

2025 WISCONSIN CNA STATE EXAM VOCABULARY	
Abandonment	To leave completely and finally forsake utterly desert
Abdominal thrust	Method of attempting to remove an object from the airway of someone who is choking.
Abductor wedge	A health aid that enables the user to maintain proper leg positioning while recovering from hip replacements or fractures
Abnormal vital	There are four main vital signs: body temperature, blood pressure, pulse and breathing rate. For each there is a normal measurement range. Measurements outside the range can be considered abnormal (deviant/atypical).
Absorption	The process of taking in something, such as water in a natural or gradual way
Abuse	Purposeful mistreatment that causes physical, mental or emotional pain or injury to someone,
Accountable	Subject to the obligation to report, explain, or justify something responsible answerable.
Accreditation	Health care facilities that meet standards established by professional organizations; official recognition that the facility provides care to a certain standard
Activities	A thing that a person or group does or has done.
Activities of Daily Living (ADL's)	Daily personal care tasks such as bathing caring for skin, nails, hair, and teeth dressing, toileting eating, and drinking walking and transferring.
Acute	Characterized by sharpness or severity of sudden onset
Acute Care setting	Provides care to people who become sick or injured suddenly, or who have other conditions (such as delivering a baby) that require short-term health care
Acute Condition	An illness or injury that develops rapidly and usually resolves completely after a period of time with treatment
Adaptive	Engaged in by disabled persons with the aid of equipment or techniques adapted for a
Adaptive devices	Special equipment that helps a person who is ill or disabled to perform activities of daily living also called assistive devices,
Adduction	To draw (as a limb) toward or past the median axis of the body also: to bring together (similar parts)
Admission	The act or process of accepting someone into a hospital, clinic, or other treatment facility as an inpatient
Admitting resident	To accept (resident) into a hospital, clinic, or other treatment facility as an inpatient
Advance directives	A legal document stating how a person wants health decisions made if he or she is unable to make or communicate these decisions independently in the future
Afebrile	Free from fever: not marked by fever
Affected side	A weakened side from a stroke or injury also called weaker or involved side
Age-related memory impairment	Difficulties remembering or recalling information, or learning new information, that occur with normal aging and do not impair a person's ability to carry out normal routines and activities
Aging process	The biological process of growing older.
Agitation	A state of excessive psychomotor activity accompanied by increased tension and irritability
Agnosia	The inability to interpret sensory input to recognize familiar things or people
Alignment	Good posture
Alzheimer's disease	A progressive, incurable disease that causes tangled nerve fibers and protein deposits to form in the brain, eventually causing dementia.
Ambulation	Walking
Amnesia	Memory loss
Amputees	One that has had a limb cut from the body
Anatomy	A work describing the form and structure of an organism and its various parts
Anemia	A condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or of hemoglobin in the blood
Angina	Chest pain, pressure, or discomfort that occurs because the heart is not getting enough oxygen
Anorexia	Loss or lack of appetite, an emotional disorder characterized by an obsessive desire to lose weight by refusing to eat.
Anterior	Relating to or situated near or toward the head
Antibiotics	A medicine (such as penicillin or its derivatives) that inhibits the growth of or destroys microorganisms.
Anxiety	A feeling of unease, dread, or worry

Aphasia	Problems with communication resulting from damage to the brain, loss of speech, difficulty using or understanding words.
Apical pulse	The pulse on the left side of the chest, just below the nipple.
Apnea	The absence of breathing
Appetite	Desire for food
Arteries	Vessels that carry blood away from the heart.
Arteriosclerosis	The thickening and hardening of the walls of the arteries, occurring typically in old age
Arthritis	A condition that causes joints to become inflamed, swollen, stiff and painful
Aspiration	The inhalation of food, fluid, or foreign material into the lung
Aspiration Pneumonia	Pneumonia that occurs when foreign material (such as food or vomit) is inhaled into the lungs
Assault	Threat to harm a person, resulting in the person feeling fearful that he or she will be harmed
Assisted Living Facility	Provides care to people who require some assistance with tasks such as activities of daily living or reminders to take medications, but are otherwise fairly independent
Assistive device	Special equipment that helps a person who is ill or disabled to perform ADLS.
Asthma	An illness in which certain substances or conditions, called "triggers," cause inflammation and constriction of the airways, making breathing difficult
Atrophy	The wasting away, decreasing in size of muscle from lack of use
Audiologist	A health care professional who is trained to evaluate hearing loss and related disorders, including balance (vestibular) disorders and tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and to rehabilitate individuals with hearing loss and related disorders
Authorized duty	Means approval has been granted by the employer to perform a specific type of duty or
Automated External Defibrillator (AED)	Portable electronic device that delivers a shock automatically or with a push of a button to help the heart restore an effective pumping rhythm
Axillary temperature	The body temperature as recorded by a thermometer placed in the armpit.
Bacteria	Disease causing germs
Balance	Stability achieved through the even distribution of weight
Basic needs	Physical, emotional mental, and social requirements
Bathing	A washing or immersion of something, especially the body, in water for cleansing purposes or medical treatment.
Battery	Actually touching another person in a harmful or unwelcome way such as hitting, pinching or slapping
Bed cradle	A device attach to the foot of bed to keep bed linens from touching, rubbing sensitive skin, or putting pressure on your legs, feet, and toes. Can also be used to prevent "foot drop".
Bedrest	Confinement to bed as part of treatment.
Behavior	The way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially toward others.
Behavioral care plan	A plan that assists a member in building positive behaviors to replace or reduce a challenging/dangerous behavior. This plan may include teaching, improved communication, increasing relationships, and using clinical interventions, etc.
Beliefs	Individual viewpoints, feelings, and opinions.
Benign	Noncancerous
Bereavement Care	Care that is provided for people who are grieving after a person dies
Biohazard	A biological agent or condition that is a hazard to humans or the environment.
Bipolar disorder	A type of depression that causes a person to have mood swings and changes in energy levels and ability to function also called manic depression.
Bisexual	A person who is attracted to people of both sexes
Bladder training	A behavior therapy that can be effective in treating urinary incontinence. The goals are to increase the amount of time between emptying the bladder and the amount of fluids the bladder can hold. It also can diminish leakage and the sense of urgency associated with the problem.
Bleeding	Losing blood.
Blindness	Sightless.
Blood pressure	Force of blood against walls of blood vessels
Bloodborne Pathogens	A disease-causing microbe that is transmitted through contact with an infected person's blood

