

HEALTHCARE
INTERPRETER
ASSESSMENT
(HCIA®)



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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Healthcare Interpreter Assessment (HCIA[®]) tests whether an interpreter meets the standard to be qualified as a medical interpreter by demonstrating sufficient skill and understanding of professional standards of conduct. It is based on the formats of the national certification. Currently the full assessment is available in Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese Mandarin, Russian, and Burmese. Other languages are also assessed by professional evaluators using a modified version of this assessment.

TEST ADMINISTRATION

The test must be administered in a quiet, private testing area.

Exam administration requires a computer with high-speed internet access, a working microphone and sound speakers. A separate microphone (which can be a headset) is highly recommended, as are wired headphones. Bluetooth headphones are highly discouraged for the oral portion of the assessment.

Examinees may not share notes, observations, summaries or any other type of description about the exams, including recordings, screenshots, pictures, or other forms of documentation. During the consecutive interpreting section, note-taking to aid memory is permitted, but notes must be destroyed immediately after the exam.

The assessment is divided into two parts, and both are administered online only. Examinees are allowed 90 minutes (1 and a half hours) to complete the knowledge part of the assessment and about 35 minutes to complete the performance part of the assessment. There are five consecutive interpreting mini-scenarios ranging from four to seven minutes each. There is one sight translation section from English into the LOTE (language other than English), which will take approximately six minutes, including two minutes to review prior to recording.

SCORE REQUIREMENTS

To pass the knowledge component of the test, 80% of the items must be answered correctly in each of the four knowledge elements. To pass the performance component of the test, the examinee must earn a score of 75% or greater.

After six months, a candidate may retest, although more time is recommended. It is recommended that a candidate review [Appendix B](#) and engage in reading and preparatory study before retaking the assessment.

STRUCTURE

The assessment is divided into two parts (knowledge and performance) and is based on the formats of the two national certification exams.

	CCHI – Certification	NBCMI – Certification	MasterWord’s HCIA
Healthcare Terminology and Processes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consecutive Interpreting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sight Translation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simultaneous Interpretation	Yes	No	No
Interpreter Ethics and Mechanics	Yes	Yes	Yes

KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT

The knowledge assessment consists of 75 multiple choice questions. All questions are in English and are divided into four categories: healthcare terminology, healthcare processes, interpreting ethics and interpreting mechanics. Passing this part of the assessment does not mean that a person has become a qualified interpreter; rather, it means that the examinee has met the first requirement for approval and qualifies to move on to the second step and take the performance assessment. To pass the test, 80 percent of the items must be answered correctly in each of the four knowledge elements. Please see [Appendix A](#) regarding ADA accommodations.

The knowledge assessment measures candidates' knowledge of two areas central to the work of a healthcare interpreter at the level minimally required for a qualified healthcare interpreter:

1. Healthcare-Related Terms and Processes. To function as a professional healthcare interpreter, familiarity with medical terminology, areas of medical specialization, health insurance, and related procedures is essential. Accordingly, the knowledge assessment measures recognition of healthcare-related situations and vocabulary.
2. Ethics and Professional Conduct. The second area of knowledge required of professional healthcare interpreters encompassed in the knowledge test is a good understanding of standards guiding the performance and conduct for healthcare interpreters. Accordingly, questions aimed at measuring candidates' knowledge of ethical behavior and professional conduct are included in the knowledge assessment.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Instructions: The following items consist of unfinished sentences marked with an empty space at the end. These sentences are related to healthcare in various ways such as areas of a hospital, names of jobs in healthcare, names of practices, interpreter standards of practice, and/or things related to healthcare policy. Select the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Example 1: A person who uses a machine that works in the place of his/her kidneys is said to be on _____.

- a. medication
- b. dialysis
- c. supplements
- d. IV

Example 2: To maintain accuracy, the interpreter must take cultural context _____.

- a. for granted
- b. with a grain of salt
- c. out of the interpretation
- d. into consideration

(answers: 1.B, 2.D)

Instructions: The item below consists of a medical term or acronym written in bold. These terms and/or acronyms are related to healthcare in various ways such as areas of a hospital, names of jobs in healthcare, names of practices, and/or things related to healthcare policy. Select the word or phrase that best represents the common terminology or has the same or closest to the same meaning for the bold word/phrase or acronym.

