of sperm
Prostatectomy	surgery to remove all or part of the prostate
Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA)	substance in blood that is measured to check for prostate cancer
Prostatic Cancer	Cancer of the prostate
Prostatitis	inflammation of the prostate gland
Prostatocystitis	Inflammation of the prostate and bladder
Prostatolith	stone in the prostate gland
Prostatorrhea	discharge of liquid from the prostate
Prosthesis	artificial body part
Protein	a complex natural substance essential to the structure and function of all living cells and viruses; molecule made from amino acids that performs activities in the cell for the body to function normally
Prothrombin Time (PT)	a test of how long it takes blood to clot
Protocol	plan for a clinical study; plan of study, rule, process
Provide	Give (us), offer, say
Provided that	if
Provider	Doctor, clinician, person who gives health care
Proximal	Near the center; closer to the center of the body, away from the end
Pruritus	itchiness
Pseudocyesis	false pregnancy
Psoriasis	scaly skin rash; chronic disease of the skin with red patches covered with white scales
Psychiatrist	Doctor who treats mental diseases
Psychiatry	the study and treatment of mental diseases
Psychogenic	caused by the mind (rather than the body)
Psychologist	doctor who treats disorders of the mind, thoughts, and behavior
Psychology	the study and treatment of the mind and behavior
Psychopathology	Mental illness
Psychopathy	Mental problem; any disorder of the mind
Psychosis	Severe mental problem; abnormal thinking and/or hallucinations
Psychosocial	Mental and social
Psychosomatic	when the mind affects physical symptoms
Psychotherapy	Treatment of mental, emotional, personality, and behavioral disorders using methods such as discussion,

	listening, and counseling.
Psychotropic	Mind-altering
Pterygium	Extra fold of tissue over part of the eye
Ptosis	Drooping eyelid
Puberty	years when the sex organs mature
Puerpera	a woman who has just given birth to an infant
Puerperal	During and right after childbirth
Puerperium	the first 3 to 6 weeks after childbirth
Pulmonary	having to do with the lungs
Pulmonary Edema	fluid in the lungs
Pulmonary Embolism	blood clot in the lungs
Pulmonary Function Testing	breathing tests
Pulmonary Neoplasm	lung tumor
Pulmonologist	Doctor who treats diseases of the lungs
Pump	A device that is used to give a specific amount of a liquid at a specific rate.
Punch biopsy	Removal of a small disk-shaped sample of tissue using a sharp, hollow device.
Punctate	Spotted; marked with points or punctures
Punctate Keratitis	Inflammation of the clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
Punctate Epithelial Erosions	Breakdown or damage of the clear tissue covering the front part of the eye
Pupil	black spot in the middle of the eye where the light enters
Pupillometer	tool that measures how wide the pupil is
Purchase	buy
Purgative	drug used to cause the bowels to empty
Purified Protein Derivative (PPD)	substance used in tuberculosis skin test
Purpura	small purple-red marks in skin or other tissue caused by bleeding
Pustule	pimple filled with pus
Pursuant to	By, following, under
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 kidneys and its pelvis
Pyeloplasty	surgery to fix the pelvis of the kidney
Pyelostomy	surgery to make an opening into the pelvis of the kidney
Pyloric Sphincter	ring of muscles between the stomach and the small intestine
Pyloromyotomy	surgery to cut muscles of a pyloric sphincter that is too

	narrow
Pyloroplasty	surgery to fix the pyloric sphincter
Pylorus	the opening of the stomach into the small intestine
Pyosalpinx	pus in the fallopian tubes
Pyuria	pus in the urine
Q	
QD	Every day; daily
QID	Four times a day
Quadriplegia	loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs
Quality of Life	The overall enjoyment of life.
Questionnaire	Survey, series of questions
R	
Rabies	Disease of the nervous system caused by the rabies virus.
Rachiotomy	surgery to cut into a bone or bones of the spine
Rachischisis.	birth defect in which there is a groove in the spine
Radial Keratotomy	surgery to fix nearsightedness
Radiation Fibrosis	Scar as a result of radiation therapy (using x-rays or radioactive chemicals to kill or shrink cancer cells)
Radiation Nurse	Nurse who cares for people receiving radiation therapy (using x-rays or radioactive chemicals to kill or shrink cancer cells)
Radiation Oncologist	Doctor who uses radiation to treat cancer
Radiation Surgery	Using special equipment to give a single large dose of radiation to a tumor
Radiation Therapy	using x-rays or radioactive chemicals to kill or shrink cancer cells
Radical Cystectomy	Surgery to remove the bladder (organ that holds urine)
Radical Hysterectomy	Surgery to remove the uterus, cervix and part of the vagina
Radical Mastectomy	Surgery to remove the entire breast, including chest muscles, and all of the lymph nodes under the arm
Radical Nephrectomy	Surgery to remove an entire kidney
Radical Prostatectomy	surgery to remove the prostate and the two seminal vesicle glands
Radiculitis	inflammation of a spinal nerve root
Radioimmunoassay (RIA)	laboratory method that uses a radioactive chemical to measure a substance, such as a hormone
Radiological Studies	Studies having to do with x-rays; Gamma and CT scans
Radiologist	Doctor who reads x-rays

