

Glossary

Vowels

i:	breech
i	flaky
ɪ	induce
e	sensory
æ	acne
ɑ:	harmful
ɒ	slot
ɔ:	morbid

ʊ	double-booked
u:	hallucination
u	cutaneous
ʌ	blunt
ɜ:	hernia
ə	enema
eɪ	sedate
əʊ	embryo

aɪ	angina
aʊ	drowsiness
ɔɪ	paranoia
ɪə	carrier
eə	Caesarean
ʊə	epidural

Consonants

p	pancreas
b	biopsy
t	transplant
d	dialysis
k	consent
g	grave
tʃ	discharge
dʒ	contagious

f	foetus
v	vision
θ	stethoscope
ð	withdrawal
s	stress
z	authorization
ʃ	feverish
ʒ	casualty

h	hygiene
m	malignant
n	nephrology
ŋ	scarring
l	loneliness
r	ratio
j	soluble
w	witness

absorption /əb'sɔ:pʃn/ *n* the process of a liquid, gas, or other substance being taken in

accuracy /'ækjərəsi/ *n* the ability to do something skilfully without making mistakes

acne /'ækni/ *n* a skin condition, mainly affecting young people, that produces many spots on the face

amniotic fluid /'æmniotik 'flu:ɪd/ *n* the liquid that surrounds a baby inside the mother's womb (= the organ in women in which babies develop before they are born)

amputation /'æmpju'teɪʃn/ *n* the removal of an arm, leg, etc. by cutting it off in an operation

angina /'æŋ'dʒɪnə/ *n* severe pain in the chest caused by a low supply of blood to the heart

antibody /'æntibɒdi/ *n* a protein produced in the body to fight disease

anus /'eɪnəs/ *n* the opening in a person's bottom through which solid waste leaves the body

apathetic /'æpə'tetɪk/ *adj* without energy and showing no interest or enthusiasm

asepsis /'eɪ'sepsɪs/ *n* the absence of bacteria, viruses, and other organisms that could cause disease

assess /ə'ses/ *v* to make a judgement about a patient's physical or mental health

atria /'etɪrɪə/ *n* the two upper spaces in the heart, used in the first stage of sending the blood around the body

atypical /'eɪ'tɪpɪkl/ *adj* not typical or usual

auditory /'ɔ:dətɪ/ *adj* connected with hearing

auscultation /'ɔ:skəl'teɪʃn/ *n* the process of listening, usually with a stethoscope, to sounds inside the body

authorization /'ɔ:θəraɪ'zeɪʃn/ *n* official permission

balance /'bæləns/ *n* the ability to keep steady with an equal amount of weight on each side of the body

beta blockers /'bi:tə 'blɒkəz/ *n* drugs used to control heart rhythm and blood pressure

bilaterally /'baɪ'lætərəli/ *adv* on both sides

bile duct /'baɪl dʌkt/ *n* a tube in the body that carries bile (= a greenish brown liquid that helps digestion of fat)

biopsy /'baɪɒpsi/ *n* the removal and examination of tissue from a patient's body, in order to find out more about their disease

birth plan /'bɜ:θ plæn/ *n* a document written by a woman who is going to give birth, describing what kind of medical treatment she wants

bladder /'blædə(r)/ *n* an organ like a bag in which liquid waste (= urine) collects before it is passed out of the body

bloodshot /'blʌdʃɒt/ *adj* (of eyes) with the part that is usually white full of red lines because of lack of sleep, etc.

blunt /blʌnt/ *adj* (used about an injury) caused by an object without a sharp edge or point, for example blunt head trauma

blurred vision /'blɜ:d 'vɪʒn/ *n* the inability to see clearly

breathlessness /'breθlɪsnəs/ *n* difficulty in breathing

breech /bri:tʃ/ *adj* used to describe a birth in which the baby's bottom or feet come out of the mother first

build up /bɪld 'ʌp/ *v* to form or develop

Caesarean /si'zeəriən/ *n* an operation in which an opening is cut in a woman's abdomen (= the part of the body below the chest) in order to take out a baby

