

Nursing Terminology (Speedy Study Guides)

Terms	Meaning
abuse	Mistreatment or neglect of an older person(s) through the intentional or unintentional behaviour of another person(s). Abuse may be collectively perpetrated or politically motivated. This abuse may be physical, psychological, sexual, financial and/or systemic.
accessibility	Removal of the barriers to entering and receiving services or working within any health care setting.
active aging	The process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.
acute care / acute health care	Care that is generally provided for a short period of time to treat a new illness or a flare-up of an existing condition. This type of care may include treatment at home, short-term hospital stays, professional care, surgery, X-rays and scans, as well as emergency medical services.
acute disease / illness	A disease which is characterized by a single or repeated episode of relatively rapid onset and short duration from which the patient usually returns to healthier normal or previous state or level of activity. An acute episode of a chronic disease (for example, an episode of diabetic coma in a patient with diabetes) is often treated as an acute disease.
admission	The initiation of care, usually referring to inpatient care, although the term may be used for day or community care as well.
adult placement	A type of foster care in which an older person lives with an approved family.
advance care planning	Writing in advance for decisions that may have to be made prior to incapacity or at the end of life. People may choose to do this planning formally, by means of advance directives, or informally, through discussions with family members, friends and health care and social service providers, or a combination of both methods.
ageism	The negative stereotyping or discrimination of people on the basis of age.
agent (of disease)	A factor, such as a micro-organism, chemical substance, form of radiation, or excessive cold or heat, which is essential for the occurrence of a disease. A disease may be caused by more than one agent acting together or, in the case of deficiency diseases, by the absence of an agent.
antipathy	A system of medicine based on the theory that successful therapy depends on creating a condition antagonistic to, or incompatible with, the condition to be treated. Thus, drugs such as antibiotics are given to combat diseases caused by the organisms to which they are antagonistic.
ambulatory care	Health services provided on an outpatient basis in contrast to services provided in the home or to persons who are inpatients. While many inpatients may be ambulatory, the term ambulatory care usually implies the patient travels to a location to receive services and no overnight stay in hospital is required. Many surgeries and treatments are now provided on an outpatient basis, while previously they were considered reasons for inpatient hospitalization.
ancillary service	Support service provided in conjunction with medical or hospital care. Such services include laboratory, radiology, physical therapy and inhalation therapy, among others.
autonomy	The perceived ability to control, cope with and make personal decisions about how one lives on a daily basis, according to one's own rules and preferences.
auxiliary worker	A worker who has less than full professional qualifications in a particular field and is supervised by a professional worker.
Bereavement	A process of loss, grief and recovery, usually associated with death.
Burden of disease	The total significance of disease for society beyond the immediate cost of treatment. It measures years of life lost to ill-health as the difference between total life expectancy and disability-adjusted life expectancy.

Nursing is about providing services essential to the maintenance and restoration of health by attending the needs of an ailing individual. Nursing Terminology deals with the idiom/phrases used by nurses in the medical field. This pamphlet provides these terms and their meanings for those who may be studying the field in a concise basis.

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