MEDICAL SCRIBE TERMINOLOGY & ABBREVIATIONS
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</tbody>
</table>
LOCATION, DIRECTION, DESCRIPTION, & MOVEMENT

- **Anterior** - situated in front of or directed toward the front
- **Posterior** - rear or back (dorsal)
- **Superior** - upper, nearer to the calvarium
- **Inferior** - lower, farther from the calvarium
- **External** - outside
- **Internal** - inside
- **Superficial** - nearer to the surface
- **Deep** - farther from the surface
- **Midline** - divides the body into right and left sides
- **Medial** - nearer to the midline
- **Lateral** - farther from the midline
- **Proximal** - nearer to the limb root
- **Distal** - farther from the limb root
- **Palmar** - concerning the palm of the hand
- **Peri** - around or about
- **Plantar** - concerning the sole of the foot
- **Volar** - the palm of the hand or the sole of the foot
- **Abduction** - draws away from the midline
- **Adduction** - draws toward the midline
- **Flexion** - bending
- **Extension** - straightening out
- **Inverted** - turned inward
- **Everted** - turned outward
- **Supine** - body position lying face up
- **Prone** - body position lying flat, face down
- **Supination** - turning of the palm or foot upward
- **Pronation** - turning of the hand so the palm faces downward
- **Acute** - new, usually of rapid onset and of concern, opposite of chronic
- **Chronic** - long-standing, constant, opposite of acute
- **Benign** - normal, of no danger to health
- **Grossly** - obviously; a lot; wholly
- **Exertion** - activity
- **Edema** - swelling
- **Ecchymosis** - a bruise
- **Erythema** - redness
- **Purulent** - pus-like
- **Serous** - resembling or producing serum
PAST MEDICAL & PAST SURGICAL HISTORY

Cardiac:
- **Coronary Artery Disease** - disease of the coronary arteries, “heart disease”
- **Myocardial Infarction** - heart attack, if patient has had this then they also have CAD
- **Atrial Fibrillation** - irregularity of heart rhythm
- **Hypertension** - high blood pressure
- **Hyperlipidemia** - high cholesterol
- **Congestive Heart Failure** - weak heart, can no longer pump blood effectively

Respiratory:
- **Asthma** - inflammatory lung disease
- **COPD** - chronic, advanced lung disease
- **Pneumonia** - lung infection
- **Emphysema** - subcategory of COPD

Cancer:
- **Lymphoma** - lymph disease
- **Melanoma** - skin cancer
- **Leukemia** - bone marrow cancer

Diabetes:
- **Type 1** - Insulin dependent
- **Type 2** - Non-insulin dependent

Additional:
- **Hyperthyroidism** - overproduction of thyroid
- **Hypothyroidism** - low thyroid
- **Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)** - “reflux” “heartburn”
- **Crohn’s Disease** - inflammatory bowel disease
- **Irritable Bowel Syndrome** - chronic GI irritability
- **Deep Venous Thrombosis** - blood clot in a deep vein such as in the arm or leg
- **Pulmonary Embolism** - blood clot in lung
- **Chronic Renal Failure/ End-stage Renal Disease** - failing kidneys (patients typically on hemodialysis)
- **Chronic Renal Insufficiency** - kidneys not working 100
- **Glaucoma** - eye disease in the elderly
PAST MEDICAL &
PAST SURGICAL HISTORY

- **Transient ischemic attack** - “minor stroke”
- **Cerebrovascular attack** - “major stroke”
- **Ischemic CVA** - stroke caused by ischemia
- **Hemorrhagic CVA** - stroke caused by “bleed” in the brain
- **Seizure disorder** - history of seizures
- **Diverticulosis** - out-pouching of the colon
- **Cholelithiasis** - gallstones
- **Cholecystitis** - gallbladder infection

Surgeries:
- **Appendectomy** - removal of appendix
- **Cholecystectomy** - removal of gallbladder
- **Hysterectomy** - removal of the uterus
- **Tubal ligation** - “tubes tied”
- **Nephrectomy** - removal of kidney
- **Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)** - diversion of blood from disease coronary arteries
- **Cardiac stents** - stent placed in coronary artery to keep them open
- **Angioplasty** - procedure of putting stents in
REVIEW OF SYSTEMS

