

Bonus Terms

Term	Pronunciation	Definition
anaphylaxis	ăn''ă-fĩ-lăk'sĩs	A type 1 hypersensitivity (allergic) reaction between an allergenic antigen and immunoglobulin bound to mast cells, which stimulates the sudden release of immunological mediators locally or throughout the body. Can be life threatening.
aphasia	ă-fă'zē-ă	Defects in or loss of the power to express oneself by speech or writing or to comprehend spoken or written language as a result of cerebral cortex injury.
arteriosclerosis	ăr-tē''rē-ō-sklē-rō'sĩs	A condition in which the elastic and muscular tissues of the arteries are replaced with fibrous tissue.
assessing		The process of collecting, organizing, validating, and recording data about a client's health status.
aspiration	ăs-pĩ-ră'shũn	The withdrawal of fluid that is abnormally collected (pleural, abdominal cavity) or to obtain a specimen.
autonomy	aw-tõn'õ-mē	The state of being independent and self-directed, without outside control, to make one's own decisions.
autopsy	aw'tõp-sē	An examination of the body after death to determine the cause of death and to learn more about a disease process.
beneficence	bẽn-ěf'ă-sěns	The moral obligation to do good or to implement actions that benefit clients and their support persons.
bereavement	bē-rēv'měnt	A subjective response of a person who has experienced the loss of a significant other through death.
bioethics	bĩ''õ-éth'ĩks	Ethical rules or principles that govern right conduct concerning life.
biopsy	bĩ'õp-sē	The removal and examination of tissue from the living body.
biotransformation	bĩ'õ-trăns''fõr-mă'shũn	The conversion of molecules from one form to another within an organism; often associated with change in pharmacologic activity.

bronchoscopy	bröng-kös'kō-pē	An endoscope designed to pass through the trachea for visual inspection of the tracheobronchial tree. The device can be used for lavage, or to remove tissue for biopsy.
central venous catheter		Tube surgically inserted into a vein in the central circulation (usually superior vena cava). Commonly used for long-term IV therapy, nutritional support, or chemotherapy.
charting by exception		A method of documentation based on established standards of practice, for which reason only exceptions to these standards are documented.
civil law		The law that determines a person's legal rights and obligations in many kinds of activities involving other people. Also called private law
code of ethics		Formal statement of a group's expectations and standards for professional behavior generally accepted by members of the profession.
confidentiality		The statutorily protected right and duty of health professionals not to disclose information acquired during consultation with a patient.
criminal law		Law that deals with offenses against society.
cultural care		Delivery of care with appreciation of the external signs of diversity.
drug tolerance		Decreasing response to repeated doses of a medication. Person requires more of the drug to achieve desired effect.
dysphagia	dīs-fā'jē-ă	Inability to swallow or difficulty in swallowing.
drug toxicity		Dangerous or damaging effects of a drug on organs or tissue.
electrocardiogram (ECG)	ē-lĕk"trō-kār'dē-ō-grām"	A record of the electrical activity of the heart, consisting of waves called P, Q, R, S, T and sometimes U.
electroencephalogram (EEG)	ē-lĕk"trō-ĕn-sĕf'ă-lō-grām	A tracing on an electroencephalograph that records the electrical activity of the brain.
etiology	ē"tē-ōl'ō-jē	The study of the causes of disease.

focus charting		Documentation to make the client's concerns and strengths the focus of care. Three columns for recording are usually: date and time, focus, and progress notes.
generic name		In the pharmaceutical and commercial fields, a misnomer for nonproprietary name. Class is more appropriate and more often used than is "generic." Written in an initial capital letter and in italics.
goals/outcomes		End results of treatment or intervention.
health-care associated infections (HAIS)		Infections that patients acquire during the course of receiving treatment for other conditions or that health-care workers acquire while performing their duties within a healthcare setting.
hematoma	hē"mă-tō'mă	A swelling comprising a mass of extravasated blood confined to an organ, tissue, or space, and caused by a break in a blood vessel.
implementation		A step of the nursing process. It follows assessment, nursing diagnosis, and planning. In this stage, the nursing actions are carried out.
informed consent		Voluntary agreement given by a person or a responsible proxy for participation in a study, immunization program, or treatment regimen, after being informed of the purpose, methods, procedures, benefits, and risks.
jaundice	jawn'dīs	A yellowish staining of the integument, sclera, and deeper tissues and of the excretions with bile pigments, which are increased in plasma.
liable		In health care, denotes legal responsibility.
leucopenia	loo"ko-pē'nē-ă	Any condition in which the number of leukocytes in the circulating blood is lower than normal.
magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)		A diagnostic modality in which the magnetic nuclei of a patient are aligned in a strong, uniform magnetic field, absorb energy from tuned radiofrequency pulses, and emit radiofrequency signals as their excitation decays. These signals vary in intensity according to nuclear abundance and molecular chemical environment, are converted into sets of images.

narrative charting		Documentation that tells a story of the patient's experience in a chronological format. Useful in timeline of events.
nonmaleficence	non"mal-efi-sins	Ethical principle of doing no harm.
negligence		Failure to perform duties or activities with due diligence and attention or to meet the standards of regular care.
nursing diagnosis		The process of assessing potential or actual health problems, including those pertaining to an individual patient, a family, or community, that fall within the scope of nursing practice; a judgment or conclusion reached as a result of such assessment or derived from assessment data.
nursing intervention		Treatments that nurses perform in all settings and in all specialties.
peak plasma level		The highest concentration reached by a drug in the blood, as determined by therapeutic drug monitoring.
positron emission tomography (PET)		Tomographic images formed by computer analysis of photons detected from annihilation of positrons emitted by radionuclides incorporated into biochemical substances; the images, often quantitated with a color scales, show the uptake and distribution of the substances in the tissue, permitting analysis and localization of metabolic and physiologic function.
problem-oriented medical record (POMR)		A medical record model designed to organize patient information by the presenting problem.
process recording		Written conversation of client's verbal responses.
standards of care		The ordinary level of skill and care that any health-care practitioner would be expected to observe in caring for patients. Focus on clients.
standards of practice		Rules or definitions of competent care; guidelines for nursing.
therapeutic communication		Client-centered communication (share or receive information from others) directed at achieving goals. Focus on improving the health of the client, whether an individual or community.

trough level		The lowest concentration reached by a drug in the blood before the next dose is administered.
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