Body alignment	Body alignment refers to how the head, shoulders, spine, hips, knees and ankles relate and line up with each other. Proper alignment of the body puts less stress on the spine and helps you have good posture.
Body fluid	Liquid or semi-liquid substances produced by and released from the body, such as blood, urine, feces, saliva, sputum (mucus coughed up), vomit, semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk, pus or other wound drainage, tears, and sweat.
Body language	All conscious or unconscious messages your body sends as you communicate, such as facial expressions, shrugging, your shoulders and wringing your hands.
Body mechanics	The way the parts of the body work together when a person moves. Using one's body in a safe and efficient way to accomplish tasks such as lifting, pushing and pulling.
Body system	Groups of organs that perform specific functions in the human body.
Body temperature	The normal temperature of the human body. A person's normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit or 37 degrees Celsius.
Bone loss	A disease that causes bones to become brittle and more likely to fracture (break). With osteoporosis, the bones lose density. Bone density is the amount of bone tissue that is in your bones.
Bony Prominences	Parts of the body where there is only a thin layer of fat and muscle between the skin and the underlying bone or cartilage
Bowel program	A program that helps people who have chronic constipation or a frequent loss of bowel control. The program involves trying to go to the bathroom at the same time every day in an attempt to help train the body to have regular bowel movements.
Brain stem	The part of the brain composed of the midbrain, pons, and medulla oblongata and connecting the spinal cord with the forebrain and cerebrum.
Breathing	The process of taking air into and expelling it from the lungs.
Brittle bones	A genetic disorder that causes your bones to break very easily, usually without any type of injury, as from a fall.
Burnout	Mental or physical exhaustion due to a prolonged period of stress and frustration.
Burns	Tissue damage that results from heat, overexposure to the sun or other radiation, or chemical or electrical contact. Burns can be minor medical problems or life-threatening emergencies.
Call light	A device used by a resident to signal his or her need for assistance from professional staff.
Calorie	The unit of measure used to describe the amount of energy a food supplies
Cancer	The abnormal growth of new cells that crowd out or destroy other body tissues
Cardiac arrest	Heart attack.
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)	Care that is required when a person loses consciousness, stops breathing, or has no pulse because the person's heart or lungs have stopped working properly.
Cardiovascular system	Organ system that conveys blood through vessels to and from all parts of the body, carrying nutrients and oxygen to tissues and removing carbon dioxide and other waste
Care impaired	Doing most if not all of the ADLs for an impaired resident
Care plan	A plan developed for each resident to achieve certain goals, it outlines the steps and tasks that the care team must perform
Cataract	A condition in which the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, causing vision loss.
Catheter	Tube inserted through the skin or into a body opening that is used to add or drain fluid.
Catheter care	The process of ensuring the catheter is working properly and ensuring the tube and the area where catheter attaches to body has been properly cleaned so the resident does not get an infection or skin irritation.
Central nervous system	Part of the nervous system made up of the brain and spinal cord.
Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA) also known as a Stroke	Occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain is interrupted, resulting in the death of brain cells, or bleeding into the brain tissue. A sudden impairment or loss of consciousness, sensation, and voluntary motion that is caused by rupture, blockage, or obstruction (as by a clot) of a blood vessel supplying the brain and is accompanied by permanent damage of brain
Chain of command	The line of authority within a facility
Charge nurse	A nurse responsible for a team of healthcare workers.
Chemical disinfection	Chemical substances which are used to kill or deactivate pathogenic microorganisms

Chemical restraint	Medications used to control a person's behavior.
Chemotherapy	Treatment that uses drugs to stop the growth of cancer cells, either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing. Chemotherapy may be given by mouth, injection, or infusion, or on the skin, depending on the type and stage of the cancer being treated. It may be given alone or with other treatments, such as surgery, radiation therapy, or biologic therapy.
Choking	Having severe difficulty in breathing because of a constricted or obstructed throat or lack of
Chronic	Long-term or long-lasting.
Chronic Heart Failure	A condition that occurs when the heart is damaged or weak and is unable to effectively pump blood throughout the body
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	A term used to describe lung disorders that make it difficult for air to enter or leave the lungs
Circulation	The movement of blood through the vessels of the body induced by the pumping action of the heart.
Circulatory system	The system of blood, blood vessels, lymphatics, and heart concerned with the circulation of the blood and lymph
Clear liquid diet	A clear liquid diet consists of clear liquids — such as water, broth and plain gelatin — that are easily digested and leave no undigested residue in your intestinal tract.
Clergy	A group ordained to perform pastoral or sacerdotal functions in a Christian church
Client	A person who receives home health care
Cognitively impaired	Difficulty with thinking processes involving memory, reasoning, judgment and language, such as that caused by disorders like Alzheimer’s disease (a form of dementia)
Cold application	Ice pack for 20 minutes. Stimulation of the surface of the skin and underlying tissues with a cold agent cooler than skin either in a moist or dry form, for the purpose of decreasing pain, muscle spasms, or inflammation.
Colostomy	Surgically created opening through the abdominal wall into the large intestine to allow feces to be expelled.
Colostomy care	Refers to the process of ensuring the colostomy pouch is emptied one or more times daily, the pouch itself is changed every four to six days and the stoma and surrounding skin is kept clean and sanitary.
Coma	State of unconsciousness in which a person is unable to respond to any change in the environment, including pain.
Combative resident	A person who displays violent or hostile behavior
Comfort (supportive) care	Care that will make the person more comfortable but will not prolong the person’s life, such as oxygen therapy, administration of pain medications and personal care
Communicable	An infectious disease transmissible by direct or indirect contact. Example tuberculosis.
Communication	The process of exchanging information with others by sending and receiving messages
Compassion	The quality of recognizing another person’s hardship, accompanied by a desire to help relieve that hardship
Competency evaluation	An assessment of mental health and/or decision making capacity.
Condom Catheter	A device that's placed over a penis and is connected by tubing to a drainage bag to collect
Conduct	The manner in which a person behaves, especially on a particular occasion or in a particular context.
Confidentiality	The legal and ethical principle of keeping information private
Conflict resolution	The process of resolving conflicts (a serious disagreement or argument) in a positive way so that everyone is satisfied.
Confused resident	A person (resident) with an inability to think clearly
Congestive heart failure (CHF)	A condition in which the heart muscle is damaged and fails to pump effectively.
Constipation	The inability to eliminate stool or the infrequent, difficult and often painful elimination of hard dry stool.
Constrict	To narrow
Consumed ml/cc	The amount of fluid an individual has drank(consumed) is documented in milliliter (ml) or in cubic centimeter (cc). There are 30 cc/ml in 1 ounce of liquid.
Contamination	To be soiled, unclean, having disease-causing organisms or materials on it.