Radiology	x-ray department; use of radiation (such as x-rays) to diagnose or treat disease
Radius	one of the two lower arm bones
Ramifications	Outcomes, problems, results
Random	by chance
Randomization	selection by chance; "tossing a coin" or "picking numbers out of a hat"
Randomized	like the flip of a coin; 50/50 chance of receiving a study medicine or treatment
Random(ly)	By chance
Random Sample	Group of (people) chosen by chance; like drawing names out of a hat
Range	Area, between (x) and (y), from low(est) to high(est)
Rapid Eye Movement (REM) Sleep	One of the 5 stages of sleep, during this stage the eyes move rapidly while close and dreams occur
Rationale	reason(ing)
Receive	get
Recombinant	formation of new combinations of genes; made up from more than one gene
Reconstitution	putting back together the original parts or elements
Reconstructive Surgeon	Doctor who can surgically reshape or rebuild a part of the body
Reconstructive Surgery	Surgery that is done to reshape or rebuild a part of the body
Recover	Become well and healthy again
Rectal	Of the rectum (bottom end of the large intestine, above the anus)
Rectal Administration	giving a drug by putting it into the rectum
Rectal Cancer	Cancer that forms in the rectum (bottom end of the large intestine, above the anus)
Rectocele	bulging of the rectum into the vagina
Rectouterine Pouch	sac in the area between the uterus and the rectum
Rectum	bottom end of the large intestine, above the anus
Recur	Return, come back, happen again
Recurrence	Happen again
Red Blood Cell (RBC)	a cell in the blood that carries oxygen; a decrease can lead to shortness of breath, weakness and fatigue
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
Referral	Send to see another doctor
Reflect	Say, show
Reflux	Heartburn; upward movement; backward flow

Refractory	not responding to treatment; hard to treat; hard to manage
Refrain	avoid doing
Regarding	About, of, on
Regardless	No matter
Regeneration	Re-growth of lost tissue
Regimen	Plan for giving treatment; treatment plan
Regulate	Affect, control
Regulations	rules
Relapse	Slip; backslide; return of a disease or a medical problem
Relevant (to)	About, tied in with, related to
Relocate	move
Remain	Stay, wait
Remainder	Rest, what is left over
Remaining	Other, (second, last, final), left, left over
Remission	when a medical problem gets better or goes away at least for a while
Remote	slight
Renal	having to do with the kidneys
Renal Biopsy	removing a small piece of kidney to look at it under a microscope
Renal Calculi	kidney stones
Renal Failure	When kidneys stop working
Renal Impairment	When kidneys work less than normally
Renal Pelvis	place where urine leaves the kidney
Renal Transplant	kidney transplant
Render	Make, give
Renogram	x-ray picture of radioactive dye passing through the kidneys
Replicable	Can be done again; possible to duplicate
Replicate	To make a copy of something
Represents	is
Reproduction	making babies
Reproductive	having to do with reproduction
Reproductive Tract	The body parts involved in reproduction
Request	ask
Require(d), Requirement	Must do or have, need(ed)
Research Study	a process of collecting information about a specific question in order to find an answer
Research Subject(s)	a volunteer(s) taking part in a medical research study
Researchers	People doing the study

Resect	Cut out; take out through surgery; remove
Resectable	Able to be cut out or removed by surgery
Resected	Remove or cut out by surgery
Resectoscope	tool used for cutting out small pieces of tissue from spaces inside the body
Reside, Residence	Live, house, home
Respiration	breathing
Respirator	A machine used to help a patient breathe
Respiratory	Having to do with breathing
Respiratory Distress	Hard to breathe
Respiratory System	Organs that are involved in breathing – nose, throat, larynx, trachea, bronchi, and lungs
Restrictions	limits
Retain	keep
Retina	layer at the back of the eye that is sensitive to light
Retinal	having to do with the retina
Retinal Detachment	Separation of the retina (light-sensitive membrane in the back of the eye) from its supporting layers
Retinal Photocoagulation	use of a laser light to treat disorders of the retina or tumors in the eye
Retinitis Pigmentosa	eye disease that causes the retina to waste away and decrease vision
Retinoblastoma	cancer of the retina (back of the eye)
Retinol	Vitamin A
Retractor	tool used for holding back tissue
Retrograde Pyelogram	x-ray picture of a kidney and ureter made by injecting dye backward into the ureter
Retrospective Study	A study looking at things that have already happened; study looking back over past experience
Revise(d), Revision	Change(d), new
Reveal	Give us, show, tell
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
Rhadomyosarcoma	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
Rheumatism	A group of disorders that cause inflammation or pain in the bone, cartilage and fat
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Long-term disease that leads to inflammation of the joints