Example 1: **cardiac arrest**

- a. stroke
- b. heart attack
- c. hyperventilation
- d. hypertension

(answer: 1.B)

Instructions: These items are each a sentence with a word or phrase missing, represented by a blank space. These sentences are related to healthcare in various ways such as areas of a hospital, names of jobs in healthcare, names of practices, interpreter standards of practice, and/or things related to healthcare policy. Select the word or phrase that best fits in the space provided.

Example 1: People who have a tumor that is _____ don't face the problem of it being cancerous.

- a. malignant
- b. benign
- c. mutated
- d. bacterial

Example 2: An interpreter must maintain _____ at all times. This is why it is not a good idea to interpret for friends and family members.

- a. anonymity
- b. tranquility
- c. impartiality
- d. accuracy

(answers: 1.B, 2.C)

Instructions: The next two items are questions about general healthcare and interpreter terminology. These questions are related to healthcare in various ways such as areas of a hospital, names of jobs in healthcare, names of practices, interpreter standards of practice, and/or things related to healthcare policy. Choose the word or phrase from the list that best answers the question.

Example 1: What is the name of the elastic band that is tied around a person's arm before an injection with a needle?

- a. a syringe
- b. a tourniquet
- c. a stethoscope
- d. an MRI

Example 2: What should an interpreter do if he/she doesn't understand what is being said?

- a. say "I, the interpreter, do not understand."
- b. Interpret what he/she does understand and use context clues to figure the rest out
- c. skip what was not understood, but tell the patient/client what was skipped
- d. wing it

(answers: 1.B, 2.A)

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The oral performance assessment is the second of the two parts of the HCIA®. It assesses the ability of examinees to convey meaning accurately without omitting, adding, summarizing or editorializing any information while maintaining the proper amount of professionalism between patients and healthcare professionals. There are two components to the oral assessment:

1. Consecutive Interpreting. Consists of five mini consecutive-interpreting scenarios. Each scenario contains a recording of an exchange between a healthcare practitioner and a patient, to be interpreted by the examinee.
2. Sight Translation. Consists of one brief document to be sight translated from English into the LOTE (Language Other Than English). Examinees will have no more than two minutes to read the document and make notes in preparation. The recording for the voice interpretation will begin immediately following the end of the preparation period. The interpretation must be made in four minutes or less.

SAMPLE SCENARIO FOR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Scene: A patient is talking to her doctor after being admitted to the hospital. This is the first time they have met.

Practitioner (in English): Hello, Mrs. Garcia. I would like to start by asking a few questions. Is that ok?

Patient (in LOTE): Yes, doctor. Fire away.

Practitioner (in English): Ok. Where exactly do you feel pain?

Patient (in LOTE): Actually, I feel it all over. Sometimes it just feels like my entire body hurts.

Practitioner (in English): Is this a constant pain or does it come and go?

Patient (in LOTE): It isn't all the time, but it does last for long periods of time.

Practitioner (in English): Do you feel it now?

Patient (in LOTE): No, not at this moment. Am I going to be ok, doctor?

SAMPLE SIGHT TRANSLATION

Preoperative Instructions for Surgery-Local Anesthesia Before Surgery:

1. Do not take aspirin, medications containing aspirin, any anti-inflammatory and herbal alternatives two weeks prior to surgery. Please refer to medications to avoid list. If you are unsure if a medication that you are taking is to be avoided, please ask the doctor. If needed, Tylenol may be taken after consulting with the doctor.
2. Smoking must be stopped two weeks prior to, and two weeks after surgery. Nicotine patches and gum MAY NOT BE USED.
3. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SMOKING OR THE USE OF UNAUTHORIZED MEDICATIONS CAN LEAD TO COMPLICATIONS AND JEOPARDIZE THE RESULT OF YOUR SURGERY!
4. Report any signs of a cold or infection occurring within the week prior to your surgery.

