

Cambridge English for Nursing

GLOSSARY

UNIT 1

Patient admissions

Medical term		Definition	Translation
ADLs		activities of daily living; such as feeding, dressing, bathing and toileting	
aorta		the main artery that carries blood away from the heart	
atria (singular: atrium)		the two smaller hollow cavities of the heart which receive blood into the heart	
blood pressure		the pressure of blood in the arteries	
blood vessel		a tubular channel that carries blood e.g. artery	
cardiac cycle		any of the events relating to the blood flow that occur from the beginning of one heartbeat to the beginning of another	
cardiac catheterisation		a surgical procedure where a catheter is introduced into a blood vessel and guided to the heart for the purpose of viewing the condition of blood vessels to assess heart function	
deoxygenated		deprived of oxygen	
diastolic		when the heart is in a period of relaxation and expansion	
ECG/EKG		electrocardiogram; a tracing of the electrical action of the heart	
GTN		glyceryl trinitrate; a vasodilator medication used in the treatment of angina, also called <i>nitroglycerin</i>	
hypertension		high pressure readings in the arteries taken over three consecutive readings, also called <i>high blood pressure</i>	
MI		myocardial infarct; the death of heart muscle due to sudden deprivation of oxygen in circulating blood, also called <i>heart attack</i>	
oxygenated		saturated with oxygen	
pulmonary artery		the blood vessel which carries deoxygenated blood to the lungs	
pulmonary vein		the blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left atrium of the heart	
pulse		the contraction and expansion of an artery due to blood circulation	
pulse rate (P)		the speed of the pulse, also called <i>heart rate (HR)</i>	
sublingual		under the tongue	
systolic		blood pressure when the heart is contracting	
valves		a fold in the heart membrane which prevents backflow of fluid e.g. blood	
ventricles		small cavities or chambers in the heart	