Constitutional:
- Ambulatory - able to walk
- Non-ambulatory- unable to walk; “I use a wheelchair.”
- Febrile - with fever
- Afebrile- without fever
- Subjective fever- no actual temperature taken; “I felt warm”
- Malaise - general body discomfort/ weakness; “I felt under the weather”
- Diaphoresis- sweats
- Rigors/chills- cold and shaking/tremulous “I was so cold I was shaking all over”
- Tremulous - shaking
- Cachectic - relating to cachexia, which is appearing weak, thin, frail, and with muscle loss
- Somnolent - abnormally sluggish and lethargic
- Listless - lacking energy or enthusiasm

Eye:
- Diplopia- double vision
- Photophobia- light sensitivity

ENT (Ear Nose Throat):
- Rhinorrhea - runny nose
- TM- tympanic membrane (ear drum)
- Epistaxis - nose bleed
- Tinnitus- ringing in ears
- Hemotympanum- blood behind the tympanic membrane

Cardiovascular:
- Palpitations- sensation of irregular/fast/slow heartbeat
- Claudication- cramping pain induced by exercise/activity

Gastrointestinal:
- Nausea - the feeling of wanting to vomit
- Emesis - vomit
- Post-tussive vomiting- “cough, cough, cough vomit”
- Hematemesis - blood in vomit
- Hemoptysis - coughing up blood / blood stained sputum
- Hematochezia - blood in stool
- Melena - dark, tarry stool
REVIEW OF SYSTEMS

Genitourinary:
- **Dysuria** - painful urination
- **Urinary** - urgency feeling the need to urinate but not actually producing urine
- **Urinary frequency** - the need to urinate often
- **Hematuria** - blood in urine
- **Vaginal spotting** - mild vaginal bleeding
- **Flank pain** - pain to the side/back, between the ribs and the hip, concerning for the kidney

Respiratory:
- **Productive cough** - cough that brings up phlegm/sputum
- **Nonproductive cough** - dry cough
- **Dyspnea** - shortness of breath
- **Dyspnea on exertion** - shortness of breath with any physical activity
- **Orthopnea** - shortness of breath when lying flat
- **Wheezing** - high pitched sound heard in the lungs with asthmatics or lung disease

Musculoskeletal:
- **Myalgias** - muscle pain/body aches

Neurologic:
- **Cephalgia** - headache
- **Paresthesia** - abnormal sensations, numbness, tingling
- **Vertigo** - condition of dizziness, “room spinning”
- **Syncope** - loss of consciousness, fainting, or “passing out”

Skin:
- **Hypoxia** - low O2 levels in blood
- **Cyanotic** - bluish discoloration of skin due to lack of oxygen
- **Ulcer** - wound or a sore
- **Abrasion** - scrape of the skin due to something abrasive
- **Laceration** - splitting of the skin due to trauma (something sharp)

Body Parts:
- **Axilla** - armpit
- **Extremity** - arm/leg
- **Nares** - nostrils
- **Sublingual** - under the tongue
- **Inguinal** - groin
**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

**Constitutional:**
- **Jaundiced** - yellow color of the skin, mucous membranes, or eyes

**HENT (Head, Ears, Nose, Throat):**
- **Normocephalic** - head of normal shape and size for person's age
- **Atraumatic** - free of signs of trauma
- **Hemorrhage** - excessive or profuse bleeding
- **Raccoon's eyes** - bruising around the eyes, sign of skull fracture
- **Battle's sign** - bruising behind the ears, sign of skull fracture
- **Ear effusion** - collection of fluid in the ear space
- **Septal deviation** - displacement of the nasal septum
- **Septal hematoma** - bruising or bleeding in the septum
- **Dental caries** - dental cavities
- **Trismus** - reduced opening of the jaw/lockjaw
- **Oropharyngeal** - mouth to throat
- **Post oropharyngeal** - back of the throat

**Eyes:**
- **Chemosis** - swelling of the conjunctiva
- **Hordeolum** - stye
- **Conjunctival infection** - pink eye
- **Conjunctival hemorrhage** - burst blood vessel in the eye
- **Nystagmus** - rapid involuntary eye movements
- **Papilledema** - optic disc swelling
- **Corneal abrasion** - scratched cornea
- **Hyphema** - blood in the anterior chamber of the eye

**Neck:**
- **Carotid bruit** - turbulent blood flow heard over the carotid artery
- **Thyromegaly** - enlarged thyroid
- **Brudzinski's sign** - test indicating meningitis
- **Kernig's sign** - test indicating meningitis