cancellation /'kænsəl'eɪʃn/ *n* an appointment, a meeting, etc. that has been arranged but will now not happen

carcinogen /kɑ:'sɪnədʒən/ *n* a substance that can cause cancer

carrier /'kæriə(r)/ *n* a person or animal that carries a disease and is able to infect others but does not have any symptoms of the disease

casualty /'kæʒuəlti/ *n* a person who is injured or killed in an accident

catheter /'kæθɪtə(r)/ *n* a thin tube that is put into the body, usually in order to remove liquids such as urine

cerebral /'serəbrəl/ *adj* relating to the brain

chemotherapy /'ki:məʊ'θerəpi/ *n* the treatment of disease, especially cancer, with the use of chemical substances

clinical trial /'kli:nɪkl ,traɪəl/ *n* the process of testing a new drug on humans

collapse /kə'læps/ *v* to fall down because you are very ill, often becoming unconscious

colon /'kəʊlən/ *n* the main part of the large intestine, which absorbs water from waste that passes through it

colour-blindness /'kʌlə ,blændnəs/ *n* the inability to see the difference between colours such as red and green

commit suicide /kə'mɪt 'su:saɪd/ *v* to deliberately kill yourself

complaint /kəm'pleɪnt/ *n* a medical problem or symptom

complex /'kɒmpleks/ *adj* complicated and difficult

complications /,kɒmplɪ'keɪʃnz/ *n* new problems that make treatment of an illness more complicated and difficult

compulsory /kəm'pʌlsəri/ *adj* used about something that must be done because of a law or a rule

congestive heart failure /kən,dʒestɪv 'hɑ:t ,feɪljə(r)/ *n* a serious condition in which the heart is unable to pump enough blood to the body

consent /kən'sent/ *n* permission to do something

contagious /kən'teɪdʒəs/ *adj* (used about a disease) spread through physical contact

contractions /kən'trækʃnz/ *n* sudden tightening movements of the muscles around a woman's womb when she is giving birth

contraindication /,kɒntreɪ'ndɪ'keɪʃn/ *n* a possible reason for not giving someone a particular drug or medical treatment

conventional surgery /kən'venʃənəl ,sɜ:dʒəri/ *n* operations in which a patient's body is cut open using the standard techniques and equipment

cranial /'kremiəl/ *adj* relating to the bone structure that surrounds and protects the brain (= the cranium)

creativity /,kri:ə'tɪvəti/ *n* the ability and the imagination to create new things

critical /'krɪtɪkl/ *adj* (used in triage) extremely serious, needing to be dealt with immediately

crusty /'kræsti/ *adj* (used about the skin) having a hard outer layer

cutaneous /'kju:'teɪniəs/ *adj* connected with the skin

defecation /,defə'keɪʃn/ *n* the process of getting rid of solid waste from the body through the anus

delayed /dɪ'leɪd/ *adj* happening or arriving later than planned

depth perception /'depθ pə,sepʃn/ *n* the ability to judge distances in space using your sense of vision

detect /dɪ'tekt/ *v* to discover or notice something

dialysis /,daɪ'æləsɪs/ *n* a process for taking waste substances out of the blood of people with damaged kidneys

diastole /daɪ'æstəli/ *n* the stage of the heartbeat when the heart muscle relaxes and the heart fills with blood

dietary /'daɪətəri/ *adj* concerning the food that you eat and drink regularly

dilated /daɪ'leɪtɪd/ *adj* widened; opened

discharge /'dɪʃtʃɑ:dʒ/ *n* a thick substance that comes out from a part of the body, such as an infected eye

discomfort /dɪs'kʌmfət/ *n* a feeling of slight pain or of being physically uncomfortable

disfigurement /dɪs'fɪgəmənt/ *n* damage to a person's physical appearance

disregard /,dɪsrɪ'gɑ:d/ *n* lack of consideration for other people

DNA /,di: en 'eɪ/ *n* deoxyribonucleic acid (= the chemical in cells that carries genetic information)

donor /'dəʊnə(r)/ *n* a person who gives a part of their body (when alive or dead) to be used in medical treatment

dosage /'dəʊsɪdʒ/ *n* the amount of a medicine that should be taken

double-booked /,dʌbl 'bʊkt/ *adj* (used about an appointment, slot, etc.) promised to two different people by mistake

drain /drem/ *v* to make liquid flow away from something

dwel /dwel/ *v* (used about the liquid in dialysis) to remain in the patient's body

electrode /ɪ'lektroʊd/ *n* one of several electrical devices that are placed on a patient's body to measure electrical activity, for example when examining the heart

eligibility /,elɪdʒə'bɪləti/ *n* the ability to have or to do something because you are the right age, sex, etc.