	and surrounding tissue
Rheumatoid Factor	substance in blood that is measured to check for rheumatoid arthritis
Rhinitis	runny nose
Rhinomycosis	fungus infection in the nose
Rhinoplasty	surgery to fix the nose
Rhinorrhagia	nosebleed
Rhinorrhea	runny nose
Rhinoscope	Instrument used to examine the inside of the nose
Rhinoscopy	Examination of the inside of the nose with a rhinoscope (Instrument used to examine the inside of the nose)
Rhizotomy	surgery to cut apart a spinal nerve root
Rhytidectomy	surgery to remove wrinkles
Rhytidoplasty	surgery to remove wrinkles from the face; facelift
Ribonucleic Acid (RNA)	genetic material in the body that serve as blueprints for making proteins
Risk	a possibility of injury or harm
Risk/Benefit Ratio	Risks compared to benefits
Risk Factor	Something that increases your chance of developing a specific disease or condition
Rongeur	tool used for cutting hard tissue, such as bone
Routinely	Often, commonly
Rupture	Break open, burst

S

Sacrum	large triangle-shaped bone at the bottom of the spine just 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
Salivary Gland Cancer	Cancer in the glands that make saliva
Salpinx	tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
Salpingectomy	surgery to remove the fallopian tube
Salpingitis	inflammation of the fallopian tubes
Salpingocele	fallopian tube bulging out of an opening that should not be there
Salpingocycsis	pregnancy growing outside of the uterus in a fallopian tube
Salpingo-Oophorectomy	surgery to remove the fallopian tubes and ovaries
Salpingostomy	surgery to cut into a fallopian tube

Salvage Therapy	Rescue treatment
Sarcoidosis	An inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ
Sarcoma	type of cancer of cartilage, fat, muscle or bone
Satisfactorily	(good) enough
Satisfactory	Okay, fine, good
Scabies	itchy skin infection by a microscopic bug called a mite; mange
Scalpel	Small thin knife used for surgery
Scanner	An instrument that takes pictures of the inside of the body
Scapula	shoulder blade
Schick Test	skin test used to detect diphtheria (very contagious bacterial disease that involves the nose, throat, and tonsils and sometimes the skin)
Schizoaffective	a mixed psychiatric disorder relating to a complex psychotic state that has features of both schizophrenia and a mood disorder such as bipolar disorder
Schizophrenia	A serious psychiatric disorder with symptoms of emotional instability, detachment from reality, often with delusions and hallucinations, and withdrawal into the self
Schizophrenic	relating to schizophrenia or resulting from schizophrenia
Sciatica	pain running down from the lower back to the leg
Sclera	outer protective layer of the eye; "whites of the eyes"
Scleral Buckling	Type of surgery to fix a detached retina
Scleral flap	The incision in the white part of the eye
Scleroderma	hardening and thickening of the skin
Sclerokeratitis	inflammation of the sclera and the cornea
Scleromalacia	softening or thinning of the sclera seen in patients with rheumatoid arthritis
Sclerosis	When certain tissues of the body get hard and thick
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
Screening	the process of deciding if someone is qualified to take part in a medical research study or not; checking for a disease when there are no symptoms
Screening Mammogram	x-rays taken of the breasts to check for breast cancer when there are no signs or symptoms
Scrotum	pouch that holds the testicles
Sebaceous Gland	gland that discharges oil into the skin

Seborrhea	very oily skin
Secondary Tumor	A tumor that forms as a result of spread (metastasis) of cancer from the place where it started
Sedation	Make calm and perhaps sleepy
Sedative	drug used to make you calm and perhaps sleepy
Seizure	fit; sudden, uncontrolled muscle spasms and loss of consciousness caused by a problem in the brain
Sedentary	Inactive, not active
Seizure	sudden, uncontrolled muscle spasms and loss of consciousness caused by a problem in the brain
Seldom	Rarely, not very often
Selection	choice
Self-Retaining	stays in place without being held
Semen	fluid containing, sperm, which is discharged from the penis during the climax of sexual intercourse
Semen Analysis	test used to count and examine the sperm cells
Semicircular Canals	channels in the inner ear that help maintain balance
Semilunar Valves	valves that control the flow of blood out of the heart by opening and closing with each heart beat
Seminoma	a type of cancer of the testicles
Sensation	feeling
Sensitivity	ability to sense and react
Sensor	Detector; a device that responds to heat, light, or pressure and makes a signal that can be measured or read
Sensory	Having to do with the senses
Sepsis	Very serious infection; blood infection
Septate	An organ or structure that is divided into parts
Septicemia	Blood poisoning
Septoplasty	surgery to fix the wall inside the nose
Septotomy	cutting into the wall inside the nose
Sequential Treatment	One treatment after another
Sequentially	One after another; in a row, in order, by number
Serrations	small grooves in the edges or tips of tools that help to hold tissue
Serum	clear liquid part of blood
Serum Albumin	Main protein in blood plasma. Low levels of serum albumin occur in people with malnutrition, inflammation and serous liver and kidney disease
Serum Bilirubin	blood test for bilirubin in the blood, a sign of liver problems
Serum Calcium	blood test used to find out how much calcium is in the blood