**Cardiovascular:**
- **Bradycardia** - slow heart rate, less than 60 bpm
- **Tachycardia** - fast heart rate, 100 bpm or greater
- **Murmur** - extra unusual sound heard during heartbeat
- **Normal S1, S2** - normal “lub dub” rhythm of the heart
- **Gallop** - a type of abnormal heart sound
- **Rub** - a type of abnormal heart sound
- **Dorsalis pedis** - pulse pulse on top of your feet
- **Posterior tibial pulse** - pulse behind the tibia
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Pulmonary/Chest:
- Apnea - cessation of breathing
- Tachypneic - faster than normal respiratory rate
- Bradypneic - slower than normal respiratory rate
- Rhonchi - coarse rattling sound heard during breathing
- Rales - crackling or rattling sound heard during breathing
- Crepitus - grating sound or sensation produced by friction between bone and cartilage
- Retractions - sucking in the skin in between or around the bones of the chest

Abdomen:
- Ascites - buildup of fluid in the space between the lining of the abdomen
- Murphy's sign - abdomen test, indicator of cholecystitis
- Mcburney's point - area over the appendix, indicator of appendicitis with pain
- Guarding - tensing of the abdominal wall muscles with application of pressure
- Rebound - pain upon removal of pressure rather than application of pressure
- CVA tenderness - tenderness at the costovertebral angle (flank area over the kidney)
- Psoas sign - abdominal pain during psoas test
- Rovsing sign - pain to the right lower abdomen with pressure to the left lower abdomen
- Peritoneal signs - rebound tenderness and guarding

Genitourinary/Anorectal:
- Guaiac (Hemoccult) - testing for presence of blood in a patient's stool
- Adnexa - the fallopian tubes and ovaries

Musculoskeletal:
- Paraspinal tenderness - tenderness along either side of the spine, but not directly over it
- Deformity - abnormal

Lymphatic:
- Lymphadenopathy - enlarged lymph nodes

Neurologic:
- Glasgow - coma scale measure of neurological intactness. Max 15 (4 eye, 5 verbal, 6 motor)
- Straight leg raise - test for presence of sciatica
- Finger, nose, finger test - cerebellar function
- Abnormal Romberg - falling to one side when standing with feet together and eyes closed
- Pronator drift - involuntary turning of the forearm inward
- Heel to shin - tests cerebellar function
- Aphasia - without speech, loss of the ability to express speech
- Clonus - involuntary muscle contractions and relaxations
- Facial palsy - facial paralysis
- Hemiparesis - weakness of one side of the body
- Hemiplegia - paralysis of one side of the body
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Skin:
- Urticaria - hives
- Petechiae - pinpoint, round spots, on the skin resulting from bleeding under the skin
- Pallor - pale skin
VITAL SIGNS

Blood Pressure:
- Hypertensive - high blood pressure
- Hypotensive - low blood pressure
- Normotensive - normal blood pressure

Heart Rate:
- Normal rate - 60-99 bpm
- Tachycardic - 100 bpm or more
- Bradycardic - 59 bpm or less

Temperature:
- Febrile - fever
- Afebrile - without fever
- Hypothermic - low temperature

Oxygenation:
- Hypoxic - low oxygen saturation

Respirations:
- Tachypneic - faster than normal respiration rate
- Bradypneic - slower than normal respiration rate

ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS (EKG)

Normal Rhythm:
- Normal - normal sinus rhythm (NSR)

Abnormal Rhythms:
- A-fib - atrial fibrillation
- V-tach - ventricular tachycardia
- Sinus tachycardia - heart rate 100 bpm or greater
- RVR - rapid ventricular response
- V-fib - ventricular fibrillation
- Paced rhythm - pacemaker in place
- Sinus bradycardia - heart rate less than 60 bpm

Other Abnormal EKG Findings:
- PVC - preventricular contraction
- PAC - pre-atrial contraction
- AV block - 1st, 2nd or 3rd degree
- IVCD - intraventricular conduction delay
- LVH - left ventricular hypertrophy
- BBB - bundle branch, right or left (RBBB, LBBB)
- LAFB - left anterior fascicular block
**ORDERS & TESTS**

**EKG** - electrocardiogram: a tracing of the electrical activity of the heart

**ABG** - arterial blood gas

**CBC** - complete blood count
- **WBC** - white blood count
- **HGB** - hemoglobin, the respiratory pigment that binds O2 and CO2
- **HCT** - hematocrit, ratio of cellular components to total blood plasma volume
- **Platelets** - cell fragments that help the blood clot
- **Differential** - counts of the various types of WBCs