Contaminated materials	Materials that are soiled with pathogens and must be handled with extreme care, and placed in polyethylene biohazard labeled bag and then disposed per company policies.
Contracture	The permanent and often painful shortening of a muscle or tendon, usually due to lack of activity.
Coordination	The use of direction and force for purposeful action
Coronary Artery Disease	A condition in which the coronary arteries become damaged and narrow over time, causing chest pain and other symptoms. Blockage of one or more arteries that supply blood to the heart, abbreviated CAD
Cultural	Relating to a system of learned behaviors, practiced by a group of people, which is considered to be the tradition of that people and is passed on from one generation to the next.
Culture	Shared set of beliefs, values, customs and practices that characterize a group of people or a society
Cyanotic	The bluish, grayish, or purplish discoloration of the skin or mucous membranes due to the tissues near the skin surface having low oxygen saturation
Dangling	To sit up with the legs hanging over the side of the bed in order to regain balance and stabilize blood pressure
Death & dying	The end of the life of a person or organism and dying is to be on the point of or approaching death.
Decubitus ulcer	Bedsore or pressure ulcer which is an injury to skin and underlying tissue resulting from prolonged pressure on the skin. Bedsore most often develop on skin that covers bony areas of the body, such as the heels, ankles, hips and tailbone.
De-escalation	Refers to behavior that is intended to escape increasing the conflict.
Defecation	The elimination of solid waste from the body
Defense mechanism	Unconscious behaviors used to release tension or cope with stress.
Dehydration	A serious condition that results from inadequate or too little fluid in the body.
Delegation	Transferring authority to a person for a specific task.
Delirium	A rapid change in cognition that is related to chemical changes in the body
Delusions	A fixed false belief
Dementia	A term used to describe a cluster of symptoms involving progressive decline in memory and thinking abilities, such as the use of language and the ability to reason and make judgments
Denture care	The cleansing and maintenance of dentures (artificial teeth)
Dependability	The quality of being able to be counted on or relied upon.
Depression	A disorder characterized by a persistent feeling of sadness that causes social withdrawal, lack of energy, and loss of interest in activities, as well as other symptoms.
Development	The process of maturation or growth.
Developmental disability	Disabilities that are present at birth or emerge during childhood that restrict physical or mental ability.
Diabetes	A disorder characterized by the body's inability to process glucose (sugar) in the bloodstream. The pancreas produces too little insulin or does not properly use insulin.
Dialysis	Process that cleans the body of wastes the kidneys cannot remove due to kidney failure
Diaphragm	The large muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity and is the principal muscle of respiration.
Diarrhea	The frequent passage of loose, watery feces
Diastolic	The pressure of the blood against the walls when the heart relaxes
Diet	The food and beverages a person consumes
Dietitian	Health professionals that assess, diagnose and treat dietary and nutritional problems at an individual.
Digestion	The process of preparing food physically and chemically so that it can be absorbed into the cells.
Dilate	To widen or open
Disaster	Severe events that cause widespread damage and destruction, affecting many people and disrupting normal functioning of a community
Disease process	The steps in the progression of a disease from exposure to recovery, disability or death.

Disease	A condition of the living animal or plant body or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning and is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms
Disinfectant	A chemical solution used to kill microbes on an object or surface
Disinfection	Process that kills pathogens, but not all pathogens it reduces the pathogen count to a level that is considered not infectious.
Disoriented	To be confused about a person, place or time
Disrespect	Lack of respect or courtesy.
Dizziness	A sensation of spinning around and losing one's balance.
Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)	A type of advance directive that instructs medical professional not to perform CPR if a person's heartbeat or breathing stops.
Documentation	Material that provides official information or evidence or that serves as a record
Domestic abuse	Physical, sexual or emotional abuse by spouses, intimate partners or family members
Dorsiflexion	Bending backward.
Dressing	Material used to cover a wound.
Droplets	A very small drop of a liquid.
Drowsy	Sleepy and lethargic ready to fall asleep.
Dry skin	An uncomfortable condition marked by scaling, itching, and cracking. It can occur for a variety of reasons.
Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care	A legal document that gives the responsibility for making health decisions on a person's behalf to someone else, such as a family member, in case the person becomes unable to make these decisions on her own behalf
Dysphagia	Difficulty or discomfort in swallowing, as a symptom of disease
Dyspnea	Labored or difficulty breathing.
Dysuria	Pain during urination, or difficulty urinating.
Edema	Swelling caused by excess fluid in body
Edentulous	Lacking teeth, toothless
Elderly	Of advanced age old.
Elimination	The process of expelling solid wastes (made up of the waste products of food) that are not absorbed into the cells through bowels or urine.
Emergency	A situation that arises suddenly and requires immediate action to keep a person safe
Emesis	The act of vomiting, or ejecting stomach contents through the mouth and nose.
Emesis basin	A shallow basin of curved, kidney-shaped design, used to collect body fluids or as a container for various other liquids.
Emotional abuse	Any kind of abuse that is emotional rather than physical in nature. It can include anything from verbal abuse and constant criticism to more subtle tactics, such as intimidation, manipulation, and refusal to ever be pleased. Emotional abuse can take many forms. Three general patterns of abusive behavior include aggressing, denying, and minimizing.
Emotional lability	Refers to rapid, often exaggerated changes in mood, where strong emotions or feelings (uncontrollable laughing or crying, or heightened irritability or temper) occur.
Emotional stress	The feelings that occur when a situation disturbs the equilibrium between a person and their environment. Stressors can include work pressure, examinations, psychosocial stress, and physical stresses due to trauma, surgery, and various medical disorders.
Emotional support	The people and/or tools that help to lift someone to emotional higher ground so he or she can see their way through the difficulty.
Empathy	Identifying with feelings of others.
Emphysema	A chronic, incurable lung disease in which the alveoli in lungs becomes filled with trapped air usually resulting from smoking and chronic bronchitis.
Enema	A specific amount of water, with, or without an additive, that is introduced into the colon through the rectum/anus to stimulate the elimination of stool.
Entrapment	When a person's head or another body part gets trapped between, under, or on the side rails of a bed, or between the mattress and the side rail
Epilepsy	A disorder that causes reoccurring seizures that can often be controlled with medication.
Essential behaviors	behaviors needed to be satisfied and met

Ethical Dilemma	A situation where there may be more than one good or moral solution, depending on one's point of view
Ethics	The knowledge of right and wrong. Moral principles or standards that we use to decide the correct action to take
Ethics Committee	A group of people representing many different areas of expertise and with an in-depth knowledge of ethical principle that is brought together to help resolve ethical dilemmas
Etiquette	The code of proper behavior and courtesy in a certain setting.
Evacuation	To empty or void.
Expressive Aphasia	The inability to use language to express oneself, verbally or in writing (or both)
Falls	To lose one's balance and collapse.
False imprisonment	Unlawful restraint that affects a person's freedom of movement includes both the threat of being physically restrained and actually being restrained.
Fasting	A period of time during which food is given up voluntarily.
Fecal impaction	A serious form of constipation that occurs when constipation is not relieved and feces build up in the bowel until the bowel is almost completely blocked
Feces	Solid body waste excreted through the anus from the large intestine, also called stool.
Feeding	The act or process of eating or being fed
Fever	A temperature that is higher than the normal range (normal AVERAGE oral temp is 98.6)
Fiber	A substance found in foods that helps the digestive tract function properly and lowers the risk for conditions such as heart disease and diabetes
Financial abuse	The improper or illegal use of a person's money, possessions, property or other assets.
Fire safety	The set of practices intended to reduce the destruction caused by fire. Fire safety measures include those that are intended to prevent ignition of an uncontrolled fire, and those that are used to limit the development and effects of a fire after it starts.
First aid	Emergency care that one provides to an injured or ill person until help arrives, based on the situation and caregiver's level of training
Flatus	Gas in or from the stomach, intestines, or bowels, produced by swallowing air or by bacterial fermentation
Foley catheter	A flexible plastic tube (a catheter) inserted into the bladder to provide continuous urinary drainage.
Foot care	Involves all aspects of foot hygiene and preventive/corrective care of the foot and ankle.
Foot drop	Weakness of muscles in the feet and ankles that interferes with the ability to flex the ankles and walk normally. A bed / foot cradle can be used to prevent this or to slow the progression
Fowler's position	A semi-sitting body position in which a person's head and shoulders are elevated 45 to 60 degrees.
Fracture pan	A bedpan that is flatter than a regular bedpan
Fractures	Broken bones
Fraud	Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. Lying to gain profit or advantage
Frayed cord	The electric cord on your appliance or device contains a live wire that should be securely insulated, but has become exposed.
Free from disease	Not having a disease.
Friction	Rubbing of two surfaces against each other
Gait belt	A belt made of canvas or other heavy material used to help people who are weak, unsteady or uncoordinated to stand, sit, or walk also called a transfer belt.
Gastric feedings	The administration of food directly into the stomach by a tube.
Gastrostomy tube (G-Tube)	A tube inserted through the abdomen that delivers nutrition directly to the stomach
Gender Identity	A person's inner sense of being male or female
Geriatrics	The branch of medicine or social science dealing with the health and care of old people.
Gerontology	The scientific study of old age, the process of aging, and the particular problems of old people.
Gestures	The use of motions of the limbs or body as a means of expression
Gifts	Something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation
Glucose	The body's most basic source of energy