Serum Creatine Kinase	blood test for creatine in the blood, a sign of kidney problems
Serum Enzyme Test	blood test for chemicals that go into the blood when the heart muscle dies
Serum glutamate pyruvate transaminase (SGPT)	An enzyme found in the liver and other tissues. A high level of serum glutamate pyruvate transaminase released into the blood may be a sign of liver damage, cancer, or other diseases. Also called alanine transferase and SGPT.
Serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT)	An enzyme found in the liver, heart, and other tissues. A high level of serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase released into the blood may be a sign of liver or heart damage, cancer, or other diseases. Also called aspartate transaminase and SGOT.
Serum Phosphorus	blood test used to measure the amount of phosphorus in the blood
Serum Test	blood test used to measure the amount of endocrine material in the blood
Serum Tumor Marker Test	A blood test that measures the amount of substances called tumor markers (or biomarkers). Tumor markers are released into the blood by tumor cells or by other cells in response to tumor cells. A high level of a tumor marker may be a sign of cancer.
Several	A few, a number of, some
Severe	very serious, life threatening
Severity	How bad
Sex Chromosomes	the X or Y chromosome that determines sex
Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)	disorder spread by sexual contact
Shingles	painful, fluid-filled blisters caused by herpes virus infection
Shunt	channel to bypass a blockage
Sialolith	stone in a salivary gland or duct
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 Effects	unwanted or unintended problems with a drug or treatment
Sigmoid Colon	the lower part of the colon just before the rectum
Sigmoidoscope	A lighted tube used to look inside the colon and rectum
Similar (to)	Like, alike
Similarity	likeness
Single Blind(ed)	a medical research study in which the person giving the treatment, but not the patient, knows which treatment the patient is receiving
Single Dose	getting one dose of medicine

Sinusitis	Sinus infection
Sinusotomy	cutting into the sinus
Site (of investigation)	the place where the medical research study will be carried out
Skin Graft	Skin that is moved from one part of the body to another
Sleep Apnea	breathing problems while sleeping
Slipped Disk	bulging out of a pad between bones of the spine that can pinch nerves and cause pain
Slit Lamp Eye Exam	A eye exam that uses a special microscope to look into the eye
Small Cell Lung Cancer	Fast growing cancer that starts in the lungs and spreads to other parts of the body
Small Intestine	the bowel between the stomach and the large intestine, including the duodenum, jejunum, and ileum
Snare	tool with a wire loop to grab and pull out tissue
Social History	exercise, smoking, weight gain, recreational drugs, sexual activity, family education, income and employment
Social Service	A community resource that helps people in need
Social Support	Group of family, friends, neighbors and community members that provide help
Social Worker	A person trained to talk to people and their families about emotional or physical needs and find them help when needed
Sodium	salt
Soft Diet	Bland foods that are softened by cooking, mashing, pureeing, or blending
Soft Palate	The back part of the roof of the mouth that is not bony
Solely	only
Solicit	Ask for, request
Somatic	having to do with the body
Somatogenic	caused by the body (rather than the mind)
Somatopathy	disease of the body as opposed to the mind
Somnolence	sleepiness
Sonogram	A computer picture of areas inside the body
Spasm	a sudden muscle contraction (cramp)
Specific Gravity	Measurement of the amount of solid material and minerals in a liquid, such as the urine
Specify	name
Specimen	sample
Speculum	tool used to stretch and hold open an opening into the body, such as the nose or vagina
Sperm	the male sex cell that joins with a female egg to make an

	embryo
Sperm Banking	Freezing sperm for use in the future
Sperm Count	The number of sperm in a sample of semen
Sphincter	ring of muscle that can open and close
Sphygmocardiograph	tool used to record arterial blood pressure
Sphygmomanometer	tool for measuring blood pressure
Spina Bifida	birth defect in which the spine does not develop fully and close up
Spinal Cavity	space inside the spinal column for the spinal cord
Spinal Columns	The bones, muscles and other tissues that reach from the head to the tailbone
Spinal Cord	the cord of nerve cells and nerve fibers running down the spine that carries messages to and from the brain
Spinal Tap	using a needle to inject drugs or remove spinal fluid from the lower back
Spine	The bones, muscles and other tissues that reach from the head to the tailbone
Spirometer	A device that measures how much air you're breathing in and out
Spleen	organ near the left side of the stomach that filters blood and makes white blood cells; largest lymph organ in the body
Splenectomy	surgery to remove the spleen
Splenomegaly	enlarged spleen
Splenopexy	surgery to tie down the spleen
Spondylosyndesis	fusion of the spine
Sponsor	the company, department, or person who is paying for the medical research study
Sputum	Mucus coughed up from the lungs
Squamous Cell Carcinoma	Type of cancer that usually occurs on the skin or in the lungs
Staging	determining the extent and seriousness of the disease
stamina	Energy and strength to resist illness, fatigue, stress, or hardship; endurance
Standard Of Care	Normal medical treatment
Standard Therapy	Normal medical treatment
Staphylococcus	type of bacteria
State-of-the-art	latest
Stem Cell	type of cell that grows into all other kinds of cells
Stenosis	Getting more narrow; narrowing of a duct, tube or heart valve
Stereotactic Breast Biopsy	biopsy of breast tissue taken by using a three-dimensional body map to locate the tissue