**BMP** - basic metabolic panel
- **Glucose** - blood sugar
- **BUN** - blood urea nitrogen, major excrements of the kidneys
- **Creatinine** - measure of kidney function, elevated Creatinine
- **Sodium (Na)** - important for water balance
- **Potassium (K)** - important in muscular function and electrical conduction
- **Chloride (Cl)** - maintenance of cellular integrity
- **Carbon dioxide (CO2)** - can indicate presence of metabolic acidosis

**LFTs** - liver function tests
- **(ALT)** - liver enzyme
- **(ALP)** - liver enzyme
- **(AST)** - liver enzyme

**CMP** - complete metabolic panel (includes BMP and LFTs)
- **Albumin** - protein made by the liver
- **BUN**
- **Calcium (Ca)**
- **Carbon dioxide (CO2)**
- **Chloride**
- **Creatinine**
- **Glucose**
- **Potassium**
- **Sodium**
- **Total Bilirubin**
- **Total Protein**
- **Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT)**
- **Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP)**
- **Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST)**

**EKG**
- electrocardiogram: a tracing of the electrical activity of the heart

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ORDERS & TESTS

Hematology Panel
- Hemoglobin
- Hematocrit
- Red Blood Cells (RBCs)
- White Blood Cells (WBCs)
- Ferritin (iron)
- Transferrin

Amylase/lipase pancreatic enzymes
PT/INR, PTT – checks blood coagulation, patients with Coumadin require frequent INR monitoring
Sed rate, CRP – markers of inflammation
TSH – thyroid hormone levels
HCG – human chorionic gonadotropin – hormone released in pregnancy, can be qualitative (positive or negative) or quantitative (indicates how far along in pregnancy the patient is)
Urinalysis – analysis of the urine
UDS – urine drug screen
Urine culture – checks for organisms in the urine and their sensitivity to antibiotics, does not result same day
Blood culture – checks for organisms in the blood
CSF – cerebrospinal fluid obtained by lumbar puncture
Gram stain – special stain of stool, sputum or other specimen
Wet prep – vaginal swab collected during pelvic exam
GC/Chlamydia – does not result same day
Parathyroid Hormone (PTH)
eNPCR- often used in relation to albumin and creatinine levels to assess nutrition
MEDICATIONS

Routes of Medication Administration:
- IV- intravenous
- IM - intramuscular
- SQ- subcutaneous
- PR- per rectum
- PO- per os (by mouth)
- SL - sublingual (beneath the tongue)
- NC- nasal cannula
- HHN- hand held nebulizer
- Topical - applied over the skin

Commonly Used Medications:
- Aspirin (ASA)- blood thinner, 81mg or 325mg (4 x 81mg ASA = 324mg)
- Coumadin (Warfarin)- blood thinner
- Epinephrine- increases heart rate
- Heparin- anticoagulant
- Hydrochlorothiazide diuretic
- Lasix- diuretic
- Lisinopril- ace inhibitor
- Lovenox- anticoagulant
- Plavix- blood thinner

Anesthetics:
- Lidocaine
- Marcaine

Antibiotics:
- Amoxicillin
- Augmentin
- Bactrim
- Bacitracin (topical antibiotic ointment)
- Cipro
- Doxycycline
- Keflex
- Levaquin
- Macrobid
- Penicillin (PCN)
- Vancomycin
- Zithromax
MEDICATIONS

Anti-inflammatories:
- Ibuprofen (Motrin / Advil)
- Diclofenac Rx (voltaren)
- Naproxen (Aleve)

Anti-Reflux:
- Pepcid
- Prilosec

Anti-vertigo, Antiemetics (nausea):
- Zofran
- Phenergan

Asthma/Shortness of Breath:
- Albuterol

Diabetic:
- Glucagon
- Glucophage (Metformin)
- Glucotrol (Glipizide)
- Glucovance (Glyburide/Metformin)
- Glyburide
- Humalog
- Humulin
- Insulin
- Lantus

Muscle Relaxants:
- Flexeril
- Valium
- Soma
- Zanaflex

Gout:
- Allopurinol
- Colchicine
- Indocin
MEDICATIONS

Narcotics:
- Dilaudid
- Morphine
- Norco
- Oxycontin
- Percocet
- Tylenol with codeine (aka Tylenol #3)
- Vicodin

Pain control/Sedation:
- Ativan
- Demerol
- Fentanyl
- Morphine
- Propofol
- Valium
- Versed

Pulmonary:
- Albuterol
- Atrovent
- Advair
- Combivent
- Pulmicort
- Singulair
- Spiriva
- Xopenex

