

Cambridge English for Nursing

GLOSSARY

UNIT 4 Diabetes care

Medical term		Definition	Translation
beta cells		cells which secrete insulin in the pancreas	
bile		greenish fluid secreted by the liver which helps in the breakdown and absorption of fats	
blood glucose level (bgl)		concentration of sugar in the blood, also called <i>blood sugar level (bsl)</i>	
bolus		an extra dose of a medication given to raise the blood concentration to a therapeutic level	
carbohydrates		simple compounds which are used by the body for storing and transporting energy	
common bile duct		The duct that forms when the hepatic duct and the cystic duct join before emptying bile into the duodenum	
co-morbidities		the condition of having two or more diseases at the same time	
ketoacidosis		acidosis due to the accumulation of ketone bodies. Called <i>diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)</i> when it occurs in diabetes	
duodenum		the first part of the small intestine which extends from the pylorus end of the stomach to the jejunum	
gallbladder		a small organ under the liver which stores bile until it is needed	
glucose monitor		an instrument which measures and records the amount of glucose on a strip containing capillary blood.	
glycosuria		presence of glucose in the urine, also called <i>glucosuria</i>	
hypoglycaemia		the condition of having low blood sugar	
hypoglycaemic agent		a means of lowering blood sugar e.g. medication taken to lower blood sugar	
hypoglycaemic attack		a condition caused by decreased blood sugar levels; too low for proper brain function	
insulin		hormone produced in the beta cells of the pancreas which lowers blood sugar levels	
islet cells		a cluster of cells found in the pancreas which secrete hormones including insulin and glucagon, also called <i>islets of Langerhans</i>	
ketones		substances including acetone which are produced as a result of the breakdown of fats, also called <i>ketone bodies</i>	
nicotine patch		an adhesive patch for the skin which contains slow-release nicotine, used by smokers when quitting smoking to minimise withdrawal symptoms	
syringe		a medical instrument used to inject fluids into the body or take fluids out of the body	
Type I diabetes		a severe form of diabetes caused by insufficient or absent insulin and resulting in abnormal metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and proteins	
Type II diabetes		a milder form of diabetes exacerbated by obesity and an inactive lifestyle	
vial		a small container for liquids	