



Common Medical Terminology

Code	Definition
Aerobic	requiring the use of oxygen; exercise that conditions the heart and lungs by increasing the efficiency of oxygen intake by the body
Alveoli	sacs in the lungs at the ends of the smallest airways where oxygen is exchanged for carbon dioxide in the blood
Ambulatory	of, relating to, or adapted to walking
Amputation	surgical removal of a limb or other appendage because of damage by trauma or as a treatment for a variety of potentially life-threatening ailments
Ankylosis	abnormal stiffening of a joint
Atrophy	decrease in the normal size of an organ; wasting away
Bariatric	refers to overweight and/or obesity; a medical condition in which excess body fat has accumulated to the extent that it may have an adverse effect on health
Bedsore	ulcer caused by chafing or by the pressure of the body against the bed
Bilateral	of, relating to, or affecting the right and left sides of the body or the right and left members of paired organs
Body Mass Index (BMI)	measurement that compares weight and height, defines people as overweight/pre-obese when their BMI is between 25 kg/m ² and 30 kg/m ² , and obese when it is greater than 30 kg/m ²
Bradycardia	slow heart rate (pulse), usually slower than 60 beats per minute
Bursa	small, fluid-filled sac that allows one part of a joint to move freely over another part
Bursitis	inflammation of a bursa
Carbon Dioxide	an odorless, colorless gas produced as the end product of aerobic respiration
Carpal	having to do with the wrist
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	pain, numbness and tingling of the fingers caused by compression of the median nerve at the wrist
Catheter	tube used to drain or inject fluids
Cellulitis	infection of the skin
Chondritis	inflammation of the cartilage
Chondromalacia	softening of cartilage
Clavicle	collarbone



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Colitis	inflammation of the colon
Colostomy	surgery that makes an opening to the intestine through the surface of the abdomen; the opening empties the bowels
Concussion	loss of consciousness because of a head injury
Connective Tissue	fibrous tissue with a wide variety of connecting and supporting functions within and between body organs
Contracture	deformity caused by abnormal shortening of the muscles
CPM	continuous passive motion
CPT	current procedural terminology
Craniotomy	surgical opening of the skull
Debridement	removal of foreign material or dead tissue
Degenerative Joint Disease	common form of arthritis in which tissue changes occur in one or more joints, such as swelling, lumps or cysts, or small pieces of loose bone and cartilage, which cause stiffness and pain; also called osteoarthritis
Diaphragm	dome-shaped respiratory muscle separating the chest from the abdomen
Disc	round, flat structure, particularly the fibrous cartilage layer between two vertebrae; also called intervertebral disk
Discectomy	removal of an intervertebral disk of the spine
Dysphagia	difficulty swallowing
Dyspnea	labored breathing
Ecchymosis	bruise, which is a collection of blood in the tissues, causing a black and blue, or yellow area
Edema	buildup of excessive fluid around the cells in the body
Embolism	the obstruction of a blood vessel by a clot or mass of foreign material
Exacerbate	cause something to increase in severity, make more intense, irritate
Fascia	fibrous sheets of tissue connecting or covering the muscles
Femur	thigh bone
Fibromyalgia	painful condition with multiple sensitive areas, called "tender points," affecting fibrous tissues, muscles, tendons and ligaments
Fistula	abnormal passage from an abscess, cavity or hollow organ to the skin or another abscess



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Hematoma	tumor-like mass of coagulated blood in the soft tissues; a contusion or bruise
Hemorrhage	severe bleeding, usually from damage to a blood vessel
Humerus	bone in the upper arm
Hyperbaric	characterized by greater-than-normal pressure
Hyperbaric Oxygen	therapeutic treatment designed to increase blood oxygen by delivering oxygen in a chamber room with greater-than-normal pressure
Hypoxia	abnormal condition resulting from decreased availability of oxygen in the body tissues
Idiopathic	without a known cause
Incontinence	inability to hold urine or feces
Inflammation	swelling, redness, warmth and pain; a body tissue's protective response to injury
Integument	skin (including hair and nails)
Keloid	excessive growth of scar tissue on the skin
Laminectomy	spine operation to remove the portion of the vertebral bone called the lamina
Ligament	tough band of connective tissue connecting bones or holding organs in place
Lumbago	pain in the lower back
Mandible	lower jaw
Median Nerve	nerve that stimulates some of the muscles of the hand and wrist
Meninges	the three membranes covering the brain and spinal cord
Meniscus	cartilage in the knee joint
Metacarpal	any of the five bones that make up the hand and join the wrist to the fingers
Metatarsal	any of the five bones of the foot directly joined to each of the toes
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
Nebulizer	device that produces a very fine vapor to be inhaled
Nephritis	inflammation of a kidney
Neuralgia	pain along the course of a nerve



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Neuritis	inflammation of a nerve
Neuropathy	disease of the nervous system or of an individual nerve
Nosocomial	having to do with the hospital; for example, a nosocomial infection is one that is acquired during hospitalization
Obesity	having too much body fat; a weight more than 20% above the normal range
Occupational Therapy	teaching useful skills to sick or handicapped people to promote rehabilitation and healing; Occupational Therapy treatments develop, recover, and help to maintain the daily living and work skills of individuals
Osteomyelitis	infection of a bone
Oximeter	device for determining the oxygen saturation level of the blood
Parenteral	inside the body, but outside the intestines
Paresis	partial or slight loss of feeling or movement
Paresthesia	abnormal sensation of burning or prickling on the skin, caused by a disorder of the nervous system
Patella	kneecap
Pelvis	bony structure formed by the sacrum, coccyx, ileum, pubis and ischium
Peripheral	at or near the surface of the body; located away from the center structure
Plantar	having to do with the sole of the foot
Posterior	at or toward the back
Quadriceps	name applied collectively to a group of four thigh muscles that insert together into the tendon surrounding the kneecap
Radiculopathy	disease or other problem affecting a nerve root; the pain or other symptoms may manifest in an extremity through a process called referred pain
Sciatica	pain or inflammation going from the back to the buttock along the sciatic nerve
Spondylitis	inflammation of the vertebrae
Spondylosis	narrowing of the spinal column resulting in reduction of the spaces between the vertebrae, which may cause compression of the nerve roots



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Subcutaneous	just beneath the skin
Subdural	beneath the dura mater, the covering of the brain
Synovial	clear lubricating fluid produced in joints, bursae and tendon sheaths
Tendinitis	inflammation of a tendon
Tendon	cord of strong white fibrous tissue connecting muscle to bone
Thoracic	having to do with the chest
Thromboembolism	blockage of a blood vessel by the piece of a blood clot that has broken loose and traveled from its original site
Thrombosis	formation of a blood clot within a blood vessel or the heart
Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)	supplies all daily nutritional requirements through IV (intravenous therapy)
Tracheostomy	surgical incision in the trachea (the windpipe) through which a rigid tube is inserted to allow air to enter
Ureter	muscular tube that propels urine from the kidney to the urinary bladder
Urethra	tube that allows the bladder to empty outside the body
Vasoconstriction	causing the narrowing or closing (constriction) of blood vessels
Vasodilation	causing the widening or opening (dilation) of blood vessels
Vertebrae	bones that make up the spine
Xenograft	transplantation of tissue or organs from an individual of one species to another unrelated species, such as a pig's heart valve implanted in a human