APPENDIX A

MASTERWORD HEALTHCARE INTERPRETER ASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR ADA ACCOMMODATION

Complete this form only if you are requesting individual testing arrangements because you have a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

APPLICANT NAME:

Have you been diagnosed with a disability that is recognized by the ADA: Yes _____ No

Describe the type of disability: _____ _____ _____ _____
--

I request an accommodation, which is described in the Documentation of Accommodation, attached hereto.

Signature	Date
-----------	------

Attach the Documentation of Accommodation form and send via email to tad@masterword.com

DOCUMENTATION OF ACCOMMODATION

This section must be completed by an appropriate professional (doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist, or education professional) to certify that your disabling condition requires the requested exam accommodation.

If you have existing documentation of having the same or similar accommodation provided to you in another test situation, you may submit such documentation instead of having this portion of the form completed.

I HAVE KNOWN _____ SINCE _____
 (APPLICANT NAME) (DATE)

AS A _____
 (PATIENT, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP)

I HAVE DIAGNOSED OR EVALUATED THE APPLICANT MYSELF AND I AM NOT RELYING UPON FACTS RELATED TO ME BY THE APPLICANT. MY DIAGNOSIS IS

 (DESCRIBE THE MEDICAL OR OTHER CONDITION)

THE APPLICANT HAS DISCUSSED WITH ME THE NATURE OF THE TEST TO BE ADMINISTERED. IT IS MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION THAT BECAUSE OF THIS APPLICANT 'S DISABILITY, HE/SHE SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED BY PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING: (CHECK ALL THOSE THAT APPLY)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Large type print	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra time (how much?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Separate testing area	<input type="checkbox"/>	An examination reader
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other oral administration (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other accommodation (describe)

Signature and Title of Professional:	Date:
Printed Name and Title:	Phone Number:

APPENDIX B: PREPARING FOR THE TEST

If you are not familiar with taking written multiple-choice tests, you may find it beneficial to study preparation material for similar exams such as the TOEFL (www.ets.org/toefl.html), SAT or GRE. There are many similarly structured tests online with a focus on medical terminology.

With respect to healthcare-related terms and usage, some of the following activities might be helpful in expanding knowledge and preparing for the test:

1. Attend MasterWord Institute trainings for medical interpreters, as found at <http://masterword.institute>.
2. Take a course in medical terminology at a local college.
3. Read widely from books, professional journals, editorials, and healthcare articles in newspapers and news websites.
4. Review healthcare insurance information and forms downloadable from most insurance companies and hospitals.
5. Watch online instructional videos or read instructional material about healthcare topics such as:
 - a. <https://www.humana.com/learning-center/stay-smart-stay-healthy/> (Insurance)
 - b. www.cms.gov (Medicare and Medicaid)
 - c. www.dmu.edu/medterms/ (Online medical terminology course)
6. Ask for copies of intake, insurance, allergy, and consent forms from the local clinic or hospital to review procedures and vocabulary.
7. Reviewing study guides for national certification tests from CCHI and NBCMI will also help in preparing for the MasterWord HCIA®.
 - <http://www.certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org/>
 - [NBCMI Handbook.pdf \(certifiedmedicalinterpreters.org\)](#)
 - [Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters \(cchicertification.org\)](http://cchicertification.org)
 - [CCHI Candidate Examination Handbook.pdf \(cchicertification.org\)](#)

MEDICAL ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAA: abdominal aortic aneurysm