Glass thermometer	A glass bulb attached to a fine tube of glass with a numbered scale and containing a liquid (as mercury or colored alcohol) that is sealed in and rises and falls with changes of temperature.
Grand mal seizure	Convulsions resulting in loss of consciousness.
Grief	Intense sadness that occurs as a result of loss
Grieving process	The varying emotional responses to grief.
Hair care	Care provided to keep the hair clean, healthy looking, and attractive.
Hallucination	Seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, or feeling something that does not exist
Hand care	Involves all aspects of hygiene of the hand and wrist.
Hand tremors	An involuntary, rhythmic muscle contraction leading to shaking movements in the hand.
Hand washing	Washing hands with either plain or antiseptic soap and water and using alcohol-based hand rubs.
Health Care Associated Infection	An infection that a person gets while receiving care in a health care facility
Health-care team	The person receiving care, the person's family members, and staff members and other professionals who are responsible for providing care and other services
Hearing aid	A small device tht fits in or on the ear, worn by a partially deaf person to amplify sound.
Hearing impaired	Term used to describe people with any degree of hearing loss, from mild to profound, including those who are deaf and those who are hard of hearing.
Hearing loss	A partial or total inability to hear.
Heart muscle	Heart or cardiac muscle tissue is only found in your heart, where it performs coordinated contractions that allow your heart to pump blood through your circulatory system.
Heat application	Stimulation of the surface of the skin and underlying tissues with a heated agent for the purpose of increasing blood flow or decreasing pain and/or muscle spasms.
Height	The measurement from base to top.
Heimlich maneuver	Series of rapid thrusts to the abdomen in an effort to clear the airway.
Hemiparesis	Weakness on one side
Hemiplegia	Paralysis on one side of the body
Hepatitis A	A highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus is one of several types of hepatitis viruses that cause inflammation and affect your liver's ability to function. A person is most likely to get hepatitis A from contaminated food or water or from close contact with a person or object that's infected.
Hereditary	Genetically transmitted or transmittable from parent to offspring.
Heterosexual	A person who is attracted to people of the opposite sex
High Fowlers Position	A position where the head of the bed is raised 90 degrees
Hip prosthesis	Artificial materials that are inserted to replace the hip joint.
HIPAA	A federal law that requires health information be kept private and secure and that organizations must take special steps to protect this information.
HIV / AIDS	It is the virus that can lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS, if not treated. Unlike some other viruses, the human body can't get rid of HIV completely, even with treatment. So once you get HIV, you have it for life. HIV attacks the body's immune system, specifically the CD4 cells (T cells), which help the immune system fight off infections.
Holistic care	A type of care that involves caring for the whole person - the mind as wells as the body.
Homosexual	A person who is attracted to people of the same sex
Hormones	Chemical substances created by the body that control numerous body functions.
Hospice Care	Care that focuses on providing comfort care to people who are dying, and on supporting their families
Hospice Facility	A place for dying people to receive holistic compassionate care
Human Development	Social changes (the way the person relates to others), emotional changes (the way the person feels and expresses those feelings) and cognitive changes (the way the person thinks and understands the world)
Human Growth	Physical changes, such as growing bigger and cutting teeth in infancy, or developing breasts or a beard in adolescence
Hyperglycemia	Excessively high level of sugar /glucose in the blood stream
Hypertension	A disorder characterized by chronically high blood pressure

Huntington's	An inherited disease that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It has a broad impact on a person's functional abilities and usually results in movement, thinking and psychiatric disorders.
Hyperventilation	Excessive rate and depth of respiration leading to abnormal loss of carbon dioxide from the blood.
Hypoglycemia	Excessively low blood sugar. A life-threatening complication of diabetes that can result from either too much insulin or too little food, also known as insulin reaction and insulin shock.
Hypotension	Low blood pressure
Hypothermia	A temperature that is lower than the normal range
Ileostomy	Surgically created opening into the end of the small intestine, the ileum to allow feces (stool/loos stool) to be expelled.
Immobility	The inability to move.
Impaired	Diminished in function or ability.
Impairment	Loss of function or ability, limited, decreased.
Incident	Something unusual that happens to a person receiving care, a staff member or a visitor to the facility that has the potential to cause harm
Incident report	A report documenting an accident and response to the incident, also known as an occurrence report or event report.
Incontinence	The inability to control the release of the bladder or bowels
Indwelling Urinary Catheter	A small tube inserted through the urethra into the bladder, left in place to drain urine from the bladder on a continuous basis
Infection	A disease caused by the growth of pathogens in the body
Infection control	Steps taken to prevent and control the spread of microbes that cause infectious diseases.
Infection prevention	The set of methods practiced in healthcare facilities to prevent and control the spread of disease.
Influenza (Flu)	A highly contagious viral infection that affects the respiratory tract
Informed Consent	The written permission health care providers must obtain from a patient, resident or client before going ahead with a treatment or procedure and after explaining the benefits and risks associated with the proposed treatment or procedure
In-house transfer	Move from one room to another.
Initial observations	The measurement that you take before you start any process that might cause a change.
In-Patient Care	Is for Patients who stay overnight in a hospital.
In-service programs	A professional training or staff development effort, where professionals are trained and discuss their work with others in their peer group. It is a key component of continuing health care education.
Insomnia	The inability to fall asleep or remain asleep.
Insulin	A hormone that causes glucose to be moved from the bloodstream into the cells
Intake and output (I & O)	Intake: The fluid a person consumes, also called input / Output: the amount voided
Integumentary system	Outer covering of skin, hair, and nails acting to protect the body from various kinds of damage
Inter-generational care	Mixing children and the elderly in the same care setting.
Interpersonal skills	The set of abilities enabling a person to interact positively and work effectively with others. Communication skills.
Intimacy	All the good feelings that people have for one another, such as liking, loving, sharing and
Invasion of privacy	A violation of the right to be left alone and the right to control personal information.
Ischemia	An inadequate blood supply to an organ or part of the body, especially the heart muscle
Isolation	To separate something or someone.
IV care	IV lines are used to deliver different types of fluids, medications, and blood products to patients. The catheter or the "line" is a thin, flexible plastic tube. A trained health care provider inserts the line into a vein in the hand, arm, foot, leg, or scalp. Fluid flows through the line directly into the bloodstream. IV lines must be properly checked and cared for to ensure the line is working properly and that there are no complications. To do caregivers make sure the IV area is clean, dry, visible and that there is no swelling, temperature change or leakage near the IV site.

