

# Specialty Terminology Cheat Sheets

Clinical Rotation Ready · Handout 10 of 17

10 / 17

Cardiology	Definition
Angina pectoris	Chest pain from reduced blood flow to heart muscle
Arrhythmia	Irregular heart rhythm
Atherosclerosis	Hardening of arteries due to plaque buildup
Cardiomegaly	Enlargement of the heart
Congestive heart failure (CHF)	Heart cannot pump sufficient blood
Coronary artery disease (CAD)	Narrowing of coronary arteries
Echocardiogram	Ultrasound image of the heart
Ejection fraction (EF)	% of blood pumped out per heartbeat (normal 55–70%)
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Heart attack; death of heart muscle
Palpitations	Awareness of abnormal or forceful heartbeat
Pericarditis	Inflammation of the sac around the heart
Stenosis	Narrowing of a valve or vessel
Troponin	Cardiac enzyme released during heart muscle damage

Oncology	Definition
Adenocarcinoma	Malignant tumor of glandular tissue
Adjuvant therapy	Treatment given after primary therapy
Benign	Non-cancerous tumor that does not invade or metastasize
Carcinoma	Cancer arising from epithelial cells
Chemotherapy	Drug treatment to kill or slow cancer cells
Differentiation	Degree to which cancer cells resemble normal cells
Lymphadenopathy	Disease/enlargement of lymph nodes
Malignant	Cancerous; tendency to invade and spread
Metastasis	Spread of cancer to distant sites
Neoplasm	New, abnormal tissue growth (tumor)
Palliative	Treatment focused on symptom relief, not cure
Remission	Decrease or disappearance of cancer signs/symptoms
Sarcoma	Cancer arising from connective tissue

# Specialty Terminology Cheat Sheets

Clinical Rotation Ready · Handout 10 of 17

10 / 17

Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN)	Definition
Amenorrhea	Absence of menstruation
Antepartum	Before birth
Cesarean section (C-section)	Delivery through abdominal incision
Eclampsia	Seizures in a pregnant patient with preeclampsia
Ectopic pregnancy	Implantation outside the uterus
Endometriosis	Uterine lining tissue found outside the uterus
Gravida	Number of times a woman has been pregnant
Hysterectomy	Surgical removal of the uterus
Menarche	First menstrual period
Menorrhagia	Abnormally heavy or prolonged menstrual flow
Para	Number of deliveries after 20 weeks gestation
Postpartum	After birth
Preeclampsia	Hypertension + proteinuria during pregnancy

Neurology	Definition
Aphasia	Loss or impairment of language ability
Ataxia	Loss of coordination/balance
Cerebrovascular accident (CVA)	Stroke; disrupted blood supply to brain
Concussion	Mild traumatic brain injury
Diplopia	Double vision
Dysarthria	Difficulty speaking due to motor dysfunction
Encephalopathy	Brain disease, damage, or malfunction
Hemiplegia	Paralysis of one side of the body
Meningitis	Inflammation of membranes covering brain/spinal cord
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Demyelinating disease of the CNS
Neuropathy	Disease or dysfunction of peripheral nerves
Seizure	Sudden, uncontrolled electrical activity in the brain
Syncope	Transient loss of consciousness; fainting

# Specialty Terminology Cheat Sheets

Clinical Rotation Ready · Handout 10 of 17

10 / 17

Orthopedics	Definition
Arthroplasty	Surgical repair or replacement of a joint
Bursitis	Inflammation of a bursa (fluid-filled sac near joint)
Comminuted fracture	Bone broken into multiple fragments
Crepitus	Crackling/grating sound in joints
Dislocation	Displacement of bone from joint
Greenstick fracture	Incomplete fracture; one side of bone bends
Kyphosis	Excessive outward curvature of the spine (hunchback)
Lordosis	Excessive inward curvature of the lumbar spine
ORIF	Open reduction internal fixation (fracture repair)
Osteoarthritis	Degenerative joint disease from cartilage breakdown
Osteomyelitis	Bone infection
Scoliosis	Lateral curvature of the spine
Sprain	Ligament injury from overstretching

Pulmonology / Respiratory	Definition
Apnea	Cessation of breathing
Asthma	Chronic inflammatory airway disease with bronchospasm
Atelectasis	Collapsed or incomplete expansion of lung tissue
Bronchiectasis	Permanent dilation of bronchi
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	Obstructive airflow limitation
Cyanosis	Bluish discoloration from lack of oxygenation
Dyspnea	Difficulty or labored breathing
Hemoptysis	Coughing up blood
Hypercapnia	Elevated CO <sub>2</sub> in blood
Hypoxia	Reduced oxygen in tissues
Pleural effusion	Fluid accumulation in pleural space
Pneumothorax	Air in the pleural space causing lung collapse
Tachypnea	Abnormally rapid breathing

# Specialty Terminology Cheat Sheets

Clinical Rotation Ready · Handout 10 of 17

10 / 17

Gastroenterology	Definition
Ascites	Fluid accumulation in the peritoneal cavity
Cholecystitis	Inflammation of the gallbladder
Cirrhosis	Chronic liver scarring
Colitis	Inflammation of the colon
Crohn's disease	Chronic inflammatory bowel disease
Diverticulitis	Inflammation of diverticula in the colon
Dysphagia	Difficulty swallowing
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	Acid reflux into the esophagus
Hematemesis	Vomiting blood
Hepatomegaly	Enlargement of the liver
Ileus	Intestinal obstruction; absence of peristalsis
Melena	Tarry black stool indicating upper GI bleeding
Pancreatitis	Inflammation of the pancreas

Endocrinology	Definition
Acromegaly	Excess growth hormone causing enlarged extremities
Addison's disease	Adrenal insufficiency; low cortisol/aldosterone
Cushing's syndrome	Excess cortisol; weight gain, moon face
Diabetes insipidus	Deficient ADH; excess dilute urine
Diabetes mellitus type 1	Autoimmune destruction of insulin-producing cells
Diabetes mellitus type 2	Insulin resistance + relative insulin deficiency
Exophthalmos	Protrusion of the eyeball; seen in Graves' disease
Glycosuria	Glucose in the urine
Hyperglycemia	Elevated blood glucose
Hypoglycemia	Low blood glucose
Hypothyroidism	Underactive thyroid; low T3/T4
Polydipsia	Excessive thirst
Thyrotoxicosis / Graves' disease	Autoimmune hyperthyroidism