

UNIT 2 Caring for patients
after an operation

Medical term		Definition	Translation
alert and oriented		when a patient knows who they are, where they are, what time it is and what has just happened	
anaesthetic		a drug that makes you unable to feel pain	
Coronary Care Unit (CCU)		a hospital ward which specialises in the care of patients with heart problems	
dressing		a covering which is placed over a wound to help healing	
Fluid Balance Chart		a chart which shows the fluid intake and the output of a patient	
ice pack		a plastic sack of crushed ice or refrigerant gel	
Intensive Care Unit (ICU)		a hospital ward which specialises in the care of patients who are very ill	
IV cannula		a flexible tube that is inserted into a blood vessel to give medicine or another liquid, also called <i>Venflon</i> and also abbreviated to <i>IVC</i> (intravenous cannula)	
IV infusion pump		a machine which pumps a certain volume of fluid through an intravenous (IV) line	
IV line		a tube which connects IV fluid in the IV bag to a cannula in the patient	
IV pole		a long metal stick for hanging IV bags, it often has wheels	
IV solution		a liquid containing medicine or another substance which is usually contained in a litre bag, also called a <i>bag</i>	
oxygen mask		a device worn over the nose and mouth which allows the patient to breathe oxygen from a storage tank into the lungs	
pain relief		medication which reduces pain, also called <i>analgesia</i>	
Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU)		the area near Operating Theatres where a patient recovers after an operation, also called <i>Recovery</i>	
prime the line		make sure that only IV fluid, no air, is inside an IV line	
vomit bowl		a metal or plastic bowl held under the patient's chin when s/he is vomiting	