Medication Terms:
- Rx - prescription
- BID - twice daily
- PRN - as needed
- PO - by mouth
- PR - per rectum
- QID - four times daily
- SL - sublingual (under the tongue)
- TID - three times daily
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- Abrasion - superficial scrape of the skin
- Acute - new (opposite of chronic)
- Adnexa - ovaries and fallopian tubes
- Afebrile - without fever
- Ambulatory - able to move about, not confined to a wheelchair or bed
- Anesthetized - partial or complete loss of sensation, with/without consciousness
- Aneurysm - widening of a blood vessel due to pressure on weakened tissues
- Aphasia - inability to swallow
- Aphasia - inability to speak
- Appendectomy - surgical removal of the appendix
- Arrhythmia - irregularity or loss of rhythm, usually of the heartbeat
- Artery - blood vessel carrying oxygenated blood away from the heart (the pulmonary artery is an exception)
- Arthralgia - pain in a joint
- Asthma - inflammatory lung disease
- Ataxia - failure of muscle coordination, such as staggering gait
- Atelectasis - a collapsed or airless condition of the lung
- A-fib - irregularity of heart rhythm
- Arterio-Venous (AV) fistula - connection of an artery to a vein to provide hemodialysis
- Aural - pertaining to the ear
- Auricular - related to the auricle of the ear
- Auscultation - listening for sounds within the body
- Avulsion - forceful pulling away of a part or structure
- Axilla - pertaining to the armpit
- Benign - of no danger to health
- Bradycardia - slow heartbeat (HR less than 60 bpm)
- Bruit - murmur or sound heard during auscultation
- Buccal - pertaining to the cheek or mouth
- Cachectic - in a state of ill health, malnutrition and wasting
- Cardiomegaly - enlargement of the heart
- Caries - dental cavity
- Cellulitis - an infection in or close to the skin
- Cerumen - ear wax
- Cervical - pertaining to the neck or to the cervix of the inner uterus
- Cholecystectomy - surgical removal of the gallbladder
- Cholecystitis - inflammation of the gallbladder
- Cholelithiasis - gallbladder calculi, gallstones
- Chronic - long-standing condition (opposite of acute)
- Chronic renal failure - failing kidneys
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>heart is weak and can no longer pump blood effectively</td>
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<td>Conjunctiva</td>
<td>mucous membrane covering the eye and inside of eyelid</td>
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<td>COPD</td>
<td>chronic, advanced lung disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornea</td>
<td>transparent coat of the eyeball that covers the eyeball and pupil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coronary artery</td>
<td>the artery that supplies heart tissue with blood</td>
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<td>Coronary artery dz</td>
<td>disease of the coronary arteries, “heart disease”</td>
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<td>CABG</td>
<td>“open heart surgery” - Cardiac stents stents placed in coronary artery to keep them open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crepitance/Crepitus</td>
<td>crackling or grating sound, usually of the bones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crackles</td>
<td>wet crackling noise in the lungs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crohn's Disease</td>
<td>inflammatory bowel disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyanotic</td>
<td>bluish or slate-like color skin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debridement</td>
<td>removal or foreign matter or dead tissue from a wound</td>
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<td>Deep vein thrombosis</td>
<td>blood clot in a deep vein, usually an extremity</td>
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<td>Dermis</td>
<td>true skin, beneath the epidermis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diaphoresis</td>
<td>excessive or profuse sweating or perspiration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Differential diagnosis</td>
<td>a diagnosis of symptoms of two or more diseases by comparison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diplopia</td>
<td>double vision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dysmenorrhea</td>
<td>painful menstruation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia</td>
<td>difficulty swallowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphasia</td>
<td>impairment of speech, difficulty speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyspnea</td>
<td>difficulty breathing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dysuria</td>
<td>pain or burning with urination</td>
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<td>Ecchymosis</td>
<td>bruising, discoloration of the skin caused by bleeding underneath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edema</td>
<td>swelling of the tissue due to excessive fluid accumulation</td>
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<td>Edentulous</td>
<td>lacking teeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effusion</td>
<td>escape of fluid into a part, as in pleural cavity or joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emesis</td>
<td>vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistaxis</td>
<td>nosebleed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epididymitis</td>
<td>inflammation of the epididymis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythema</td>
<td>redness of skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exudates</td>
<td>production of pus or serum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Febrile</td>
<td>to have a fever</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fluorescein dye</td>
<td>used in eye exam to look for corneal abnormalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fontanel</td>
<td>incomplete closure of the parietal bones of a fetal or young skull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundus</td>
<td>bottom of a hollow organ (eye)</td>
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<td>Gastritis</td>
<td>inflammation of the stomach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastroenteritis</td>
<td>inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines</td>
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<td>GERD</td>
<td>heartburn</td>
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<td>Gingival</td>
<td>gums</td>
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<td>Gravid</td>
<td>being pregnant, ex: gravid uterus</td>
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GENERAL VOCABULARY