Sterile	Not able to have children; free from germs
Sterility	Inability to have children
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
Steroid	like the breastbone
Sternum	breastbone
Steroid Cream	A skin cream that has a drug that relieves swelling, itching and inflammation
Steroid Drug	A drug used to relieve swelling and inflammation
Steroid Therapy	A drug used to relieve swelling and inflammation
Stethoscope	tool used to listen to the sounds made by the heart, lungs, intestines, and other organs
Stevens-Johnson Syndrome Or Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis	Potentially life threatening skin rash
Stimulant	drug that makes you more awake and have more energy
Stimulate	Excite, trigger
Stoma	a hole made in the wall of the belly
Stomach	Large sac above the intestines that holds food for digestion after it is swallowed
Stomatitis	mouth sores, inflammation of the mouth
Stomatogastric	the mouth and stomach
Stool	bowel movement; feces
Stool Culture	test for bacteria in stool
Strabismus	abnormal position of the eye, as in wall eye or crossed eyes
Strategy, strategize	(make a) plan
Stratify	arrange in groups for analysis of results (e.g., stratify by age, sex, etc.)
Streptococcal	Strep – type of bacteria
Streptococcus	type of bacteria
Streptomycin	type of antibiotic
Stricture	area where a tube in the body is too narrow
Stroke	blockage of blood to the brain
Study Agent	A drug, vitamin, mineral, food supplement or a combination of them that is being tested in a study
Study Phase	how far along the medical research study is
Stupor	stunned state in which it is difficult to get a response or the attention of the subject
Stye	pimple on the eyelid
Sub-acute	Not serious
Subclavian	under the collarbone

Subcostal	below the ribs
Subcutaneous	under the skin
Subcutaneous Injection	injected under the skin by way of a needle
Subdural	under the outer layer of the tissue that covers the brain and 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
Submit	Give, send
Subscapular	below the shoulder blade
Subsequent(ly)	After, later, next, then
Substantial	Big, large, much
Sucrose	sugar
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	Sudden and unexpected death of a healthy child younger than one years of age
Sufficient	Enough, plenty
Sulfonamide	type of antibiotic
Suggest(s)	Show(s) there might be
Sun Protection Factor (SPF)	A scale for rating the level of sunburn protection in sunscreen products
Superficial	close to the outside of the body
Superior	toward the top of the body
Supine	lying on the back
Supplementation	Adding nutrients to the diet
Supportive Care	medical care of the symptoms, not intended to improve or cure the disease
Suppository	Form of drug that is put it into the rectum, vagina, or urethra
Suprarenal	above the kidney; or having to do with the adrenal gland
Suprascapular	above the shoulder blade
Surrogate Marker	The measure of a drug's activity that substitutes for the end of treatment such as death or pain relief
Survival Rate	The percentage of people in a study who are alive for a given period of time after diagnosis of a disease
Sustain	Keep going
Sustenance	Support, food
Sutured	stitched
Sutures	stitches
Sweat Glands	tissue in and under the skin that makes sweat

Swimmer's Ear	inflammation of the outer ear canal
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
Symphysis	type of joint where two bones meet but there is no movement
Symptomatic	having symptoms
Symptoms	medical problems which are noticed by a patient
Syncope	fainting or feeling lightheaded
Syndrome	set of signs that happen at the same time in the body
Synergism	when two drugs work together better than they work alone
Synoviosarcoma	cancer of the joint
Synthesized	man-made
Syphilis	bacterial infection spread by sexual contact
System	a group of body organs or structures that together perform one or more vital functions
Systemic	Whole 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
Systemic Therapy	Treatment that reaches throughout the body
Systole	when the heart contracts to pump blood
Systolic	top number in blood pressure reading, when the heart is contracting
Systolic Blood Pressure	Top number in blood pressure reading
T	
T Cell	cell that fights disease
T lymphocyte	Cell that fights disease
Tachycardia	Very fast heart beat
Tachypnea	fast breathing
Tap	Use a needle to take out fluid
Tarsal Bones	ankle bones
Tarsectomy	surgery to remove one or more of the ankle bones
Tear a ligament (torn ligament)	sprain
Temperature	how warm or cold a patient's body is
Tendinitis	inflammation of tendons
Tendon	elastic tissue that attaches the end of a muscle to a bone
Tenodynia	pain in a tendon

