

Glossary of Lay Terminology

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
abdomen	belly
ablation	remove
Absorb	Take up fluids, take in
abstain	avoid
acuity	Clearness
acute	short-term; sudden onset
adenopathy	swollen glands
adjuvant	Helpful, assisting, added
adverse effect	side effect
allergic reaction	rash, trouble breathing
alopecia	hair loss
ambulate	walk, able to walk
amnesia	loss of memory; inability to remember
analgesic	pain relieving medication
anaphylaxis	a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction
anemia	low red blood cell count
anesthetize	to numb; put to sleep
angina	pain from not enough blood to the heart
anorexia	loss of appetite
antecubital	Inside the elbow
antibiotic (antimicrobial)	drug that kills germs
antibodies	natural chemicals in the body that fight infection
anticonvulsant	drug used to prevent seizures
antilipidemic	drug that decreases the level of fat in the blood
antiretroviral	drug that inhibits viruses
antitussive	drug that relieves coughing
anus	rectum
arrhythmia or dysrhythmia	a change from the normal heartbeat
artery	blood vessel
arthralgia	joint pain
aspiration	inhale into the lungs; to suck in; or removal of fluid through tube or needle

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
bacteria	germs
benign	not cancerous; without serious consequences
BID	twice a day
bioavailability	the extent to which a drug becomes available to the body

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
convulsions	seizures
coronary	heart; involving the heart
creatinine clearance	a test of kidney function
computed tomography; (CT) scan	computer enhanced X-ray; special type of x-ray
culture	a test for the presence of germs
cumulative	total sum (of events, experiences, treatments)
cutaneous	of the skin
defecate	bowel movement; to pass stools
defibrillation	a procedure that uses electricity to stimulate the heart and make it return to its normal rhythm
de novo	new
dermatologic	of the skin
deteriorate	to get worse; to lose function
diastolic blood pressure	the blood pressure when the heart rests between beats; the bottom number of a blood pressure reading
diplopia	double vision
distal	away from the center of the body
distensions	bloated; swollen; inflated
diuretic	drug that causes an increase in urination
double-blind	neither you nor your doctor will know what medicine you are taking (this can be found out easily if necessary)
duodenum	beginning of the small intestine that is attached to the stomach
dysfunction	not functioning properly
dyspepsia	gas; upset stomach

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
emesis	vomiting
empiric	based on experience
endoscopic exam	exam of an internal part of the body with a lighted tube
enema	medication given through the rectum that cleans out the bowel
enteral	by way of the intestines
enzyme abnormality	blood test result that suggests abnormal organ function or injured cells
epidural	outside the spinal cord
eradicating	getting rid of
exclusion criteria	reasons for not being included
excreted	made; given off; put off
external	outside of the body
extravasate	to leak outside of a blood vessel
fast	do not eat or drink
fatigue	tire
fetus	unborn baby
flatulence	gas passed through the anus/rectum
fibrillation	irregular beat of the heart or other muscle
fibrous	Having many fibers, like scar tissue
flushing	to become red in the face or other part of the body because of rush of blood to the skin; blushing of the skin
fracture	break

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
Holter monitor	a machine, the size of a pocket radio, that records the beats of the heart
hypercalcemia	high blood calcium level
hyerkalemia	high blood potassium level
hypernatremia	high blood sodium level
hypertension	high blood pressure
hypocalcemia	low blood calcium level

MEDICAL TERM

LAY TERMINOLOGY

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
radiation therapy	x-ray or cobalt treatment
radioactive isotope	a chemical or substance that gives off radiant energy rays similar to X-rays
randomly	like picking numbers out of a hat ; by chance
recombinant	formation of new combinations of genes
reconstitution	putting back together the original parts
recuperate	to get better
recur	happen again
refractory	not responding to treatment
regeneration	regrowth of a structure or of lost tissue
regimen	Pattern of administering treatment
relapse	The return or reappearance of disease

[*You must indicate what you will accept. ex:--birth control pills, Norplant?*]

reliable method of birth control

MEDICAL TERM	LAY TERMINOLOGY
valvuloplasty	plastic repair of a valve, especially of the heart
varices	enlarged veins
vasospasm	narrowing of blood vessels due to spasm of vessel walls
vector	A carrier, usually an insect, that carries and transmits disease-causing germs
vein	blood vessel
venipuncture	to put a needle into the blood vessel
verbal	speak; talk