elimination /ɪ,lɪmɪ'neɪʃn/ *n* the removal of waste products from the blood

embolism /'embəlɪzəm/ *n* a condition in which a blood clot or an air bubble blocks an artery

embryo /'embriəʊ/ *n* a human egg in the first eight weeks of development

enema /'enəmə/ *n* a procedure in which liquid is put into the body through the anus in order to clean out the intestine

epidemic /,epɪ'demɪk/ *n* a situation in which a serious disease spreads very quickly and infects many people in a particular community

epidural /,epɪ'dʒʊərəl/ *n* an injection into the lower part of the back so that no pain is felt below the waist

ethical /'eθɪkl/ *adj* connected with principles about what is right and wrong

exertion /ɪg'zɜ:ʃn/ *n* physical or mental effort

eyesight /'aɪsaɪt/ *n* the ability to see

familiar /fə'mɪliə(r)/ *adj* (used about a job, task, etc.) well known to you; not unusual

feverish /'fi:vəriʃ/ *adj* suffering from a fever

first come, first served /,fɜ:st 'kʌm ,fɜ:st 'sɜ:vɪd/ *adj* used to describe a system in which people are dealt with strictly in the order in which they arrive

flaky /'fleɪki/ *adj* (used about the skin) coming off in small, thin pieces

flash on and off /,flæʃ ,ɒn ənd 'ɒf/ *v* (used about a light on a machine) to shine and then stop shining repeatedly as a signal that something is happening

flatulence /'flætjʊləns/ *n* gas produced in your body when digesting food and released through the mouth or anus

foetus /'fi:təs/ *n* an unborn baby more than eight weeks after fertilization

follow-up /'fɒləʊ ʌp/ *adj* (used about a meeting with a doctor) taking place after an operation in order to check on the condition of the patient

full-blown /,fʊl 'bləʊn/ *adj* having all the characteristics of a disease

go off /gəʊ 'ɒf/ *v* (used about an alarm) to start ringing or making a noise

grave /ɡrev/ *adj* (used about a person's medical condition) very serious, requiring intensive care

haematoma /,hi:mə'təʊmə/ *n* a solid swelling, consisting of blood that has become thick

haemorrhage /'hemərɪdʒ/ *v* to lose blood heavily from a broken blood vessel, especially from an injury inside the body

hallucination /həˈluːsɪˈneɪʃn/ *n* the experience of seeing or hearing something that is not really there; the object seen or heard in this way

halo /ˈheɪləʊ/ *n* a circle of light, seen around bright objects

harmful /ˈhɑːmfʊl/ *adj* causing injury to a person's health or state of mind

heart murmurs /ˈhɑːt ˌmɜːməz/ *n* sounds made by the heart that are not normal

hernia /ˈhɜːniə/ *n* a condition in which part of an organ is pushed through a weak part of a wall inside the body

hygiene /ˈhaɪdʒiːn/ *n* the practice of keeping things clean in order to prevent illness and disease

impairment /ɪmˈpeəmənt/ *n* the state of having a physical or mental condition which means that part of your body or brain does not work correctly

incision /ɪnˈsɪʒn/ *n* a cut made during an operation

incurable /ɪnˈkjʊərəbl/ *adj* (used about an illness or disease) not able to be cured

induce /ɪnˈdjuːs/ *v* to deliberately make a woman start to give birth by giving her drugs

inflamed /ɪnˈfleɪmd/ *adj* (used about a part of the body) red and sore because of infection or injury

ingestion /ɪnˈdʒestʃən/ *n* the act of taking food, etc. into your body, usually by swallowing