Tenomyoplasty	surgery to stitch together a ripped tendon
Tenorrhaphy	surgery to fix a tendon and muscle
Tenosynovitis	inflammation of the outside cover of tendons
Tenotomy	surgery to cut tendon of an eye muscle to fix strabismus
Teratogenic	capable of causing deformities in fetuses
Terminal	Not curable, causes death, going to die
Terminal Disease	Disease that cannot be cured and will cause death
Terminate, termination	Put an end to, stop, end
Testes	male sex glands
Testicle/Testis	one of two male sex glands that make sperm
Testicular Carcinoma	cancer of the testicles
Testosterone	male sex hormone
Tetany	muscle cramps caused by a low amount of calcium
Tetracycline	type of antibiotic
Tetraplegia	total loss of muscle movement and loss of feeling in both arms and legs
Therapeutic modality	treatment
Therapy	Treatment; medicine or medical care given to a patient for a disease or condition
Therefore	So, as a result
Thoracalgia	pain in the chest or wall of the chest
Thoracentesis	using a needle to remove fluid from the chest cavity
Thoracic	Having to do with the chest
Thoracic Cavity	Inside the chest; space where the heart, lungs, esophagus, trachea, bronchi, and thymus are found
Thoracic Surgeon	Doctor who operates on organs inside the chest, including the heart and lungs
Thoracic Vertebrae	bones of the spine in back of the chest
Thoracodynia	Chest pain
Thoracoscope	tool used to look into the chest cavity
Thoracotomy	surgery to cut into the chest
Thorax	the chest
Thorough	complete, good
Throat	Tube through the neck that performs the swallowing action
Thrombectomy	Surgery to remove a blood clot
Thrombosis	blood clotting inside a blood vessel
Thrombus	Blood clot that can block blood flow
Thrush	Infection that causes white patches in the mouth and on the tongue
Thymectomy	surgery to remove the thymus

Thymoma	tumor of the thymus
Thymus	organ in the chest, which is most active at puberty, that makes a type of lymphocyte (white blood cell)
Thyroid	of the gland in the neck that makes hormones that control metabolism
Thyroid Gland	gland in the neck that makes the thyroid hormones, which control metabolism
Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone (TSH)	hormone that makes the thyroid gland active
Thyroidectomy	surgery to remove the thyroid gland
Thyroiditis	Inflammation of the gland in the neck that makes the thyroid hormones
Thyroidologist	Doctor who treats diseases of the gland in the neck that makes the thyroid hormones
Thyroparathyroidectomy	surgery to remove the thyroid and parathyroid glands
Thyrotoxicosis	disorder caused by too much thyroid hormone
Tibia	the larger of the two lower leg bones; the shin bone
TID	Three times a day
Tinea	fungal infection of skin; ringworm
Tinnitus	ringing, roaring, buzzing, or clicking noises in the ears
Tissue	group of cells that work together to perform a specific function
Titration	Adjusting to the best dose; slow increase or decrease in a drug dosage, guided by patient's response
T-Lymphocytes	type of white blood cells
Tolerability	ability to take without any serious side effects
Tolerance	When the body gets used to a drug and needs a higher dose
Tonometer	device that measures pressure inside the eye
Tonsil	Two bulges of tissue at the back of the mouth
Tonsillectomy	surgery to remove a tonsil or tonsils
Topical	On the skin; to the skin; surface
Topical Anesthetic	Painkiller applied to the skin and reducing pain only in the area to which applied
Topical Application	Putting a medicine on the skin
Torso	Trunk, main part of your body not including your head, arms, or legs
Total Hysterectomy	Surgery to remove the entire uterus including the cervix
Total Laryngectomy	Surgery to remove the voice box
Total Mastectomy	Removal of the breast
Total Parenteral Nutrition	feeding through a tube in a vein
Toxic, Toxin	Poisonous, poison

Toxicity	Bad side effects; any harmful effect of a drug or poison
Trabecular meshwork	The eye's drainage canal
Trabeculectomy	surgery to allow fluid to drain from the eye, reducing eye pressure in patients with glaucoma
Trachea	windpipe
Tracheitis	inflammation of the windpipe
Tracheocystitis	inflammation of the neck of the urinary bladder
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 that reduces 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
Transformed Cell Lines	Also known as "immortalized cells", cells whose growth properties have been altered and they may continue to grow and divide indefinitely for as long as the correct culture conditions are maintained
Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA)	Brief loss of blood flow to the brain; "mini-stroke"
Transiently	temporarily
Transmit(ted), transmission	Send (sent), spread to, pass on
Transpire	happen
Transplant	move from one place or person to another
Transrectal Biopsy	A sample of tissue is removed from the prostate using a thin needle
Transrectal Ultrasound (TRUS)	Looking inside the belly using sound waves from a probe in the rectum
Transverse Plane	divides the body to make a top and bottom
Trauma	injury; wound
Traumatic	causing damage
Treadmill Stress Test	test using a walking machine to measure heart function
Treatment	medicine or medical care given to a patient
Treatment Regimen	Plan for taking drugs
Tremor	shaking
Trichomoniasis	parasite infection that is spread by sexual contact
Trichomycosis	fungus infection in the hair
Tricuspid Valve	a valve in the heart that controls the flow of blood by opening and closing with each heart beat
Trisomy	Having 3 copies of a chromosome instead of the normal two
Tubal Ligation	surgery to close the fallopian tubes to prevent pregnancy
Tube Feeding	Using a device used to provide nutrition to patients who