a.c.: “ante cibum” before meals

AMI: acute myocardial infarction

ANS: autonomic nervous system

ARD: acute respiratory disease

BAC: blood alcohol content

BBT: basal body temperature

BE: barium enema

BID: “bis in die” twice a day

BP: blood pressure

BUN: blood urea nitrogen

C: Celsius

Ca: cancer

CAD: coronary artery disease

CBC: complete blood count

cc: cubic centimeter or “cum cibos” with food

CHD: congenital heart disease

CNS: central nervous system

COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

CSF: cerebrospinal fluid

Ct/CAT: computerized axial tomography

Dx: diagnosis

ED: erectile dysfunction

ECT: electroconvulsive therapy

EKG: electrocardiogram

ENT: ear, nose, throat

F: Fahrenheit

GERD: gastroesophageal reflux disease

GI: gastrointestinal

GTT: glucose tolerance test

Hb: Hemoglobin

Hx: medical history

IBW: ideal body weight

IPL: intense pulse light

IV: intravenous

KUB: kidneys, ureters, bladder

ml: milliliter

MS: multiple sclerosis

OB: obstetrics

OR: operating room

P: Pulse

p.c.: “post cibum” after meals

PCP: primary care provider

PET: positron emission tomography

q.d.: once a day

q.i.d.: “quater in die” four times a day

q.h.: “quaque hora” hourly

q.2h.: every 2 hours

R: respiration

RBC: red blood cells

Rx: prescription medication

Staph: staphylococcus

Stat: immediately

Strep: streptococcus

SOB: shortness of breath

T: temperature

TFT: thyroid function testing

TID: three times a day

Tx: treatment

VD: venereal disease

WBC: white blood cell

Wt: weight

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Bear in mind that most medical terms are derived from Latin and Greek roots. Therefore if you learn what roots, prefixes, and suffixes mean, you stand a greater chance of deducing the meaning of the medical term.

Ex. Arrhythmia: An irregularity in the force or rhythm of the heartbeat.

a– away/without
rhythm/o – rhythm
ia – condition/state/thing

Ex. Antiarrhythmic: Preventing or alleviating irregularities in the force or rhythm of the heart.

anti – against

Ex. Antipyretic: Preventing fever.

anti – against
pyr/o – fire, burning
etic – pertaining to

Ex. Pericardium: The membrane sac that encloses the heart in vertebrate animals.

peri – around
my/o - muscle
card/i – heart
um – structure

Ex. Myocardium: The middle layer of the heart, consisting of cardiac muscle.

my/o - muscle
card/i – heart
um – structure

Ex. Dysphagia: Difficulty in swallowing or inability to swallow.

dys – painful/difficult/abnormal
phag/o – eating/swallowing
ia – condition/state/thing

MEDICARE VS MEDICAID

Medicare

Medicare is an insurance program. Medical bills are paid from trust funds which those covered have paid into. It serves people over 65 primarily, whatever their income; and serves younger disabled people and dialysis patients. Patients pay part of costs through deductibles for hospital and other costs. Small monthly premiums are required for non-hospital coverage. Medicare is a federal program. It is basically the same everywhere in the United States and is run by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the federal government.

Medicaid

Medicaid is an assistance program. Medical bills are paid from federal, state and local tax funds. It serves low-income people of every age. Patients usually pay no part of costs for covered medical expenses. A small co-payment is sometimes required. Medicaid is a federal-state program. It varies from state to state. It is run by state and local governments within federal guidelines.

NOTES ON INTERPRETER ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

With respect to ethics and professional standards of practice, **it is important that a testing candidate be familiar with the National Standards of Practice for Interpreters in Health Care**, as produced by the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care. This guide can be downloaded and printed from: [NCIHC National Standards of Practice \(ncihc.org\)](https://www.ncihc.org)

All items in the assessment related to standards of practice are based on this guide.

Code of Ethics

Confidentiality

The interpreter treats as confidential, within the treating team, all information learned in the performance of their professional duties, while observing relevant requirements regarding disclosure.

Accuracy

The interpreter strives to render the message accurately, conveying the content and spirit of the original message, taking into consideration its cultural context.

Impartiality

The interpreter strives to maintain impartiality and refrains from counseling, advising or projecting personal biases or beliefs.

Boundaries

The interpreter maintains the boundaries of the professional role, refraining from personal involvement.

Cultural Competence

The interpreter continuously strives to develop awareness of his/her own and other (including biomedical) cultures encountered in the performance of their professional duties.

Respect

The interpreter treats all parties with respect.

