

The following COMMUNICATOR's Medical Terminology List needs your input, correction or comment. Where no explanation or definition is provided, please contribute as your knowledge or experience dictates. When inserting new entries, please do so in blue for recognition. Thanks.

**ABCs = Initial steps in management of trauma, a.k.a 'ABCDE' or 'Primary survey'**

**"A through D" ratings**

**10 units of PC = 10 units of packed red blood cells**

**2-PAMCI = 2-pam chloride or 2-PAM or pralidoxime chloride – a nerve agent antidote, used along with atropine**

**4 u of O = 4 units of type O blood**

**ABG = Arterial Blood Gas**

**AFRRI = Armed Forces Radiobiological Research Institute**

**AGONAL = Near death or dying**

**AKA = Also Known As**

**A-line = Arterial blood pressure invasive monitoring line**

**ATLS protocol = Advanced Trauma Life Support protocol**

**BAL = British Anti Lewisite**

**BID = twice a day**

**Bolus = A ball or mass of material in the GI tract or other**

**area, also - administering a drug in a single large dose.**

**B/P = Blood Pressure**

**BSI = Body substance isolation**

**BYCE =**

**C, T, L, S spines = Cervical, Thoracic, Lumbar, Sacral spine view X-rays**

**C-arm = Portable x-ray fluoroscopy unit**

**CATSCAN = Computer Aided Tomography scan a.k.a CT**

**CBC = complete blood count**

**CBR = Chemical, Biological and Radiological**

**CDC = Communicable Disease Center, or Center for Disease Control.**

**cGy = centiGray units of radiological exposure, usually about 1 rad**

**CHI = Closed head injury**

**CLASS I, II, III, IV SHOCK = Blood loss on patient's initial presentation (milliliters up to 750, 1500, 2000, >2000)**

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**CNS function = Central Nervous System function**

**Code Adam = Abducted or missing Infant/Child (a.k.a Code Amber) (NB: color codes are not standardized between hospitals)**

**Code Blue = Patient expiring, come quickly to help.**

**Code Gray = Violent or disruptive behavior (UCSD), Stroke (Scripps)**

**Code Orange = Internal Hospital Emergency**

**Code Pink = Maternal/Child Emergency response**

**Code Red = Fire response**

**Code Stroke = Patient with signs of stroke (numbness, weakness, dizziness, headache, confusion)**

**Code Ten: Bomb Threat**

**Code Trauma = Trauma patient requiring trauma team response expected**

**Code Triage = Mass Casualty**

**CPAP/PS = Continuous Positive Airtway Pressure with Pressure**

**Support – (a mode of ventilator operation)**

**CPR = Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation**

**CPP = Cerebral perfusion pressure**

**C-spine = Cervical Spine**

**CT = Computed Tomography**

**CVA = Cerebrovascular Accident (Stroke), also costovertebral angle**

**CVP = Central Venous Pressure**

**CXR = Chest – X-ray**

**DC = Dis-Continue or Discharge**

**DMAT = Disaster Medical Assistance Team**

**DFA = Direct immunofluorescent antibody test**

**DPL = Diagnostic Peritoneal Lavage**

**EBL = Estimated Blood Loss**

**EEG = Electro Encephelo Graph**

**ED = Emergency Department**

**EKG = Electro Kardio Gram**

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**ELISA = Enzyme-Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay**

**ENT = Ear Nose & Throat**

**ER = Emergency Room**

**ETCO<sub>2</sub> = End-tidal carbon dioxide**

**ETT = Endotracheal tube**

**Ex Lap = Exploratory Laporotomy**

**F/U = Follow-up**

**f/Vt (liters) = Frequency divided by tidal volume (a.k.a RSBI, Rapid Shallow Breathing Index or Tobin Index)**

**FEF devices = ?carbon dioxide analyser**

**FFP = Fresh Frozen Plasma**

**GCS = Glasgow Coma Scale (scale of 3-15 indicating brain function)**

**GCS<13 = Glasgow Coma Scale less than 13 (out of 15).**

**GI = Gastro Intestinal**

**GSW = Gunshot wound**

**H&P = History & Physical**

**Hemothorax = Blood in the chest cavity.**

**H/H = Hemoglobin and Hematocrit**

**HCG = Human Chorionic Gonaditropin (pregnancy test)**

**Hg = Mercury (element) used in pressure measurements**

**Hgb = Hemoglobin**

**HOB = Head of Bed**

**I.V. = Intra venous**

**IV/IO = Intravenous Intake & Output.**

**ICP = Intracranial Pressure**

**ICU = Intensive Care Unit**

**IMU = Intermediate Care Unit**

**INR = International Normalized Ratio**

**ISS > 25 = Injury Severity Scale greater than 25 (scale of 1 to 75)**

**IV = Intra venous**

**IV/IO/ET = Intravenously/ intraosseously/ endotracheally**

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**IVC = inferior vena cava**