	cannot or refuse to obtain nutrition by swallowing
Tuberculin	substance used in skin tests to test for tuberculosis
Tuberculosis	A serious type of bacterial infection, usually in the lungs
Tumor	A benign (not cancerous) or malignant (cancerous) mass of tissue
Tumor Marker	A substance that when present in increased amounts in the blood, urine or body tissues, may indicate the presence of cancer
Tumor Suppressor Gene	Gene, that when turned on, stops cancer from growing
Tumor Lysis Syndrome	occurs when many cancer cells are killed quickly, the intracellular contents (inside these cells) pour into the blood stream which causes an imbalance in the normal chemistry of the blood
Tympanic Membrane	eardrum
Tympanites	Swelling of the belly caused by gas
Tympanitis	inflammation of the ear drum
Tympanometer	device used to measure hearing
Tympanoplasty	surgery to fix the eardrum and bones of the middle ear

U

Ulcer	Sore; break on the skin
Ulceration	When a sore or break on the skin forms
Ulcerative Colitis	sores in the colon
Ulna	one of the two lower arm bones
Ultimate	final
Ultrasonogram	A computer picture of areas inside the body
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 Cord	Cord that connects a fetus at the belly with the placenta and transports nourishment and removes waste from the fetus
Umbilical Cord Blood	Blood from the umbilical cord of a newborn baby
Umbilical Region	area around the belly button
Umbilicus	navel; belly button
Uncommon	rare
Unconscious	not awake and not aware; knocked out
Undergo	have
Understand	Learn, see
Undescended Testicles	When one or both testicles fail to move from the belly where they develop before birth into the scrotum

Unequivocal	clear
Ungual	having to do with the nails; of the nails
Unresectable	Not able to remove with surgery
Unilateral	having to do with only one side of the body
Unnecessary	Not needed
Upper Endoscopy	using a lighted tube to look into the upper part of the digestive system
Upper GI Endoscopy	using a lighted tube to look into the upper part of the digestive system
Upper GI (Gastrointestinal) Series	Taking x-ray pictures of the upper part of the digestive system
Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)	Infection in the nose, throat and airways in the lungs; a cold or flu
Uptake	Absorb, taken in
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
Ureterectomy	surgery to remove all or part of a ureter
Ureteritis	inflammation of the ureter
Ureterocele	bulge at the end of a ureter
Ureterogram	x-ray picture of a ureter
Ureterolithiasis	stones in the ureter
Ureterostenosis	narrow area in a ureter
Ureterostomy	surgery to make an opening into a ureter
Ureterotomy	surgery to cut into a ureter
Urethra	tube that carries urine from the urinary bladder to the outside of the body
Urethritis	inflammation of the urethra
Urethrocystitis	inflammation of the urethra
Urethrometer	device used to measure the size of the urethra
Urethropexy	surgery to tie down the urethra
Urethroplasty	surgery to fix the urethra
Urethrostomy	surgery to make an opening from the urethra to the outside of the body
Uric Acid Test	blood test used to measure the amount of uric acid in the blood
Urinal	container that holds pee
Urinalysis	series of tests done on pee
Urinary	having to do with pee
Urinary Bladder	sack that holds pee before it leaves the body
Urinary Catheterization	passing a tube into the urinary bladder to remove pee

Urinary Diversion	Surgery to make a new way for pee to leave the body
Urinary Incontinence	unable to control the flow of pee
Urinary Retention	abnormal holding of pee
Urinary Suppression	Not able to pee
Urinary Tract	all parts of the body that make and pass urine, including the kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder, and urethra
Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)	bladder infection
Urination	the act of passing pee
Urine	Pee; piss
Urine Casts And Crystals	pee test to check mineral levels and sediment in the pee and to check for infection or inflammation in the urinary tract
Urine Color	normal color for pee is straw yellow
Urine Ph	pee test to find out the chemical make-up of urine (acidity)
Urine Protein	pee test used to measure how much protein is in the pee
Urinometer	Device used to measure the amount of matter in 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
Urostomy	Surgery to create an opening from inside the body to the outside, making a new way to pass pee
Urticaria	hives
Uterine Cancer	Cancer that forms in tissues of the uterus (small, hollow, pear-shaped organ in a woman's pelvis in which a baby grows)
Uterine Tube	tube down which the egg travels from the ovary to the uterus
Uterus	organ where the unborn baby develops and grows
Utilize, Utilization	use
Uvea	Middle layer of the eye beneath the sclera (white part of the eye); Part of the eye consisting of the iris (colored part of the eye), the choroid (the middle layer of the eye), and the ciliary body (a body of tissue that connects the iris with the choroid and includes a group of muscles that act on the lens of the eye to change the shape)
Uveitis	Swelling and irritation of the middle layer of the eye
Uvula	v-shaped tissue that hangs from the roof of the back of the mouth
Uvulectomy	surgery to remove the uvula
Uvulitis	inflammation of the uvula

