Medical Terminology

**Atypical** – appearing or behaving in unusual or suspicious fashion

**Autoimmune** – when the immune system is abnormally attacking normal healthy tissues

**Gross** – meaning obvious, visible, or a large amount

**Hepatosplenomegaly** – enlarged Liver and spleen

**Hyperkalemia** – elevated potassium blood level

**Hypernatremia** – elevated sodium blood level

**Hypokalemia** – low potassium blood level

**Hyponatremia** – low sodium blood level

**Interstitial** – usually referring to the ‘between spaces’ such as in the lung, in the spaces outside of the airways and blood vessels.

**Intracranial** – inside the cranium, or skull, usually referring the brain

**Hemorrhage** – bleeding,

**Hemiparesis** – paralysis on one side of the body, usually from a stroke

**Malignant** – another word for cancerous

**Melena** – black tarry stool, from high volume upper intestinal bleeding

**Morbid Obesity** – meeting a medical definition by having a Body Mass Index of > 40; a term used typically when the care team is concerned that your weight will adversely impact your health and welfare.

**Neoplasm** – a word meaning “new growth,” typically referring to a tumor, but not always cancerous

**Os** – mouth, or opening; on the uterine cervix, the opening into the cervix

**Purulent** – involved with infected material, or pus (bacteria and white blood cells)

**Transaminitis** – medical term for elevated liver tests
Afib/AF – atrial fibrillation, an irregular heart rhythm condition

ASCVD – arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease - narrowing of the coronary arteries in the heart

BPH – BENIGN PROSTATE HYPERTROPHY, enlargement of the prostate

BS – breath sounds

BSO – bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy – removal of both ovaries

BUN – blood, urea, nitrogen levels – a kidney test

BZD – BENZODIAZEPINE, a class of anti anxiety medications such as valium

C & S – culture and sensitivity – used for infection analysis, what the organism is, and what antibiotics would be effective

CAD – coronary artery disease

CBC – complete blood count, with white, red blood cells and platelets measured

CHF – congestive heart failure

CKD – chronic kidney disease

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CNS – central nervous system, the brain primarily

COPD – chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or emphysema, degradation of lung tissue

CPK – creatine phosphokinase, a muscle and heart test

CSF – cerebrospinal fluid, the fluid that bathes the brain

CT – computerized tomography, or “CAT scan”, a detailed imaging test

CVA – cerebrovascular accident (stroke)

CXR – chest X ray

Cysto – cystoscopy, a direct scope visualization of the urinary bladder

d/c – discontinue

D & C – dilation and curettage, or scraping of the Uterine lining
DC – discontinue, or discharge

Diff – differential, a detailed inspection of white blood cells from a CBC (see above)

DM – diabetes mellitus,

DNR – do not resuscitate

DOB – date of birth

DOE – dyspnea on exertion – shortness of breath with activity or exertion

DT’s – delirium tremens, or severe alcohol withdrawal with shaking and delirium or confusion

Dx – diagnosis

EBL – estimated blood loss

ECG – electrocardiogram

ED – emergency department, - or – erectile dysfunction

EEG – electroencephalogram, scan of electrical brain waves, usually for seizure assessment

EENT – eyes, ears, nose, throat

EGD – Esophago-gastro-duodenoscopy – a fiberoptic scope test of the upper intestines

EKG – electrocardiogram

EMG – electromyogram, a muscle and nerve connection test

ESR – erythrocyte sedimentation rate, a blood test barometer of inflammation

ETOH – alcohol,

FBS – fasting blood sugar

FEV1 – Forced expiratory volume – a measure of lung function, what can be blown out in one second

FH or FHX – family history

FSH – follicle-stimulating hormone, a pituitary-gonadal (ovary or testicle) axis hormone

FUO – fever of undetermined origin

Fx – fracture
GB – gallbladder

GI – gastrointestinal

GU – genitourinary

GTT – glucose tolerance test - diabetes test

Gyn – gynecology

HCG – human chorionic gonadotropin, increased during pregnancy

Hct – hematocrit

HDL – high-density lipoprotein, good cholesterol

Hgb – hemoglobin, or oxygen carrying protein in red blood cells

HIV – human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS

H&P – history and physical

HPI – History of present illness

HR – heart rate

Hs – “hour of sleep”, aka bedtime

Hx – history

IBS – irritable bowel syndrome

I & D – incision and drainage

ICP – intracranial pressure

IM – intramuscular

IPPPB – intermittent positive pressure breathing

IUD – intrauterine device, for contraception

IVF – in vitro fertilization

IVP – intravenous pyelogram, a kidney dye test

K+ – potassium
KUB – kidney, ureter, bladder Xray

Lac – laceration

Lap – laparotomy, or abdominal surgery that enters the peritoneal (belly) cavity

LDL – low-density lipoprotein, the Bad cholesterol

LLQ, LLL – left lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)

LMP – last menstrual period

LOC – loss of consciousness

LP – lumbar puncture, or spinal tap of CSF 9see above)

LUQ, LUL – left upper quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)

MCHAT – modified checklist for autism in toddlers, recorded as ‘passed’ or ‘not passed’

MI – myocardial infarction, or heart attack

MOM – milk of magnesia

MRI – magnetic resonance imaging

MS – morphine sulfate,- or - multiple sclerosis

MVA – motor vehicle accident

NVD – nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Na+ -- sodium

NG – nasogastric

Nitro – nitroglycerine

NKA – no known allergies

NPO – nothing by mouth

NS – normal saline

NSR – normal sinus rhythm

OB – obstetrics
OD – right eye, - or - overdose

OS – left eye

OT – occupational therapy

OU – both eyes

PAC – premature atrial contraction

PAT – paroxysmal atrial tachycardia

PE – physical exam, or - pulmonary embolism (blood clot to the lungs)

PEF – Peak expiratory flow – a measure of lung function

PET scan – positron emission tomography: advanced imaging test, often combined with a CAT scan

PID – pelvic inflammatory disease

PKU – phenylketonuria

po – by mouth

POC – Plan of Care

PPD – purified protein derivative (TB test)

prn – as needed, whenever necessary

PT – physical therapy

PTSD – post traumatic stress disorder;

PTT – partial prothrombaplastin time, a clotting test

PTH – Parathyroid hormone

PVC – premature ventricular contraction

RBC – red blood cell/count

RLQ, RLL – right lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)

RML – right middle lobe (lung)

R/O – rule out
ROM – range of motion

RUQ, RLL – right upper quadrant, lobe

SGOT/SGPT – serum glutamic oxaloacetic / pyruvic transaminase, 2 common liver tests

SIDS – sudden infant death syndrome

SL – sublingual

SOB – shortness of breath

SQ, sub q – subcutaneous, injection just below the skin

SSRI – Selective Serotonin reuptake inhibitor, a common class of antidepressants including Prozac, Celexa, Paxil, etc

STD – sexually transmitted disease

SVT – supraventricular tachycardia, abnormal heart rate originating in the upper chambers of the heart

T & A – tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy

TAH – total abdominal hysterectomy, removal of the Uterus

TB – tuberculosis

TIA – transient ischemic attack

TMJ – temporomandibular joint

TSH – thyroid-stimulating hormone

TURP – transurethral resection of the Prostate

TVH – total vaginal hysterectomy

UA – urinalysis

URI – upper respiratory infection

US – ultrasound

UTI – urinary tract infection

V fib – ventricular fibrillation

V tach – ventricular tachycardia
VSD – ventricular septal defect

WBC – white blood cell/count

WCC – well child check

w/c – wheelchair

WNL – within normal limits