initial /ɪˈnɪʃl/ *adj* happening at the beginning; first

inoculation /ɪˌnɒkjʊˈleɪʃn/ *n* the process of protecting a person against a particular disease by injecting them with a vaccine (= a mild form of the disease)

intelligence /ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns/ *n* the ability to learn, understand, and think about things

intention /ɪnˈtenʃn/ *n* what you plan or aim to do

intracranial /ɪˌmtrəˈkreɪniəl/ occurring inside the skull

intravenous /ɪˌmtrəˈviːnəs/ *adj* (used about drugs, an injection, etc.) going into a vein

invasion /ɪnˈveɪʒn/ *n* the movement of a disease from one cell or area of the body to another

isolation /aɪˌsəˈleɪʃn/ *n* the separation of a patient with an infectious disease from other patients

judgement /ˈdʒʌdʒmənt/ *n* the ability to make sensible decisions after carefully considering the best thing to do

keyhole surgery /ˈkiːhəʊl ˌsɜːdʒəri/ *n* operations in which only very small cuts are made in the patient's body

load up /ləʊd ˈʌp/ *v* to fill a machine with something so that it is ready to use

loneliness /ˈləʊnlinəs/ *n* a feeling of unhappiness because you have no friends or people to talk to

long-sightedness /ˌlɒŋ ˈsaɪtɪdnəs/ *n* the inability to see things clearly if they are close to you

lymph nodes /ˈlɪmf nəʊdz/ *n* small organs that prevent harmful substances from entering the blood and which produce white blood cells

malfunction /ˌmælˈfʌŋkʃn/ *n* (used about a machine or piece of equipment) a failure to work correctly

malignant /ˌmæˈlɪgnənt/ *adj* (used to describe cancer) able to spread to other parts of the body

metastasis /miˈtæstəsɪs/ *n* the spread of cancer to new areas of the body through the lymphatic or blood system

metastasized /miˈtæstəsəɪzd/ *adj* (used about cancer) having already spread to other areas of the body

miscarriage /ˈmɪskəriɪdʒ/ *n* giving birth to a baby before it is fully developed so that it is not able to survive

moisturizing cream /ˈmɔɪstʃəraɪzɪŋ ˌkriːm/ *n* a cream that is used to make the skin less dry

morbid /ˈmɔːbɪd/ *adj* not healthy; diseased

motor response /ˈməʊtə rɪˌspɒns/ *n* the ability of the patient to respond to a command by moving part of the body

mucous membrane /ˈmjʊːkəs ˌmembrem/ *n* a thin layer of skin that covers the inside of the mouth, nose, intestines, etc. and which produces mucus (= a thick liquid)

myocardial infarction /maɪəʊ kɑːdɪəl ɪnˈfɑːkʃn/ *n* the death of an area of heart muscle, caused by a block in its blood supply

nephrology /neˈfrɒlədʒi/ *n* the area of medicine concerned with the kidneys

obsession /əbˈseɪʃn/ *n* a state in which a person continuously thinks about one particular thing or person in a way that is not normal

ocular /ˈɒkjələ(r)/ *adj* relating to the eyes

oedema /ɪˈdiːmə/ *n* a condition in which liquid collects in the spaces inside the body and makes it swell

oesophagus /iˈsɒfəɡəs/ *n* the tube in the body through which food passes from the mouth to the stomach

optimum /ˈɒptɪmə/ *adj* the best possible; producing the best results

oral /ˈɔːrəl/ *adj* relating to the mouth

organ /ˈɔːɡən/ *n* a part of the body that has a particular purpose, such as the heart or lungs

out-of-hours /ˌaʊt əv ˈaʊəz/ *adj* (used about a service, an appointment, etc.) not taking place during normal working hours

pacemaker /ˈpeɪsmekə(r)/ *n* an electronic device that is put inside a person's body to help their heart beat regularly

palpitations /ˌpælpɪˈteɪʃnz/ *n* a physical condition in which your heart beats unusually fast

pancreas /ˈpæŋkriəs/ *n* an organ near the stomach that produces a liquid that helps the body to digest food

pandemic /pænˈdemɪk/ *n* a disease that spreads over a whole country or the whole world

paranoia /ˌpærəˈnɔɪə/ *n* a mental condition in which a person wrongly believes that other people want to harm them, or that they are an extremely important person, etc.

