

## Medical Definitions/Explanations:

- **ICP monitor** - device for measuring the intracranial pressure inside the brain. Pressure builds up after a head injury, bleeding into the brain, or tumor.
- **EEG** - (electroencephalogram) a machine that records the electrical activity of the brain; used as a diagnostic tool to determine abnormalities of brain activity.
- **Oxygen catheter** - 2 pronged plastic tubing to deliver oxygen thru the nose.
- **Endotracheal Tube** - (ET) large plastic tube inserted into the nose or mouth that delivers oxygen usually in conjunction with a ventilator. Referred to as a “breathing tube”
- **Ventilator** - machine that delivers x amount of breaths per minute at a certain volume. Often called a “breathing machine”
- **CPAP** - (continuous positive airway pressure) a machine used most often during the night to help with sleep apnea.
- **BiPap** - (bilevel positive airway pressure) A non-invasive face mask ventilation. The inhalation pressure delivered by the machine is similar to CPAP, but the pressure decreases during exhalation making it easier to exhale.
- **Apnea monitor** - a device that measures the absence of breathing usually used with newborns.
- **Halter monitor** - portable cardiac monitor that is worn for 24 hrs to monitor the patient’s heart rhythm with normal activity.
- **IPPB** - a machine that delivers intermittent positive pressure breathing.
- **Nebulizer** - a device connected to the IPPB machine that delivers medication in an aerosol fashion.
- **Tracheostomy** - a surgical opening over the trachea that allows breathing when the airway is otherwise obstructed. It can be permanent or temporary.
  
- **G-tube** - (gastrostomy tube) a soft rubber catheter that is surgically implanted thru the abdomen for the purpose of feeding. Often seen with individuals who cannot eat or aspirate food/fluids into the lungs while eating.
- **J-tube** - (jejunostomy tube) a soft rubber catheter that is surgically implanted into the jejunum for the purpose of feeding an individual who cannot eat otherwise.
- **Colostomy** - the opening of some portion of the colon onto the abdominal surface. Stool drains into a bag that is attached to the skin. Can be temporary or permanent.
- **Ileostomy** - creation of a surgical passage from the ileum to the abdominal wall. Requires the wearing of a fecal incontinence bag after surgery. Stools tend to be looser than with a colostomy.
- **Fecal impactions** - hard stool in the rectum due to a lack of fluids, fiber and motility of the colon.
- **Suppositories** - medication in a solid form that is inserted into the rectum.
  
- **Foley catheter** - a small flexible rubber tube that remains in the bladder to drain urine.
- **Suprapubic catheter** - surgically implanted tube that is left in place to drain urine and relieve pressure on the kidney.

- **Stents** - spiral shaped metal tubes that are placed inside an artery to prevent narrowing and increase blood flow. Can be used in the heart, kidneys and liver.
- **EKG** - a record of the electrical activity of the heart identified by certain waves called P, QRS, and T. These represent the activity of the heart during contraction and relaxation.
- **Pacemaker** - a compact size implantable device that electrically stimulates the upper chambers of the heart to maintain a normal sinus rhythm.
- **AICD** - (implantable cardiac defibrillator) device surgically placed inside the chest to regulate the heart rate of the lower chambers of the heart. Can be in combination with a pacemaker.
- **Halter monitor** - portable cardiac monitor that is worn for 24 hrs to monitor the patient's heart rhythm with normal activity.
- **Baclofen pump** - surgically implanted device that is placed in the lower abdomen to lessen the level of pain and spasticity due to cerebral palsy.
- **Vagal nerve stimulator** - a device the size of a hockey puck that is placed in the chest similar to a pacemaker, the lead wire is wrapped around the vagus nerve for the control of seizure activity.
- **Sequential compression devices (SCD's)** - wraps around legs and feet to automatically compress and release pressure to the legs to prevent blood clots, especially after surgery.
- **MRSA** - (methicillin resistant staph aureus). staph is a common bacteria that is found on the skin and nose of healthy people. A diagnosis of MRSA is made when the bacteria does not respond to treatment with penicillin.
- **Glucometer** - a device which measures blood sugars
- **Insulin pump** - surgically implanted device which delivers measured amounts of insulin at specific times.
- **Tube feedings** - a method of providing measured nutrition via pump or bolus dose thru a flexible rubber tube that is inserted into the stomach.
- **NG** - (nasogastric tube) a flexible tube inserted thru the nose or mouth for the purpose of emptying the stomach or inserting manual tube feedings.
- **Decubitus** - bedsore resulting from pressure to an area of the body causing skin breakdown
- **Amniocentesis** - a medical procedure that tests fluid from the amniotic sac to determine if a fetus has any genetic defects. The RC may purchase this procedure for pregnant women at risk of parenting a child with a developmental disability.
- **Suctioning** - a procedure that clears mucous to enable proper breathing through a tracheostomy.