Isolation precautions	The voluntary or compulsory separation and confinement of those known or suspected to be infected with a contagious disease agent (whether ill or not) to prevent further infections.
Jaundice	Yellowish pigmentation of the skin, tissues, and body fluids caused by the deposition of bile pigments.
Job application	Official form that employers ask all applicants for a position to fill out that lists their employment history, educational background, degrees, qualifications, references, and more.
Job description	An outline of what will be expected in a job.
Kidney (renal) failure	The inability of the kidneys to filter waste products from the blood
Lactose intolerance	The inability to digest lactose, a type of sugar in milk and other dairy products,
Larceny	Theft
Laws	Rules established by a governing authority to protect citizens from harm and provide a framework for resolving conflicts
Laxatives	Substances that loosen stools and increase bowel movements. They are used to treat and prevent constipation.
Lewy Body Dementia	The inability to plan and perform purposeful motor movements to complete a task despite having the ability and the desire to perform the task
Life support	Any device or system, usually connected directly to a patient, that can take over for a vital body organ or function that is failing or has failed.
Life-sustaining Treatments	Care that will prolong life, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation or mechanical ventilation
Lift/draw sheet	Sheet used to move a resident
Linen	Bedding, towels, gowns, masks, and other articles that requires disinfection or disposal
Living will	A legal document that gives specific directions about what steps the health care team should or should not take to prolong the person's life when death seems near
Log roll / Logrolling	A method used to turn a person onto her side in bed when the person's spine must be kept in alignment throughout the move
Long Term Care setting	Provides care to people who require assistance with medical, personal and social needs over an extended period of time
Long-Term Memory	Memory of the past
Low Fowler's Position	A position where the head of the bed is raised 30 degrees
Male perineal care	It means washing the penis and anal area.
Malignant	Cancerous
Malnutrition	Failure to take in enough of the right kinds of nutrients to stay healthy
Maslow	Psychologist whose theory of hierarchy of human needs helps explain behavior.
Masturbation	To touch or rub sexual organs in order to give oneself pleasure.
Material safety data sheets (SDS / MSDS)	Sheet that provides information on the safe use of and hazards of chemicals, as well as emergency steps to take in the event chemicals are splashed, sprayed or ingested.
Measuring height	The maximum distance from the floor to the highest point of the head.
Measuring temperature	Degree of hotness or coldness measured on a definite scale.
Mechanical lift	Special equipment used to lift and move or lift and weigh a person, also called hydraulic lift.
Medicaid	A jointly funded (by the state and federal governments) and state-administered insurance program for people with low incomes
Medical Asepsis	The use of practices aimed at destroying pathological organisms after they leave the body; employed in the care of patients with infectious diseases to prevent re-infection of the patient and to avoid the spread of infection from one person to another.
Medical record	A chronological written account of a patient's examination and treatment that includes the resident's medical history and complaints, the physician's physical findings, the results of diagnostic tests and procedures, and medications and therapeutic procedures.
Medicare	A federally funded health insurance program for people who are 65 years and older
Medication administration	Providing the resident with a substance prescribed and intended for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a medical illness or condition.
Memory loss	Is the forgetting of information and experiences that a person would normally be able to recall easily. Memory loss (sometimes called amnesia) can affect short-term memory or long-term memory.

