

# Nursing Terminology 2015 (Speedy Study Guide)

Speedy Study Guides	
NURSING TERMINOLOGY 2015	
ADVERSE EVENT	an unwanted side effect of a medication.
ABSORPTION	the passage of nutrients, drugs, or water from the intestines into the bloodstream.
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)	a syndrome characterized by suppression of the immune system, rendering the body susceptible to various diseases, the late, symptomatic stage of HIV disease.
ACTIVE INFECTION	an infection in which a disease-causing microorganism is actively replicating and infecting new cells.
ACUPUNCTURE	a traditional Chinese healing technique in which finger pressure is applied to specific points on the body to treat disease and alleviate symptoms.
ACUTE	rapid-onset, short-term initial stage of a disease. Contrast with chronic.
ACUTE HEPATITIS	the initial stage of viral hepatitis following infection. In HCV, acute hepatitis refers to the first six months of infection.
ADDITIVE EFFECT	the combined effect of several drugs that is the sum of the effects that would be produced by each of the drugs in the absence of the others.
ADJUNCT THERAPY	therapy given in addition to a primary treatment.
ALBUMIN	a blood protein produced by the liver that plays a role in maintaining normal blood volume. A low albumin level is associated with liver cirrhosis. A normal level is 3.2 to 5.5g.
ALLERGY	an abnormal immune response to an antigen (allergen) that does not normally cause an adverse reaction (e.g., animal dander, pollen).
ANTIHISTAMINE	a drug that blocks the action of histamine, a chemical messenger in the body. Antihistamines are used to prevent or alleviate allergic reactions and to reduce stomach acid production.
B-CELL	a type of immune system white blood cell. B-cells mature into plasma cells that produce antibodies.
BENIGN	a mild, non-lethal disease, especially a non-cancerous tumor. Contrast with malignant.
BILE	fluid produced by the liver that aids in the digestion of fats and the excretion of toxins.
BIOPEY	a procedure in which a sample of cells or tissue is taken for laboratory examination. Liver biopsies are used to monitor liver disease progression in people with HCV.
BLOOD TRANSFUSION	the infusion of blood or blood components into an individual for the treatment of a medical condition. Transfusions may be homologous (from a donor) or autologous (previously stored blood from the recipient).
BONE MARROW	the soft, spongy material inside certain long bones where blood cells are produced.
BRAIN FOG	may mean confusion, memory loss, and/or lack of concentration and alertness. May be a symptom of toxic chemical build-up due to impaired liver function. See hepatic encephalopathy.
BREAKTHROUGH	the return of detectable viral load or high ALT levels in a person who had previously achieved a given virological or biochemical treatment response.
CADAVER	the body of a dead person.
CANCER	a malignant neoplasm or tumor characterized by abnormal cell proliferation. Types include carcinoma (which affects epithelial cells), sarcoma (which affects soft tissues), lymphoma and leukemia (which affect lymphoid tissue), and glioma (which affects brain tissue).
CAPILLARIES	tiny blood vessels that deliver oxygen and nutrients to and remove waste products from cells.
CARBOHYDRATE	an organic molecule composed mainly of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms. Carbohydrates function as major class of nutrients, and are present in foods such as bread and pasta.
CARCINOGEN	an agent that promotes the development of cancer.
CARDIAC	having to do with the heart.
CARDIOVASCULAR	having to do with the circulatory system (the heart and blood vessels).

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