V

Vaccine	medicine that helps the immune system fight a disease
Vagina	passageway that connects the uterus to the outside of the body
Vaginal	Having to do with the vagina (the birth canal)
Vaginal Cancer	Cancer that starts in the birth canal
Vaginectomy	Surgery to remove part or all of the birth canal
Vaginitis	inflammation of the vagina
Vaginodynia	pain in the vagina
Vaginoperineorrhaphy	surgery to fix tears in the vagina and vaginal areas
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
Vagotonis	increased activity of the vagus nerve causing slow heart rate or low blood pressure
Validate	Approve, confirm
Valvuloplasty	Surgery to repair a heart valve
Variable	Factor, changes over time
Varicella	Chickenpox
Varices	enlarged veins
Varicose Veins	twisted and bulging veins that are larger than normal
Variety	Many different kinds
Vas Deferns	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 produce children
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	having to do with the flow of blood through the veins
Vasospasm	narrowing of the blood vessels in the brain
Vasovasostomy	surgery to undo a vasectomy to make a man able to produce children again
VDRL Test	blood test used to detect syphilis
Vector	a carrier, usually an insect, that transmits disease
Vein	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	Needle stick; entering the vein with a needle; putting a needle into a vein

Venogram	x-ray of a vein
Venography	An x-ray of the veins is taken after special dye is injected into the bone marrow or veins
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
Verruca	wart
Vertebra	one of the 33 bones in the spine
Vertebral Column	the spine
Vertebrocostal	having to do with a vertebra and a rib
Vertical Transmission	spread of disease
Vertigo	light-headedness; dizziness
Vesicle	blister
Vesicourethral	having to do with the urethra and the bladder
Vesicovaginal Fistula	abnormal opening between the bladder and vagina
Viable	Practical, workable, possible
Videotape	a tape played on a VCR to watch and listen to
Viral	having to do with a virus
Virus	tiny type of germ
Viscocanalostomy	Surgically creating an opening for the addition of a highly flexible, gel-like material known as viscoelastic, which helps provide enough space for adequate drainage and eye pressure relief
Viscera	Internal organs of the body (including the lungs, heart, etc.)
Visceral	having to do with the internal organs
Visual Acuity	Clearness of vision
Visual Field	the total area in which objects can be seen in the side (peripheral) vision while you focus your eyes on a central point
Visualize	Picture, see, imagine
Vitals, Vital Signs	blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate, temperature, weight, height
Vitreous Body	jelly-like liquid in the eye
Vitreous hemorrhage	When blood collects in the jelly-like liquid in the eye
Void	urinate
Voluntary	individual is free to decide if they will take part in the study
Volvulus	twisting of the intestines causing a blockage
Vomit	Throw-up

Vulva	the tissues around the opening to the vagina
Vulvectomy	surgery to remove the vulva
Vulvovaginal	having to do with the vagina and vulva
Vulvovaginitis	inflammation of the vagina and vulva

W

Warrant	Call for, permit
Washout Period	period when receiving no treatment
Wheal	hive; welt
Whereas	Because, since
White Blood Cell	type of blood cell that fights infections
White Blood Cell Differential	test to find out the types and numbers of white blood cells
White Blood Cells (WBCs)	cells that fight infection; a decrease can lead to an increased risk of infection
White Blood Cell Count	number 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
Wilms Tumor	A cancer of the kidney
Wisdom Tooth	Last tooth to come in at the back of the mouth on each side of the top and bottom jaw
Withdraw (from), Discontinue	stop taking part; drop, leave, take back, take out
Womb	Uterus
World Health Organization (WHO)	Part of the United Nations that deals with major health issues around the world
Wound	A break in the skin or other tissue caused by injury or surgery
Wound Dehiscence	Opening of a surgical incision

X

Xanthochromic	having a yellow color
Xanthoderma	yellow color to the skin
Xanthosis	yellow color
Xenograft	The cells of one species are moved to another species
Xeroderma	dry skin
Xerogram	Picture of the body on paper instead of on film
Xeroma	dryness of the eye
Xerophthalmia	dryness of the eye due to vitamin A deficiency; symptoms may begin in the form of night blindness, and they become progressively worse
Xerostomia	Dry mouth

Xiphoid Process	lower part of the breast bone
X-Ray	Invisible radiation used to take pictures of the inside of the body
Y	
Yeast	Type of fungus
Yellow Fever	A virus spread by mosquitoes that can yellow the skin, cause black vomit and no urine being made
Z	
Zygoma	Cheekbone
Zygote	the cell made by joining of the female egg and male sperm at the beginning of pregnancy