Mental health	Refers to the normal function of emotional and intellectual abilities.
Mentally impaired	A condition in which a part of a person's mind is damaged or is not working properly. Examples include mental retardation, emotional or mental illness, and organic brain syndrome.
Metastasize / Metastasis	The spreading of cancerous cells to other parts of the body other than where the cancer originated
Microbe (Microorganism)	A tiny living thing or organism that is so small that it can be seen only under a microscope.
Mild Cognitive Impairment	Problems with memory, language, or thinking processes that are noticeable to other people, but do not interfere with the person's ability to live a normal life
Military time	A method of measuring the time based on the full twenty-four hours of the day rather than two groups of twelve hours the twenty-four-hour clock. This is done in most healthcare
Minerals	Solid inorganic substances of natural occurrence.
Misappropriation	The act of taking what belongs to someone else and using it illegally for one's own gain.
Mobility	Ability to move.
Modified Side-Lying Position	The person is positioned on her side and leaning slightly toward the back to relieve pressure on the hip
Mouth care	The practice of keeping the mouth clean and free of disease and other problems by regular brushing of the teeth, tongue and cleaning between the teeth.
Mucous Membrane	The membranes that line body cavities that open to the outside of the body, such as the linings of the mouth, nose, eyes, rectum, and genitals.
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	A chronic neurologic disease that gradually destroys the protective covering for the nerves, spinal cord and white matter for the brain breaks down over time without this covering , nerves cannot send messages to and from the brain in a normal way.
Muscle spasms	An involuntary contraction of a muscle that can cause a great deal of pain.
Musculoskeletal	Concerning, involving, or made up of both the muscles and the bone.
Myocardial Infarction (heart attack)	Is permanent damage to your heart muscle. It happens when a blocked artery leads to a lack of blood supply to the heart, causing the cells in that area to die.
Nasal cannula	A device used to deliver supplemental oxygen or increased airflow to a person in need of respiratory help.
Nasogastric tube (NG Tube)	A tube that is inserted through the nose, down the throat and esophagus, and into the stomach. It can be used to give drugs, liquids, and liquid food, or used to remove substances from the stomach.
Nausea	A sick feeling in the stomach often accompanied by the urge to vomit
Neglect	The failure to provide needed care that results in physical, mental or emotional harm to a person.
Negligence	Failure to do what a "reasonable and careful" person would be expected to do in a given situation
Non-contagious disease	A disease not capable of being spread from one person to another.
Non-verbal communication	Communicating without using words.
Nosocomial	A disease or infection that originated from a stay in a hospital
NPO	Nothing by mouth. A medical order to withhold all food and fluids taken orally.
Nurse Aide's role	A NA's main role is to provide basic care to residents, as well as assist them in daily activities they might have trouble with on their own, such as bathing.
Nurse's station	An area in a health care facility in which nurses assemble, and carry out administrative or other duties.
Nursing Home	Provides care to people who require a high level of nursing care and supervision
Nursing Team	A licensed nurse (registered nurse or licensed practical/vocational nurses) and a nurse assistant and sometimes, an advanced practice nurse who may be called a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist
Nutrients	Substances that the body needs to grow, maintain itself, and stay healthy
Nutrition	The process of taking in and using nutrients
Obsessive compulsive	A character trait where the person is plagued by obsessive thought or behaviors.
Occupational Exposure	Exposure to disease in the workplace
Occupied bed	A bed made while the person is in the bed.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)	Government agency that was established in 1970 to help protect workers in all industries (not just health care) from on-the-job injuries
Ombudsman	Volunteer who advocates for (act on the behalf of) nursing home residents and their family members to resolve problems related to quality of care. A legal advocate for residents in long-term care facilities helps resolve disputes and settle conflicts.
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA)	Federal legislation that includes minimum standards for nursing assistant training, staffing requirements, resident assessment instructions, and information in rights for residents for all nursing homes accepting federal funding.
Oral care	Care of mouth, teeth and gums.
Oral hygiene	Care of teeth, mouth and gums.
Oral temperature	The body temperature as recorded by a clinical thermometer placed in the mouth
Orientation	The relative physical position or direction of something
Oriented	Aware/Awareness.
Orthopneic	Difficult or painful breathing except in an erect sitting or standing position.
Orthosis	The correction of disorders of the limbs or spine by use of braces and other devices
Osteoarthritis	Common type of arthritis that usually affects the hips, knees, fingers thumbs and spine also called degenerative joint disease.
Osteoporosis	A disease that causes bones to become porous and brittle, causing them to break easily.
Ostomy Appliance / bag	Medical device (pouch) that provides a means for the collection of waste (feces or urine) from a surgically created opening from an area inside the body to the outside.
Outpatient Care	Patients who come to the hospital to receive a specific therapy (for example, surgery to repair a broken bone) and go home the same day.
Output	All fluid that is eliminated from the body includes fluid in urine, feces, vomitus and perspiration, moisture that is exhaled in the air and wound drainage.'
Overbed table	A narrow rectangular table designed especially for residents that spans the bed and is typically fitted with casters and a crank for adjusting the height and tilting the top.
Oxygen	A chemical element found in the air as a colorless odorless tasteless gas that is necessary for life.
Palliative care	Specialized medical care that focuses on the comfort and dignity of person's with serious life limiting illnesses, rather than on curing him or her.
Paralysis	The loss of the ability to move (and sometimes to feel anything) in part or most of the body.
Paranoia	A mental condition characterized by delusions of persecution, unwarranted jealousy, or exaggerated self-importance. Excessive suspicion without cause
Paraplegia	Paralysis that affects both legs and the lower trunk
Parkinson's Disease	A progressive neurologic disorder characterized by muscle tremors and difficulty with movement due to insufficient amounts of dopamine
Passive	Accepting or allowing what happens or what others do, without active response or resistance.
Pathogen	Microorganisms (bacteria) that are capable of causing infection and disease.
Patience	The ability to endure difficult circumstances such as perseverance in the face of delay tolerance of provocation without responding in annoyance/anger or restraint when under
Patient	A person who receives care in a hospital or other acute care setting.
Perineal care	Care of the genitals and anal area.
Peripheral artery disease (PAD)	A circulatory condition in which narrowed blood vessels reduce blood flow to the limbs.
Peripheral vascular disease (PVD)	A circulatory condition in which narrowed blood vessels lower/reduce blood flow to the limbs.
Peristalsis	The involuntary constriction and relaxation of the muscles of the intestine or another canal, creating wavelike movements that push the contents of the canal forward.
Personal care	Attending to the physical needs of people who are disabled or otherwise unable to take care of themselves, including tasks such as bathing, management of bodily functions, and cooking.
Personal items	Items that belong to someone and that are small enough to be carried
Personal values	Things that you believe are important in the way you live and work. They (should) determine your priorities, and, deep down, they're probably the measures you use to tell if your life is turning out the way you want it to.
Petit mal seizure	A partial seizure which does not result in loss of consciousness.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Gear (Gown, gloves, mask, goggles, face shield) worn to prevent microbes from contaminating a caregiver's uniform, skin or mucous membranes
Pet therapy	A broad term that includes animal-assisted therapy and other animal-assisted activities. Animal-assisted therapy is a growing field that uses dogs or other animals to help people recover from or better cope with health problems, such as heart disease, cancer and mental
Phone etiquette	Being respectful to the person you are talking with on the phone, showing consideration for the other person's limitations, allowing that person time to speak, communicating clearly and much, much more.
Physical needs	Need that is critical to the survival of the human body. Maslow lists the basic needs as water, air, food, warmth, sex, sleep and the disposal of bodily waste.
Physical therapist	Sometimes called PTs, they help injured or ill people improve their movement and manage their pain.
Physician's authority	Physician in charge.
Plaque	Substance that accumulates on the teeth from food and bacteria.
Plate rim	Rim around the plate
Pleura	One of the two membranes around the lungs.
Pneumonia	Inflammation of the lungs
Podiatrist	Foot doctor
Policy book	Book that details rules and the course of actions to be followed.
Positioning	The act of helping people into positions that will be comfortable and healthy for them.
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	Anxiety related disorder caused by a traumatic experience.
Postmortem Care	The care of the body after death that involves cleaning and positioning the body after death
Postural hypotension	Low blood pressure that happens when you stand up from a sitting or lying position. Postural hypotension can make you feel dizzy or lightheaded, and maybe even faint.
Postural supports	A device used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment. Often prescribed by a physician, physical therapist, or occupational therapist.
Precautions	A measure taken in advance to prevent something dangerous, unpleasant, or inconvenient from happening.
Pressure ulcer	A serious wound caused by a person's body pressing against a hard surface for an extended period of time, also known as pressure sore, decubitus ulcer or bed sore
Preventing falls	A variety of actions to help reduce the number of accidental falls suffered by residents
Privacy	Is the ability of an individual or group to seclude themselves, or information about themselves, and thereby express themselves selectively.
Progressive	Something that continually gets worse or deteriorates.
Pronation	Turning downward
Prone Position	The person is positioned on his stomach
Prostate gland	A walnut-sized gland located between the bladder and the penis. The prostate secretes fluid that nourishes and protects sperm.
Prosthesis	An artificial device that replaces a body part, such as an eye, hip, arm, leg, tooth or heart valve helps improve function and/or appearance.
Psychiatrist	A medical practitioner specializing in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental
Psychological needs	Needs that involve social interaction, emotions, intellect and spirituality.
Psychosocial	Approach looks at individuals combined influence that the surrounding social environment have on their physical and mental wellness and their ability to function
Pulse	Throbbing of the arteries caused by contractions of the heart.
Pulse Oximetry	A technique used to measure the oxygen levels in a person's blood
Pureed diet	Diet in which food is chopped, blended or grinded into a thick paste of baby food consistency.
Quadriplegia	Paralysis that affects both arms, the trunk, and both legs
Quality of life	How good or bad a person's life is
RACE (acronym)	A method for responding to a fire emergency. It stands for Rescue, Activate Alarm, Contain & Extinguish/Evacuate
Radial pulse	The pulse on the inside of the wrist where the radial artery runs just below the skin.

