



The Emily Center

What does that mean? Medical terms you may hear or see

Procedure/Treatment/Home Care
Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

#563

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

What does that mean?

Medical terms you may hear or see

When doctors and nurses talk to you, they should explain all the medical terms they use in words you understand. If they forget and use words you don't understand, stop them, and ask what the word means. (If you don't, you may not understand the rest of what they are saying.)

You have the right to have health care providers explain things in words you understand.

However, sometimes you may overhear two doctors talking, or see a sign on the wall, and hear or see a new word or abbreviation. Here's a short list of some of the terms we often use around the hospital.

If Phoenix Children's Hospital has a handout that explains the term in more detail, you will see a □ and a number after the definition. If you want to learn more, ask your nurse or doctor for that handout.

Apnea monitor A machine that can tell when breathing or heart rate slows or stops. It measures this by a belt that is placed around the chest. Usually used with babies.

Art line Arterial line. An IV that goes into an artery.

Barium swallow A test used to see how the patient swallows food and liquids.

BID	Two times a day.
Central line	An IV that goes into a large blood vessel near the heart.
CPT	Chest physiotherapy. A way to loosen mucous from the lungs by clapping on the chest wall. □ 55a, 55b
CT scan	Computerized tomography. A special x-ray test. □ 93
Echo	Echocardiogram. A test that uses sound waves to see the heart and its big arteries and veins. □ 513
EEG	Electroencephalogram. A test to see the patterns of the electrical waves in the brain. □ 297
EKG	Electrocardiogram. A test to see the electrical patterns of the heart. □ 511
GI or GI Tract	Gastrointestinal tract. The tube in the body that runs from the mouth, down the esophagus, to the stomach, small intestine, large intestine, and rectum.
Heplock	Heparin lock. A cap that goes on an IV that is not in use. The medicine heparin is put into it to keep the blood from clotting in the tube, so the IV can be used again. □ 107
HS	Hour of sleep. At bedtime.
Hyperal	Hyperalimentation. Nutrition given by IV. Food through the vein. Also called TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition).
I & O	Intake and output. The measure of the fluid that goes into the body, and the fluid that comes out.
IMed	The machine that measures and controls the amount of fluid that goes through an IV. Also called a plum pump.

IV	Intravenous, which means into a vein. A small plastic tube that goes into the vein. It can be connected to tubing that lets fluid run into the bloodstream. □ 107
LP	Lumbar puncture or spinal tap. A test where a little fluid is taken from around the spine, to check for disease. □ 178
MBS	Modified barium swallow. A test used to see how the patient swallows food and liquids.
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging. A test that uses magnetic waves to see inside the body. □ 94
NPO	Nothing by mouth. (Not allowed to eat or drink.)
O ₂	Oxygen.
Oximeter	A machine that measures the amount of oxygen in the blood from the skin.
Plum pump	The machine that measures and controls the amount of fluid that goes through an IV. Also called an IMed.
PO	By mouth.
PRN	As needed.
QD	Every day.
QID	Four times a day.
Short Stay	A hospital admission of 23 hours or less.
Spinal tap	Spinal tap or lumbar puncture. A test where a little fluid is taken from around the spine, to check for disease. / 178
STAT	Now, right away, urgent.

SVN	Small volume nebulizer. A machine that turns liquid medicine into a fine mist, so you can breathe it into the lungs. 📄 31
TID	Three times a day.
TPN	Total Parenteral Nutrition. Nutrition given by IV. Food through the vein. Also called hyperal (hyperalimentation).
UGI	Upper gastrointestinal radiography. A test that uses x-rays to see how the GI tract is working.
US or Ultrasound	Ultrasound. A test that uses sound waves to see inside the body.

If you see or hear other words you don't understand, write them down. Then ask your nurse or doctor what they mean, and write the meanings next to them.



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
 visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital:
 1919 East Thomas Road in Phoenix
 602-546-1400
www.phoenixchildrenshospital.com

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

Thursday, October 5, 2006 • DRAFT in family review
 #563 • Written by The Parents' Advisory Council



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Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 563
For office use: Date returned: _____ db nb

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

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Thank you for helping us!