

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

ETCO₂ = 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)

PaCO₂ = Partial pressure of CO₂ 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)