

Cambridge English for Nursing

GLOSSARY

UNIT 9

Post-operative patient assessment

Medical term		Definition	Translation
A&E		Accident and Emergency; also called <i>Emergency Department (ED)</i> or <i>Casualty</i>	
analgesia		pain-relieving medication; also called <i>painkillers</i>	
anti-pyretic		a medication given to reduce fever	
GCS		Glasgow Coma Scale; a neurological scale which assesses level of consciousness out of a maximum score of 15	
hypothermia		low body temperature	
incision		a surgical cut	
inguinal hernia		a condition in which a loop of intestine protrudes into the inguinal canal	
intact dressing		a dressing which is secured and not removed until review	
multiple fractures		several bones which are broken	
oxygen sats (SaO ₂)		a measure of how much oxygen the blood is carrying as a percentage of the maximum oxygen molecules which the blood can carry	
to rate pain		to assess the severity of pain	
Recovery		the area near Operating Theatres where a patient recovers after an operation, also called <i>PACU (Post Anaesthetic Care Unit)</i>	
splenectomy		surgical removal of the spleen	
tonsillectomy		surgical removal of the tonsils	
visceral		relating to body organs, especially large abdominal organs	
visually impaired		partially sighted or blind	
wound closure		the method used to close a wound e.g. sutures or clips	
zygoma		the cheekbone	