Radiation	The use of high-energy x-rays to destroy cancer cells
Ramps	A slope or inclined plane for joining two different levels.
Range of motion	Exercises that put joint through its full arc of motion.
Reality orientation	Type of therapy that uses calendars, clocks, signs and lists to help people with Alzheimer's Disease remember who and where they are, along with date and time.
Receptive Aphasia	The inability to understand communication from others
Rectal temperature	Temperature is taken by putting the thermometer gently in the rectum. The rectum is the end of the bowel.
Refusal	The act of refusing or denying.
Regulation	A rule or directive made and maintained by an authority.
Rehabilitation	A program of care given by a specialist or a team of specialists to restore or improve function after an illness or injury.
Religious service	A ritual performed in as part of a religious observation.
Reminiscence therapy	The use of life histories – written, oral, or both – to improve psychological well-being.
Reminiscing	Remembering the past.
Renewal	An instance of resuming an activity or state after an interruption.
Reporting	Giving detailed information.
Reposition	Place in a different position adjust or alter the position at least every 2 hours
Resident	A person who receives care in a long-term care setting
Resident abuse	An intentional infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, care/service deprivation or punishment that results in physical harm, pain or mental anguish to the
Resident belongings	Something that belongs to the resident.
Resident right	Rights guaranteed by the federal 1987 Nursing Home Reform Law. The law requires long term care facilities to "promote and protect the rights of each resident" and places a strong emphasis on individual dignity and self-determination.
Resident's Bill of Rights	Rights identified in OBRA that relate to how residents must be treated while living in a long-term care facility they provide an ethical code of conduct for healthcare workers.
Resident's chart	A complete record of key clinical data and medical history, such as demographics, vital signs, diagnoses, medications, treatment plans, progress notes, problems, immunization dates, allergies and test result
Respiration	Breathing, consisting of one inspiration and one expiration.
Respiratory symptoms	Symptoms include difficulty breathing, rapid breathing, shallow breathing, deep breathing, and apnea (absence of breathing).
Respiratory system	The set of organs that allows a person to breathe and exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide throughout the body.
Responsibility	Being accountable.
Restorative care	Care used after rehabilitation to maintain a person's function and increase independence.
Restraint	A device that inhibits a person's freedom of movement or ability to reach part of his or her body or a medication that subdues a person
Resuscitation	The action or process of reviving someone from unconsciousness or apparent death.
Rights	Moral or legal entitlements to have or obtain something or to act in a certain way.
Rigor mortis	Latin for "stiffness of death" referring to the stiffness that occurs 6 to 8 hours after death due to muscles becoming rigid.
Risk factor	Any attribute, characteristic or exposure of an individual that increases the likelihood of developing a disease or injury.
Role	Expectations and limits.
Rotation	To move in a Circular motion
Safety procedures	Step by step plans of how to perform a work procedure. This is used in cases where deviation from the procedure could lead to injury or accident.
Scope of practice	Defines tasks that health care providers are legally permitted to perform as allowed by state, federal law, or employer.
Seclusion	The state of being private and away from other people.
Secretions	A substance made and released by a living thing, like when your skin sweats.

Seizure	Abnormal electrical activity in the brain, which leads to temporary and involuntary changes in body movement (convulsions), function, sensation, awareness or behavior
Self-esteem	Confidence in one's own worth or abilities self-respect.
Semi fowlers	A position in which a resident, typically is positioned on their back with the head and trunk raised to between 15 to 45 degrees.
Sensory system	A part of the nervous system responsible for processing sensory information. Commonly recognized sensory systems are those for vision, hearing, somatic sensation (touch), taste and olfaction (smell).
Sexual abuse	Forcing a person to perform or participate in sexual acts against his or her will.
Sexual Behaviors	Physical activities, such as sexual intercourse and masturbation, related to obtaining sexual pleasure and reproducing
Sexual harassment	Any unwelcome sexual advance or behavior that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.
Sexual Identity	A person's sexual orientation and preferences with regard to sexual partners
Sexuality	How people perceive themselves and express themselves sexually
Shampoo tray	A device which allows people who are unable or too uncomfortable to have their hair washed by leaning backward to a sink, or for those who are bedridden and unable to ambulate to the bathroom and/or use the shower to stay sitting upright in their wheelchair or chair and have their hair washed without getting water and shampoo all over the place.
Sharps container	A puncture-resistant and leak-proof container with a one-way top used to dispose of sharps.
Shear / Shearing	Rubbing or friction resulting from the skin moving one way and the bone underneath it remaining fixed or moving in the opposite direction.
Shock	A condition in which the circulatory system fails to deliver enough oxygen-rich blood to the body's tissues and vital organs
Short-term memory	Memory of recent events
Shroud	A cloth covering that a body may be wrapped in after death
Side rails	A support attached to the frame of a bed and intended to prevent a resident from falling.
Side-Lying (lateral) position	The person is positioned on her side
Sims' Position	The person is positioned on her side, leaning very far forward
SITZ bath	A warm soak of the perineal area to clean perineal wounds and reduce inflammation and pain.
Skilled care facility	A facility where residents received medically necessary care given by a skilled nurse or therapist.
Skin Breakdown	Loss of healthy, intact skin
Skin integrity	Refers to skin health. A skin integrity issue might mean the skin is damaged, vulnerable to injury or unable to heal normally.
Skin observation	A process in which the entire skin of a person is examined for abnormalities. It requires looking at and touching the skin from head to toe, with a particular emphasis on bony prominences and skin folds. This is repeated on a regular basis to determine whether changes in the skin's condition have occurred.
Slander	The action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.
Social needs	Social needs in Maslow's hierarchy include such things as love, acceptance, and belonging. At this level, the need for emotional relationships drives human behavior. Some of the things that satisfy this need include: friendships, romantic attachments, family, social groups, community groups, churches and religious organizations. In order to avoid problems such as loneliness, depression, and anxiety, it is important for people to feel loved and accepted by other people. Personal relationships with friends, family, and lovers play an important role, as does involvement in other groups that might include religious groups, sports teams, book clubs, and other group activities.
Social worker	A professional concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being.
Soiled or Dirty Linen	Linen that has been used or soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions.
Specimen	A sample for medical testing.
Sphygmomanometer	A device used to measure blood pressure