**IVP = Intravenous Pyelogram**

**JCAHO = Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals Organization.**

**LFT = Liver function tests**

**LOC = Loss of consciousness or level of consciousness**

**Lugol's Solution = Strong Iodine solution used in the Clinical Lab and for skin disinfection.**

**M&M = Morbidity and Mortality**

**MD = Medical Doctor**

**mg/kg = Milligram per Kilogram**

**MI = Myocardial infarction (heart attack)**

**MICN = Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (RN working ambulance radios at base station hospital)**

**MIVT Report = M: Mechanism of injury; I: Injuries; V: Vital Signs; T; Treatment or therapies**

**mL = milliliters**

**MRAT = Medical Radiological Advisory Team**

**MRI = Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

**NGT = nasogastric tube**

**NICU = Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**

**NSTEMI = Non ST segment Elevation (on EKG) myocardial infarction (heart attack – often “silent”)**

**NPO = Nothing by mouth**

**NSAID = Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug**

**O/G Tube = orogastric tube**

**O.R. = Operating Room**

**OOB = Out of Bed**

**OR = Operating Room**

**OR Resus = Operating room resuscitation (for severely injured trauma patient)**

**PaCO<sub>2</sub> = Partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> in the blood**

**PACU = Post anesthetic care unit (a.k.a. recovery unit)**

**PAMCL = 2-pam chloride or 2-PAM or pralidoxime chloride – a**

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**nerve agent antidote, used along with atropine**

**PC = packed blood cells or pressure control ventilation**

**PCR = polymerase chain reaction**

**PEEP = Positive end expiratory pressure**

**pH = Units of Acidity**

**PRBC = Packed Red Blood Cells**

**PRN = As Needed**

**PRS**

**PT = Prothrombin Time**

**PTT = Partial thromboplastin time**

**q12-24h = Every 12 to 24 hours**

**QD = Every Day**

**QRS = main waveform of EKG from ventricular electrical impulse**

**rad = unit of radiological exposure = about 1 centiGray**

**R/O BAT = rule out blunt abdominal trauma**

**R2 = Second year Resident physician**

**R3 = Third year Resident physician**

**RCP = Respiratory Care Practitioner (a.k.a RT – Respiratory Therapist)**

**RN = Registered Nurse**

**R/O = rule out**

**RR = Respiration Rate**

**RSBI/Tobin Index = Rapid Shallow Breathing Index or Tobin Index, (a.k.a. f/Vt)**

**RSI = Rapid Sequence Incubation**

**RSO = Radiation Safety Officer**

**RT Protocol**

**SaO2 = Saturated Oxygen**

**Shelter in Place = Seal off external air and limit external access**

**SICU = Surgical Intensive Care Unit**

**SIMV/PS = Synchronized Intermittent Mandatory**

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**Ventilation with Pressure Support (a mode of respiratory ventilator operation)**

**SNF = Skilled Nursing Facility (a.k.a. nursing home or convalescent hospital)**

**STEER protocol = Protocol to wean patient from ventilator (Screen, Test, Exercise, Evaluate, Report)**

**STEMI = ST segment Elevation (on EKG) myocardial infarction (heart attack)**

**SYS = systolic blood pressure**

**TBSA = Total Body Surface Area**

**TID = Three times per day**

**T-L = Thoracic Lumbar Spine**

**TTP = tender to palpation**

**TRR = Trauma Resuscitation Room**

**Trauma STAT = Trauma Emergency**

**UGIB = Upper GI Bleeding**

**UCSD = University of California at San Diego**

**UCSF = University of California at San Francisco**

**ug/kg = micrograms per kilogram**

**XRAY = Radiology Dept.**

**Yankauer = suction device a.k.a. tonsil suction**

**Zone II injury = Zone II neck penetrating injury – (i.e. below angle of jaw but above cricoid)**