participant /ˈpɑːtɪsɪpənt/ *n* a person who is taking part in an experiment, a test, etc.

perception /ˈpɜːsepʃn/ *n* the way you notice things, especially with the senses

peritoneal /ˌperɪtəˈniəl/ *adj* of the membrane (= very thin layer of tissue) on the inside of the area below the chest, covering the stomach and other organs

persistent /pəˈsɪstənt/ *adj* continuing to do the same thing or to behave in the same way

phobia /ˈfəʊbiə/ *n* an extreme and unreasonable fear of something

placenta /ˈpləˌsentə/ *n* the organ in a mother's body that feeds and protects a baby before it is born

plague /pleɪɡ/ *n* any infectious disease that kills a lot of people

post-operative /ˈpəʊst ˌɒpəreɪtɪv/ *adj* connected with the period after an operation

postponed /pəˈspəʊnd/ *adj* (used about an appointment, etc.) arranged to take place at a later time or date

precision /prɪˈsɪʒn/ *n* the quality of being exact and precise, for example a precision instrument

presentation /ˌpreznˈteɪʃn/ *n* the position of a baby in the mother's body just before birth

presenting symptoms /prɪˈzentɪŋ ˌsɪmptəmz/ *n* the symptoms that cause a patient to go to a doctor for help

prognosis /ˈprɒɡˈnəʊsɪs/ *n* a prediction, based on medical evidence, of the likely development of an illness

prophylaxis /ˌprɒfɪˈlæksɪs/ *n* action taken to prevent disease

pulmonary veins /ˈpʌlmənəri veɪnz/ *n*

veins that carry blood containing oxygen from the lungs to the heart

pupil response /'pju:pl rɪˌspɒns/ *n* the reaction of the pupil (= the small round black area at the centre of the eye) to bright light

pus /pʌs/ *n* a thick yellow or green liquid that is produced in an infected wound

radiotherapy /ˌreɪdɪəʊˈθerəpi/ *n* the treatment of cancer or other disease using radiation

ramp /ræmp/ *n* a slope that can be moved, used when putting a patient in an ambulance

ratio /ˈreɪʃiəʊ/ *n* the relationship between two quantities, represented by two numbers that show how much larger one quantity is than the other

re-evaluate /ˌri:ɪˈvæljuet/ *v* to form a new opinion of the amount, value, or quality of something after thinking about it again

referral /rɪˈfɜ:rəl/ *n* sending a patient who needs special help to see an expert in that area of medicine

regime /ˈreɪʒi:m/ *n* a course of medical treatment that you follow in order to improve your health

rejection /rɪˈdʒekʃn/ *n* the process after a transplant in which the body does not accept the new organ and starts to attack it

remission /rɪˈmɪʃn/ *n* a period during which an illness temporarily improves and the patient seems to get better

reveal /rɪˈvi:l/ *v* to show something that was previously hidden

rinse off /ˈrɪnz ɒf/ *v* to remove soap, etc. from your skin by washing it with water

round-the-clock /ˌraʊnd ðə ˈklɒk/ *adj* all day; twenty-four hour

run out /ˌrʌn ˈaʊt/ *v* to use up or finish a supply of something

rupture /ˈrʌptʃə(r)/ *n* the tearing or bursting apart of an organ, for example the amniotic sac during childbirth

salivary glands /səˈlaɪvəri ɡlændz/ *n* small organs that produce a liquid in your mouth that helps you to swallow food

scaly /ˈskeɪli/ *adj* (used about the skin) hard and dry, with small pieces that come off

scarring /ˈska:ɪŋ/ *n* marks that are left on the skin after it has healed

schizophrenia /ˌʃkɪtsəˈfri:niə/ *n* a serious mental illness in which a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviour are not connected with reality

score /skɔ:(r)/ *n* the number of points that someone gets in a particular scale of measurement