Advocacy

When the patient's health, well-being, or dignity is at imminent risk, the interpreter may be justified in acting as an advocate. Advocacy is understood as an action taken on behalf of an individual that goes beyond facilitating communication, with the intention of supporting good health outcomes. Advocacy must only be undertaken after careful and thoughtful analysis of the situation and if other less intrusive actions have not resolved the problem.

Continuing Education

The interpreter strives to continually further his/her knowledge and skills.

Professionalism

The interpreter must at all times act in a professional and ethical manner.

Standards of Practice**Accuracy**

To enable other parties to know precisely what each speaker has said.

Confidentiality

To honor the private and personal nature of the healthcare interaction and maintain trust among all parties.

Impartiality

To eliminate the effect of interpreter bias or preference

Respect

To acknowledge the inherent dignity of all parties in the interpreted encounter.

Cultural Awareness

To facilitate communication across cultural differences.

Role Boundaries

To clarify the scope and limits of the interpreting role, in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

Professionalism

To uphold the public's trust in the interpreting profession.

Professional Development

To attain the highest possible level of competence and service.

Advocacy

To prevent harm to parties that the interpreter serves.

MEDICAL TERMS TO KNOW

Abdominal Pain

may be felt anywhere between the chest and groin region of the body. The pain may be generalized, localized, or it may feel like cramps in the belly. Cramping or discomfort in the stomach may be due to gas, bloating, or constipation. Or it might be a sign of a more serious medical condition.

Antibiotics

a medicine (such as penicillin or its derivatives) that inhibits the growth of or destroys microorganisms

Endometriosis

a condition resulting from the appearance of endometrial tissue outside the uterus and causing pelvic pain

Cancer

a disease caused by an uncontrolled division of abnormal cells in a part of the body

Right Ventricle

the chamber within the heart that is responsible for pumping oxygen-depleted blood to the lungs

Hypotension

also known as low blood pressure, is a blood pressure under 90/60 mm/Hg. In many people, it has no symptoms. When it does cause symptoms, these are usually unpleasant or disruptive, including dizziness, fainting and more.

Dysphasia

language disorder marked by deficiency in the generation of speech, and sometimes also in its comprehension, due to brain disease or damage

Geriatrics

a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and the medical care and treatment of aging people

Psychiatrist

a medical practitioner specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness

Pediatrics

branch of medicine dealing with the development, care, and diseases of infants, children, and adolescents

Podiatrist

a person who treats the feet and their ailments

Endocrinologist

a medical practitioner qualified to diagnose and treat disorders of the endocrine glands and hormones

Influenza

a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory passages causing fever, severe aching, and catarrh, and often occurring in epidemics

Insulin

a hormone produced in the pancreas by the islets of Langerhans, which regulates the amount of glucose in the blood. The lack of insulin causes a form of diabetes.

Bacterium

a member of a large group of unicellular microorganisms which have cell walls but lack organelles and an organized nucleus, including some that can cause disease

Protein

any of a class of nitrogenous organic compounds that consist of large molecules composed of one or

more long chains of amino acids and are an essential part of all living organisms, especially as structural components of body tissues such as muscle, hair, collagen, etc., and as enzymes and antibodies

Palliative Care

specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness

Anesthesiologist

physician specializing in anesthesiology

Stroke

a disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. It is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts

Rhinorrhea

drainage from the nose

Residency

a stage of graduate medical education. It refers to a qualified physician (one who holds the degree of MD, DO, MBBS, MBChB), dentist (DDS or DMD) or podiatrist (DPM) who practices medicine, dentistry, or podiatry, respectively, usually in a hospital or clinic, under the direct or indirect supervision of a senior medical clinician registered in that specialty such as an attending physician or consultant

Neurologist

a specialist in the anatomy, functions, and organic disorders of nerves and the nervous system

Preventive Care

consists of measures taken for disease prevention

Pancreas

As part of the endocrine system, the pancreas secretes two main hormones that are vital to regulating the glucose (also known as blood sugar) level. These include Insulin and Glucagon.