- GTPAL - gravidity, term births, preterm births, abortions/miscarriages, living children
- Gross - obvious, a lot (ex: gross hematuria)
- Hematemesis - vomiting blood
- Hematocchia - blood in stool
- Hematoma - swelling of blood in an organ or tissue
- Hematuria - blood in urine
- Hemoptysis - spitting up blood, blood stained sputum
- Hemorrhage - excessive or profuse bleeding
- Hemorrhoids - mass of dilated veins in the anorectum, can be internal or external
- Hepatomegaly - enlargement of the liver
- Hepatosplenomegaly - enlargement of the liver and spleen
- Hyperlipidemia - high cholesterol
- Hypertension - high blood pressure (systolic BP greater than 140)
- Hypotension - low blood pressure (systolic BP less than 100)
- Hyperthyroidism - overproduction of thyroid
- Hypothyroidism - low thyroid
- Hypovolemia - dehydration
- Hypoxia - low oxygen levels in the blood
- Hysterectomy - removal of the uterus
- Irritable Bowel (IBS) - chronic GI irritability
- Induration - area of hardened tissue
- Infarct - necrotic area of tissue following cessation of blood supply
- Inguinal - pertaining to the groin region
- Ischemia - temporary and localized anemia due to restricted circulation
- Kyphotic - exaggeration or angulation of normal posterior curve of spine
- Labyrinthitis - inflammation of the inner ear
- Ligament - fibrous tissue, binding bones together
- Lingual - belonging to the tongue
- Lithiasesis - formation of calculi (stones)
- Lordosis - anterior curvature of the cervical spine
- Lymphadenopathy - enlargement of a lymph node
- Macule - a small spot or colored area
- Malaise - general discomfort or weakness, feeling poorly
- Malleolus - projection on either side of the ankle joint from lower leg bones
- Mastectomy - surgical excision of the breast
- Melena - black, tarry stool
- Meningitis - inflammation of the membranes of the spinal cord or brain (Viral or bacterial)
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- **Metastasis** - change in manifestation of disease from one organ to another
- **Myalgia** - pain in a muscle
- **Myocardial infarction** - heart attack
- **Nares** - nostrils
- **Nephrectomy** - surgical removal of a kidney
- **Nystagmus** - involuntary rapid eye movements
- **Occiput** - back of the skull
- **Orthopnea** - difficulty breathing when lying flat
- **Orthostatics** - measures blood pressure and pulse lying, sitting and standing
- **Pallor** - pale skin
- **Palpable** - able to be touched or easily perceived
- **Palpation** - to examine by touch
- **Palpitations** - sensation of an irregular, rapid beating or pulsation of the heart
- **Papules** - a small, inflammatory, congested spot on the skin
- **Para** - number of live, viable offspring born to a woman
- **Paresthesias** - numbness or tingling
- **Petechiae** - small red spots on the skin
- **Phalanx** - any one of the bones of the fingers or toes
- **Pharyngitis** - inflammation of the pharynx with pain in the throat
- **Photophobia** - abnormal intolerance to light
- **Pleuritic effusion** - collection of fluid in the pleural space
- **Pneumonia** - lung infection
- **Polyuria** - excessive urination
- **Polydipsia** - excessive thirst
- **Post-prandial** - after eating
- **Post-tussive** - after coughing, ex: post-tussive emesis (coughing until you vomit)
- **Pruritus** - itching
- **Pulmonary embolism** - blocking of a pulmonary artery due to a traveling clot
- **Purulent** - resembling pus, consisting of pus
- **Pyelonephritis** - inflammation of kidney substance and pelvis
- **Rale** - abnormal respiratory sound heard on auscultation
- **Renal** - pertaining to the kidneys
- **Rhinorrhea** - thin, watery discharge from the nose, aka runny nose
- **Rhonchi** - rattling noise of mucous in the lungs
- **Sclera** - dense fibrous opaque white outer coat enclosing the eyeball
- **Sciatic** - pertaining to the ischium or hip
- **Sepsis** - presence of pathological microorganisms or their toxins in blood
- **Serous** - serum-like substance
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- **Sputum** - expectorant through the mouth, thick mucus
- **Stenosis** - narrowing of an opening or passage
- **STEMI** - real-time ongoing death of heart tissue due to ischemia
- **Stridor** - high-pitched respiratory sound
- **Stroke** - lack of blood flow to the brain (ischemic or hemorrhagic)
- **Syncope** - passing out, loss of consciousness
- **Tachycardia** - abnormally rapid heart rate (HR 100 bpm or greater)
- **Tachypnea** - abnormally rapid respirations
- **Tinnitus** - ringing of the ears
- **Tragus** - cartilaginous projection in front of the exterior meatus of the ear
- **Trismus** - contraction of the muscles of chewing, impaired mouth opening
- **Tubal ligation** - “tubes tied”
- **Urticaria** - hives, either redder or paler than surrounding skin with itching
- **Vascular Catheter** - catheter inserted into a large vein in the neck or chest to provide dialysis
- **Vein** - vessel carrying deoxygenated blood to the heart (Excluding the pulmonary vein)
- **Vertigo** - dizziness with a spinning sensation, “room spinning”
- **Wheeze** - whistling sound resulting from airway narrowing