Spiritual needs	Needs that help a person maintain a sense of spiritual well-being and/or helps them to cope with life, illness, loss, grief or pain.
Spirituality	Belief in something greater than oneself that helps a person assign meaning and purpose to
Sputum specimen	A sample of the gooey substance that often comes up from your chest when you have an infection in your lungs or airways.
Stages of grief	A progression of emotional states experienced by terminally ill people after diagnosis. Chronologically the five stages are: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.
Standard precautions	Practices used by caregivers when providing care to a person, regardless of the person's condition or injury, to minimize the spread of pathogens spread through Contact, Airborne, or Droplet Precautions.
Stereotypes	A biased generalization about a group that is usually based on opinions and distorted ideas.
Sterilization	A measure used to decrease the spread of pathogens and disease by destroying all microorganisms, including those that form spores.
Stethoscope	A piece of equipment that is used to listen to sounds produced inside the body
Stoma	A surgically created opening made in the abdominal wall to allow the elimination of waste
Sub-Acute Care setting	Provides care to patients who are medically stable but still require treatments such as intravenous (IV) drug therapy, physical rehabilitation or wound care for complex wounds that can only be provided by health care professionals
Subjective	Includes feelings and impressions
Subjective data	Information that includes feelings and impressions
Sundowning	A condition in which a person gets restless and agitated in the late afternoon, evening or night.
Supine position	The person is positioned flat on her back
Supplemental feedings	Any dietary additives provided to residents to enhance their nutritional status.
Suprapubic	Referring to the region on the center of the front wall of the abdomen immediately above the pubic bone.
Survey	An inspection to determine if the long-term care facility is in compliance with applicable law and performance measures. If the facility performs well in the survey it will receive a certificate of compliance allowing it to continue operations and also making it eligible to participate in Medicare/Medicaid programs.
Swelling	An abnormal enlargement of a part of the body, typically as a result of an accumulation of fluid
Systolic	The pressure of the blood against the walls of the arteries when the heart pumps
Tachycardia	A fast heartbeat, per 100 beats per minute.
TED Hose / Compression Sock / Anti-embolic / Elastic Stocking	Long, tight fitting stockings that place mild static pressure on the legs to prevent blood from clotting.
Telephone etiquette	Being respectful to the person you are talking with on the phone, showing consideration for the other person's limitations, allowing that person time to speak, communicating clearly and much, much more.
Temperature	The degree or intensity of heat present in a body, substance or object.
Tendons	Tough fibrous bands that connect muscle to bone.
Tepid	lukewarm unenthusiastic, marked by an absence of interest
Terminal Illness	Illness for which there is no treatment and that is expected to lead to the person's death
Terminology	Special words or expressions used in relation to a particular subject or activity.
Thick fluid	A fluid that has been thickened to prevent choking.
Thickened liquids	Thickened liquids help prevent choking and stop fluid from entering the lungs. The 3 common consistencies of thickened liquids are nectar-thick, honey-thick, and pudding-thick.
Threatening Resident	A resident that behaves in hostile or deliberately frightening quality or manner. Alternatively, a person that behaves in a hostile or deliberately frightening quality or manner towards a resident.
Thrombus	A blood clot formed within the vascular system of the body and impeding blood flow
Trachea	An air passage that goes from the throat to the bronchi also called the windpipe.
Transfer belt / Gaitbelt	A belt made of canvas or other heavy material used to assist residents who are weak, unsteady, or uncoordinated to stand, sit or walk also called a gait belt.
Transfers	Moving from one place to another

Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA)	Is like a stroke, producing similar symptoms, but usually lasting only a few minutes and causing no permanent damage. Often called a ministroke, a transient ischemic attack may be a warning. About 1 in 3 people who have a transient ischemic attack will eventually have a stroke, with about half occurring within a year after the transient ischemic attack.
Transgender	Males who feel themselves to be female, females who feel themselves to be male, or people who do not strongly identify themselves as either male or female
Transmission Based Precautions	Practices used by caregivers to minimize the spread of microbes when the person has a disease known to be transmitted in a specific way; includes airborne precautions, droplet precautions and contact precautions
Transporting (Food/Linens/Etc)	To take or carry (people or goods) from one place to another
Transsexual	People who alter their physical appearance to more closely match the gender they most strongly identify with
Trochanter Roll	Cylindrical prop such as a rolled-up towel, foam roll, cylindrical cushion/pillow etc. that is positioned around the lateral hip/thigh area of an individual to provide support to the hip/leg
Tuberculosis	A bacterial infection of the lungs that is spread through the air from one person to another
Tumor	A solid mass of tissue
Tympanic	The eardrum
Tympanic temperature	The temperature obtained by placing an electronic probe in the ear canal.
Unaffected	Not influenced or changed mentally, physically, or chemically
Unconscious	In the state of not being awake, especially as the result of a head injury
Unethical behavior	An action that falls outside of what is considered morally right or proper for a person, a profession or an industry.
Unsteady	Liable to fall or shake not firm
Urethral / Urethra	The membranous tube that extends from the urinary bladder to the exterior and that in the male conveys semen as well as urine.
Urinary bag	A bag that attaches to a catheter that is inside your bladder and collects urine.
Urinary catheter bag	A bag that attaches to a catheter that is inside your bladder and collects urine
Urinary elimination	The discharge of urine from the body. Voiding.
Urinary system	Consists of the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and the urethra. The purpose of the urinary system is to eliminate waste from the body, regulate blood volume and blood pressure, control levels of electrolytes and metabolites, and regulate blood pH.
Urinary tract	The organs of the body that produce, store, and discharge urine. These organs include the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra
Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)	Urinary tract infection a disorder that causes inflammation of the bladder also called cystitis.
Urination / Urine	The discharge of urine (liquid waste) from the body. Voiding/Voided.
Validation	To give value to or approve.
Validation therapy	A technique for working with those with cognitive impairment or dementia that shows respect for the person's thoughts and feelings and validates (acknowledges) what the person believes, regardless of the actual truth. A type of therapy that lets people with Alzheimer's disease believe they are living in the past or in imaginary circumstances.
Varicose veins	Veins that have become enlarged and twisted.
Violent behavior	Behavior that includes attacking, hitting or threatening someone.
Vision change	Inability to see or a decrease in vision.
Visual impairment	A decreased ability to see to a degree that causes problems not fixable by usual means, such as glasses.
Vital signs	Measurements that give us basic information about how a person's body is functioning; include temperature, pulse, respirations, and blood pressure
Vomitus	Matter from the stomach that has come up into and may be ejected beyond the mouth, due to the act of vomiting.
Wandering resident	The state in which a resident with dementia has meandering, aimless, or repetitive movement that exposes him or her to harm.
Water faucets	A fixture for drawing or regulating the flow of water from a pipe
Water intake	The amount of water consumed from foods, plain drinking water, and other beverages.

Water pitcher	A container for holding water hat usually has a lip or spout and a handle. (Jug)
Water temperature	A physical property expressing how hot or cold water is.
Weak side	Loss of physical strength on one side from a stroke or injury also called the involved side.
Weakness	The state or condition of lacking strength.
Well balanced meal	A meal that has a healthy balance of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins.
Well-being	The state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy.
Wheelchair safety	Actions or precaution taken to ensure the safety of the person in or using a wheel chair.
White blood cells	A colorless cell that circulates in the blood and body fluids and is involved in counteracting foreign substances and disease
Withdrawn resident	A resident who doesn't seem to be aware of other people, is quite unresponsive, or seems to be spending much of their time disconnected from social interaction and activity,
Workplace violence	Verbal, physical or sexual abuse by residents, other staff