Arteries

type of blood vessel that carry blood away from the heart

Veins

type of blood vessel that carry blood to the heart

Glaucoma

a group of eye diseases that can cause vision loss and blindness by damaging a nerve in the back of the eye called the optic nerve

Agoraphobia

extreme or irrational fear of entering open or crowded places, of leaving one's own home, or of being in places from which escape is difficult

Hemophilia

Hemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder. A lack of or low levels of certain proteins called "clotting factors" characterizes the disorder.

Migraine

a recurrent throbbing headache that typically affects one side of the head and is often accompanied by nausea and disturbed vision

Prodrome

an early symptom indicating the onset of a disease or illness

Laxative

(chiefly of a drug or medicine) tending to stimulate or facilitate evacuation of the bowels

Diuretic

medications designed to increase the amount of water and salt expelled from the body as urine

Elective procedure

Surgery that is subject to choice (election). The choice may be made by the patient or doctor.

Jaundice

a medical condition with yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, arising from excess of the pigment bilirubin and typically caused by obstruction of the bile duct, by liver disease, or by excessive breakdown of red blood cells.

Hernia

occurs when an organ pushes through an opening in the muscle or tissue that holds it in place

Hemorrhoid

swollen veins in the lower rectum

Colonoscopy

exam used to detect changes or abnormalities in the large intestine (colon) and rectum

Magnetic Resonance Image

medical imaging technique used in radiology to form pictures of the anatomy and the physiological processes of the body. MRI scanners use strong magnetic fields, magnetic field gradients, and radio waves to generate images of the organs in the body

Endoscopy

nonsurgical procedure used to examine a person's digestive tract

Cataract

a dense, cloudy area that forms in the lens of the eye

Decubitus ulcer

damage to an area of the skin caused by constant pressure on the area for a long time

Suture

sterile surgical threads used to repair cuts, commonly used to close incisions from surgery

Ultrasound

A procedure that uses high-energy sound waves to look at tissues and organs inside the body. The sound waves make echoes that form pictures of the tissues and organs on a computer screen

Staple

can close large wounds or and are often used in minimally invasive surgery

Fibroids

tumors made of smooth muscle cells and fibrous connective tissue developing in the uterus

Pituitary Gland

small, pea-sized gland located at the base of the brain below the hypothalamus. It sits in its own little chamber under the brain known as the sella turcica. It's a part of the endocrine system and is in charge of making several essential hormones.

MDR multiple drug-resistant

Lack of susceptibility to at least one agent in three or more chemical classes of antibiotics

Incubation period

the time elapsed between exposure to a pathogenic organism, a chemical, or radiation, and when symptoms and signs are first apparent

Mutation

the changing of the structure of a gene, resulting in a variant form that may be transmitted to subsequent generations, caused by the alteration of single base units in DNA, or the deletion, insertion, or rearrangement of larger sections of genes or chromosomes

Metastasis

change of location, position, state, or form

Genetic predisposition

an increased chance or likelihood of developing a particular disease based on the presence of one or more genetic variants and/or a family history suggestive of an increased risk of the disease

Congenital defect

structural or functional anomalies that occur during intrauterine life; Also called birth defects, congenital disorders, or congenital malformations.

Cadaveric organ

an organ transplanted after its owner's death

Implant

to insert or fix (tissue or an artificial object) in a person's body, especially by surgery

Pacemaker

an artificial device for stimulating the heart muscle and regulating its contractions

Port

small medical appliance that is installed beneath the skin

Portal

large vein that carries blood from the stomach and the intestines to the liver

Graft

a piece of living tissue that is transplanted surgically

Arrhythmia

a condition in which the heart beats with an irregular or abnormal rhythm

Auto-immune disease

a condition in which the body's immune system mistakes its own healthy tissues as foreign and attacks them

Tracheotomy

an opening surgically created through the neck into the trachea (windpipe) to allow direct access to the breathing tube

Hypertension

when the blood pressure, the force of the blood pushing against the walls of the blood vessels, is consistently too high

Perinatal continuum

a model of integrated components of maternal health service from pregnancy to the post-partum period to improve maternal, neonatal and child health

Indicated

suggest as a desirable or necessary course of action

Convulsion

a condition in which muscles contract and relax quickly and cause uncontrolled shaking of the body

Side effect

an effect, whether positive or negative, that is secondary to the one intended; although the term is predominantly employed to describe adverse effects, it can also apply to beneficial but unintended consequences.