Anatomy and Physiology Abbreviations:

- **Abd** - abdomen
- **Ab** - abortion (SAb = spontaneous, aka miscarriage, TAb = therapeutic)
- **ACL** - anterior cruciate ligament
- **AKA** - above knee amputation
- **A&O** - alert and oriented
- **AV** - atrioventricular
- **BL** - bilateral
- **BLLE** - bilateral lower extremities
- **BLUE** - bilateral upper extremities
- **BKA** - below knee amputation
- **BM** - bowel movement
- **BP** - blood pressure
- **BSA** - body surface area (affected by a burn)
- **CBD** - common bile duct
- **CCE** - clubbing, cyanosis, or edema
- **CSF** - cerebrospinal fluid
- **C-spine** - cervical spine
- **CTA** - clear to auscultation (lungs)
- **CVA** - costovertebral angle (ex: CVA tenderness)
- **DIP** - distal interphalangeal joint
- **DP** - dorsalis pedis pulse
# GENERAL VOCABULARY

- **DTR** - deep tendon reflexes
- **EF** - ejection fraction (heart)
- **ENT** - ears, nose, throat
- **EOMI** - extraocular movements intact
- **ETOH** - alcohol
- **FA** - forearm
- **FROM** - full range of motion
- **ROM** - range of motion
- **G** - gravid
- **GB** - gallbladder
- **GI** - gastrointestinal
- **GU** - genitourinary
- **HEENT** - head, eyes, ears, nose, throat
- **HR** - heart rate
- **ICD** - implantable cardioverter defibrillator
- **IM** - intramuscular
- **IUP** - intrauterine pregnancy
- **IV** - intravenous
- **LLE** - left lower extremity
- **LLQ** - left lower quadrant (abdomen)
- **LMP** - last menstrual period
- **LNMP** - last normal menstrual period
- **LSB** - left sternal border (murmur best heard at the...)
- **LUE** - left upper extremity
- **LUQ** - left upper quadrant (abdomen)
- **MCL** - medial collateral ligament
- **MSK** - musculoskeletal
- **NAD** - no acute distress or no acute disease
- **NSR** - normal sinus rhythm
- **OD** - overdose
- **P** - para
- **PIP** - proximal interphalangeal joint
- **PT** - posterior tibial RLE right lower extremity
- **RLQ** - right lower quadrant (abdomen)
- **ROM** - range of motion
- **RUE** - right upper extremity
- **RUQ** - right upper quadrant (abdomen)
- **RR** - respiratory rate
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- SAb - spontaneous abortion (miscarriage)
- SI - sacroiliac joint
- SOB - shortness of breath
- SQ - subcutaneous
- Tab - therapeutic abortion (D&C)
- THR - total hip replacement
- TKA - total knee replacement
- TM - tympanic membrane
- TMJ - temporomandibular joint
- TURP - transurethral resection of prostate
- WNL - within normal limits

