

Cambridge English for
Nursing

GLOSSARY

UNIT 8 Pre-operative patient assessment

Medical term		Definition	Translation
ambulation		walking	
anaesthesia		a drug which causes the loss of the ability to feel pain	
anticoagulant		a substance that prevents the clotting of blood	
anti-embolic stockings		stockings which prevent the formation of DVT, also called <i>TED (Thrombo-Embolism Deterrent)</i> stockings	
antiseptic wash		liquid soap which inhibits the growth of micro-organisms	
appendicectomy		surgical removal of the appendix	
blood clot		a collection of fibrin, platelets, red blood cells, and white blood cells	
bowel prep		preoperative evacuation of the contents of the bowel using laxatives and/or enemas	
cholecystectomy		surgical removal of the gallbladder	
clear fluids		any transparent fluids e.g. apple juice, water, black tea or coffee	
coagulation		the process of changing from a liquid to a gel or solid state by a series of chemical reactions; often used to describe the formation of a blood clot	
colonoscopy		inspection of the colon using an endoscope which is inserted through the rectum	
consent form		a legal document which is signed by patients to give consent for a procedure or operation.	
DVT		deep vein thromboses; formation of a blood clot in the deep veins usually those in the legs	
drain		a tube used to remove blood or other fluids from a wound	
embolism		sudden blocking of an artery by an embolus	
embolus		a blood clot which breaks off the wall of the blood vessel and starts to move in the circulatory system.	
endoscope		instrument with either a rigid or flexible tube which is used to view internal objects, take a photograph, take biopsies and remove foreign objects	
heparin		a substance found in the liver which slows the blood clotting	
heparin sodium		is an injectable anticoagulant used to prevent DVTs	
keyhole surgery		a surgical technique which uses small incisions in the abdomen to perform surgery, also called <i>laparoscopic surgery</i> or <i>minimally invasive surgery</i>	
laparoscope		a telescopic instrument, that is usually connected to a video camera, fibre optic cable and cold light source so that the operation area can be viewed	

Medical term		Definition	Translation
lock-out time		the time programmed into a PCA patient overdose	
Nil By Mouth (NBM)		no food or fluids to be taken by mouth	
orthopaedic		the correction of abnormal bone structures	
pre-med		a medication given to relax the pre-operative patient	
to prep a patient		to prepare a patient for a procedure or operation	
PE		pulmonary embolism; a condition which is caused by emboli travelling through the blood circulation to the lungs and blocking a pulmonary artery	
venodilation		stretching of the veins	
to void		to empty the bladder	
warfarin		oral anticoagulant medication	