Cesarean Section

a surgical procedure used to deliver a baby through incisions in the abdomen and uterus

Malpractice

improper, illegal, or negligent professional activity or treatment, especially by a medical practitioner, lawyer, or public official

Ligament

bands of tough elastic tissue around joints. They connect bone to bone, give joints support, and limit their movement.

Tendon

a fibrous connective tissue that attaches muscle to bone

Paramedic

a person trained to give emergency medical care to people who are injured or ill, typically in a setting outside of a hospital

Hypoglycemia

condition in which the blood sugar (glucose) level is lower than the standard range.

Melanoma

the most serious type of skin cancer. It occurs when the pigment-producing cells that give color to the skin become cancerous

Sarcoma

an uncommon group of cancers which arise in the bones, and connective tissue such as fat and muscle

Hematoma

when an injury causes blood to collect and pool under the skin. The pooling blood gives the skin a spongy, rubbery, lumpy feel.

Epidural anesthesia

a method of medication administration in which a medicine is injected into the epidural space around the spinal cord

Analgesic

an analgesic drug, also called simply an analgesic, pain reliever, or painkiller, is any member of the group of drugs used to achieve relief from pain

Syncope

temporary loss of consciousness caused by a fall in blood pressure

Inflammation

a localized physical condition in which part of the body becomes reddened, swollen, hot, and often painful, especially as a reaction to injury or infection.

Anesthetic

state of controlled, temporary loss of sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes. It may include some or all of analgesia, paralysis, amnesia, and unconsciousness.

Cyanosis

a bluish discoloration of the skin resulting from poor circulation or inadequate oxygenation of the blood

Femur

the longest and strongest bone in the human body

Humerus

the largest bone of the upper extremity and defines the human brachium (arm)

Prosthetic

a prosthesis or prosthetic implant is an artificial device that replaces a missing body part, which may be lost through trauma, disease, or a condition present at birth. Prostheses are intended to restore the normal functions of the missing body part.

Glucometer

a medical device for determining the approximate concentration of glucose in the blood.

Pyrexia

a temporary increase in average body temperature of 98.6°F

Hospice

a type of health care that prioritizes comfort and quality of life by reducing pain and suffering for terminally ill patients and attending to their emotional and spiritual needs at the end of life.

Menarche

the first menstrual cycle, or first menstrual bleeding, in female humans

Amniocentesis

a medical procedure used primarily in prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities and fetal infections as well as for sex determination

Rubella

a contagious viral infection preventable by vaccine and best known by its distinctive red rash. The disease can spread through direct contact with the saliva or mucus of an infected person, or through the air by respiratory droplets produced from coughing or sneezing.

MRSA

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus is a group of Gram-positive bacteria that are genetically distinct from other strains of Staphylococcus aureus

Myocardial Infarction

also known as heart attack, a blockage of blood flow to the heart muscle.

Tetanus

a potentially fatal bacterial infection that affects the nerves. A vaccine can easily prevent the infection, which has no cure. Tetanus causes painful muscle contractions, particularly in the jaw and neck. It can interfere with the ability to breathe, eventually causing death.

Adrenal Gland

also known as suprarenal glands, are small, triangular-shaped glands located on top of both kidneys. Adrenal glands produce hormones that help regulate the metabolism, immune system, blood pressure, response to stress and other essential functions.

Diphtheria

a serious infection caused by strains of bacteria called *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* that make toxin (poison). It can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and even death.

Infection

the process of infecting or the state of being infected. A disease caused by microorganisms that invade tissue

Intensive Care Unit

a department of a hospital in which patients who are dangerously ill are kept under constant observation

Primary Care Physician

the physician who provides both the first contact for a person with an undiagnosed health concern as well as continuing care of varied medical conditions, not limited by cause, organ system, or diagnosis

Intravenous

refers to a way of giving a drug or other substance through a needle or tube inserted into a vein