**Symptoms and Diseases Abbreviations:**
- AAA - abdominal aortic aneurysm
- A-fib - atrial fibrillation
- A-flutter - atrial flutter
- ALOC - altered level of consciousness
- AM - morning
- AMA - against medical advice
- AMS - altered mental status
- ASA - Aspirin
- BBB - bundle branch block (RBBB or LBBB)
- BRB - bright red blood
- CA - cancer
- CABG - coronary artery bypass graft
- CAD - coronary artery disease
- CHF - congestive heart failure
- CMT - cervical motion tenderness (finding on pelvic exam)
- CPR - cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- CRF - chronic renal failure
- C-section - Caesarean section
- CVA - cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
- DDD - degenerative disc disease
- DJD - degenerative joint disease
- DKA - diabetic ketoacidosis
- DM - diabetes mellitus
- DOE - dyspnea on exertion
- DVT - deep vein thrombosis (blood clot in an extremity)
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- **FB** - foreign body
- **GERD** - gastroesophageal reflux disease
- **GSW** - gunshot wound
- **HA** - headache
- **HTN** - hypertension
- **IBS** - irritable bowel syndrome
- **IDDM** - insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
- **IUD** - intrauterine device
- **IVDA** - IV drug abuse
- **JVD** - jugular vein distention
- **LOC** - loss of consciousness
- **MI** - myocardial infarction (heart attack)
- **MR** - mental retardation
- **MRSA** - methicillin resistant staph aureus
- **NIDDM** - non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
- **OM** - otitis media
- **PE** - pulmonary embolism
- **PEA** - pulseless electrical activity
- **PID** - pelvic inflammatory disease
- **PNA** - pneumonia
- **PUD** - peptic ulcer disease
- **PVD** - peripheral vascular disease
- **PTX** - pneumothorax
- **SBO** - small bowel obstruction
- **SOB** - shortness of breath
- **STEMI** - ST elevation MI
- **SVT** - supraventricular tachycardia
- **TIA** - transient ischemic attack (mini stroke)
- **URI** - upper respiratory tract infection
- **UTI** - urinary tract infection
- **V-fib** - ventricular fibrillation
GENERAL VOCABULARY

Orders and Procedures Abbreviations:
- ABG - arterial blood gas
- BMP - basic metabolic profile
- BNP - B-type natriuretic peptide
- BUN - blood urea nitrogen
- CBC - complete blood count
- CMP - complete metabolic profile
- CPK - creatinine phosphokinase
- CT - computerized tomography scan
- CXR - chest x-ray
- D&C - dilation and curettage
- EKG - electrocardiogram
- EPI - epinephrine
- ESR - erythrocyte sedimentation rate
- ET - endotracheal
- FHR/FHT - fetal heart rate/fetal heart tones
- H&H - hemoglobin and hematocrit
- HGB - hemoglobin
- HCT - hematocrit
- HCG - human chorionic gonadotrophin
- HHN - handheld nebulizer
- I&D - incision and drainage
- I&O - intake and output
- IVF - intravenous fluids
- LFTs - liver function tests
- LP - lumbar puncture
- MDI - metered dose inhaler
- MRI - magnetic resonance imaging
- NC - nasal cannula
- NG - tube nasogastric tube
- NPO - nothing per os (nothing by mouth)
- NS - normal saline
- NTG - nitroglycerin
- PCN - penicillin
- PEG tube - percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube
- PICC line - percutaneous intravenous central catheter line
- PR - per rectum
- PT/PTT - protime/partial thromboplastin time
- Pulse ox - measures blood oxygenation (SpO2)
- STD - sexually transmitted disease
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- SQ - subcutaneous
- SL - sublingual
- TD - tetanus diphtheria
- UA - urinalysis
- US - ultrasound
- VS - vital signs
- VSS - vital signs stable
- WO - wide open

General Abbreviations:
- Abx - antibiotics
- ACLS - advanced cardiac life support
- ALS - advanced life support
- AMA - against medical advice
- BCP - birth control pill
- BPM - beats per minute
- C/o - complaint of/complaining of
- C/w - consistent with
- Cx - culture
- DOA - dead on arrival
- DOB - date of birth
- D/C - discharge
- DNR - do not resuscitate
- Dx - diagnosis
- Ddx - differential diagnosis
- Dz - disease
- ED - emergency department
- ER - emergency room
- EMS - emergency medical services
- Fx - fracture
- H&P - history and physical
- ICU - intensive care unit
- MVA - motor vehicle accident
- MVC - motor vehicle collision
- NKDA - no known drug allergies
- NSAIDS - non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- OOT - out of town
- o/w - otherwise
GENERAL VOCABULARY

- PCP - primary care physician
- PMD - primary medical doctor
- PCU - progressive care unit
- Pt - patient
- PTA - prior to arrival
- RN - registered nurse
- r/o - rule out
- s/p - status post
- Sxs - symptoms
- TDO - temporary detaining order
- UTD - up to date (as in immunizations)
- Via - by way of
- y.o - year old