screen /skri:n/ *v* to examine a person to find out if they have a particular illness

secretion /sɪˈkri:ʃn/ *n* the production of liquid substances by parts of the body

sedate /sɪˈdent/ *v* to give a patient drugs so that they sleep or become more calm

self-harm /self ˈhɑ:m/ *n* the act of deliberately injuring yourself, for example by cutting yourself, as a result of having emotional or mental problems

semi-urgent /ˈsemi ˌɜ:dʒənt/ *adj* (used in triage) not likely to die, needing to be dealt with within one hour

senile /ˈsi:nail/ *adj* connected with old age

sensitivity /ˌsensəˈtɪvəti/ *n* the quality of having an unusually strong physical reaction to something

sensory /ˈsensəri/ *adj* connected with the physical senses

short-sightedness /ˌʃɔ:t ˈsɑ:tɪdnəs/ *n* the inability to see things clearly if they are far away from you

shut down /ʃʌt ˈdaʊn/ *v* (used about a machine) to stop or switch off automatically

significant /ˌsɪɡˈnɪfɪkənt/ *adj* large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed

site /saɪt/ *n* a place or location

skin graft /ˈskɪn ɡrɑ:ft/ *n* an operation in which healthy skin is taken from one part of the body and placed over another area that has been burned or damaged

slot /slɒt/ *n* a period of time in a schedule, for example when a patient can arrange to meet a doctor

soluble /ˈsɒljəbl/ *adj* able to dissolve in a liquid

stable /ˈsteɪbl/ *adj* (used about a person's medical condition) not becoming worse; under control

staging /ˈsteɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* a system used to judge how far a cancer has developed; a diagnosis based on this system

stethoscope /ˈsteθəskəʊp/ *n* an instrument used to listen to a person's heart and breathing

stool /stu:l/ *n* a piece of solid waste from a person's body

stress /stres/ *n* pressure or worry caused by work, emotional problems, etc.

success rate /səkˈses ˌreɪt/ *n* the number of people who are cured by a particular treatment, used to judge if it is an effective cure

successive /səkˈsesɪv/ *adj* (used about appointments, etc.) following one after the other; future, subsequent

survivable /səˈvaɪvəbl/ *adj* (used about an injury, illness, etc.) able to be survived

synthetic /sɪnˈθetɪk/ *adj* made by combining chemicals rather than produced naturally; artificial

tendency /ˈtendənsi/ *n* if someone has a particular tendency, they often behave or act in that particular way

terminal /ˈtɜ:mɪnəl/ *adj* (used about an illness) not able to be cured and leading to death

tolerance /ˈtɒlərəns/ *n* the inability to receive any benefit from a particular medicine because your body has become used to it

topical cream /ˈtɒpɪkl kri:m/ *n* cream that is applied to a localized part of the body and is used to treat certain skin conditions, such as eczema

transmission /trænsˈmɪʃn/ *n* the act or process of passing a disease from one person to another

transplant /ˈtrænsplɑ:nt/ *n* a medical operation in which a damaged organ is replaced with one taken from another person

turn into /tɜ:n ˈɪntu/ *v* to change into; to become

uterine /ˈju:təraɪn/ *adj* relating to the uterus (= the organ in women in which babies develop)

vacant /ˈveɪkənt/ *adj* (used about a slot) available; not taken

venous /ˈvi:nəs/ *adj* relating to veins

ventricles /ˈventrɪklz/ *n* the two lower spaces in the heart that pump blood to the lungs or around the body

vision /ˈvɪʒn/ *n* the ability to see

visual acuity /ˌvɪʒuəl əˈkju:əti/ *n* the ability to see clearly

visual field /ˌvɪʒuəl ˈfi:ld/ *n* the total area that you can see without moving your head

waters /ˈwɔ:təz/ *n* the liquid inside a woman's body that breaks (= passes out of her) just before the baby is born

withdrawal /wɪðˈdrɔ:əl/ *n* behaviour in which a person wants to be alone and shows no interest in other people or things

witness /ˈwɪtnəs/ *n* a person who sees a crime or an accident and is able to describe what happened