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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this edition of Blackwell’s Nursing Dictionary. Those contributing to this edition have produced an excellent textbook, one that will be an invaluable resource and practical guide for both students of nursing and more experienced nurses in clinical practice, research, policy and higher education.

The resources included in this edition cover an impressive range of useful information on professional practice. It includes normal definitions and measures, details of professional organisations and journals, continuing professional development, the Code of Professional Practice, the quality assurance framework for higher education and a guide to understanding and implementing clinical research in practice. The dictionary will, without doubt, add to our understanding of a range of professional issues in clinical practice across all areas of nursing.

The volume of information needed by nurses is increasing all the time, and more and more patients will turn to nurses for health-related information, trusting in them for appropriate help and support. There is a growing desire among patients and the public to take more control of their own health, and to have high quality personalised care, including better access to information and wider choice about their care and treatment. Most patients would like to be more involved in their care and provided with more information about their treatment, tests and investigations.

While much has been achieved, we still need to shift the culture of the NHS from one of dependency to one of increased independence and self care. The language we use – and the way we use it – is an important factor in shifting the balance of power in our relationships with patients and carers.

We need to ensure that patients and carers experience effective communication that is sensitive to their individual needs and preferences, and that it promotes high quality care for the patient.

This highlights the importance of using straightforward language, keeping information up to date and factual, and avoiding jargon and abbreviations in our day-to-day contact with patients and carers. We need to communicate technical and evidence-based information in a way that matches the patient’s level of understanding, checking that information given is understood and the meaning is the same for all involved. This will involve developing new relationships with patients, where we see information from the patient’s perspective, where information is reviewed by patients, carers and nurses to ensure it is accessible to them and applicable to their needs. We need to look at how we use information and develop a greater awareness of the use of language and its influence on our relationships with patients. Used effectively, it can be a key factor in establishing trusting relationships between patients and nurses.
The contributors have put together an excellent resource and a valuable tool for all areas of nursing. The real challenge lies in how we use this knowledge to build our relationships with patients and carers – so that they are fully engaged in their own care, the way it is planned and delivered, and personalised to their individual needs and choices.

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Chief Nursing Officer
Department of Health
England
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Dawn is Professor of Mental Health and Primary Care at IHCS Bournemouth University and is leading the development of an Academic Research Centre in Practice with North and Southwest Dorset NHS Trusts. Having completed her nurse training in 1983 she worked in both acute and community settings before undertaking her first degree at the Institute of Advanced Nurse Education, Royal College of Nursing, later completing her PhD at University of Nottingham. The focus of her work has been on critical reflexivity, practice-based research, and therapeutic practice, and she has successfully managed a number of funded research projects in these areas. It was for this work that she was awarded the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society distinguished nurse researcher award (2000) and a Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing (2002). She is widely published in her field, with her books being translated into other languages. She sits on a number of editorial boards and committees, including the International Association for Human Caring and the Florence Nightingale Foundation.

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Garfield Griffiths qualified as a general nurse in South Wales (1970), he practised as a staff nurse on a male mixed speciality ward and went on to specialize in orthopaedics at The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London. In 1973 he took up his first charge nurses post at The Prince of Wales Hospital, Wales. Three years later he became a clinical teacher to the orthopaedic course in that hospital. During this time he studied for the RCN Clinical Teachers Certificate and the London University Diploma in Nursing. His current post is senior lecturer at The University of the West of England, where he has held the roles of award route leader for the Diploma in Professional Studies Award and field leader for the post-qualifying modules.

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List of Contributors

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Abi has run her own consultancy company since January 1998. Prior to this she held clinical, education, and research posts in organizations including St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, the Royal College of Nursing, and the Department of Social Medicine and School for Policy Studies at the University of Bristol. She works with many local and national and international healthcare organizations to develop policies, review services, and carry out research into new roles and service developments across the healthcare professions. Abi has both a Bachelors and Masters degree in nursing, and has a varied list of publications, particularly in new role development, competence assessment, and health policy.

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Les qualified in 1970 and spent over 14 years in operating theatres before moving into the fields of education and research. Since 1989 he has been involved nationally and internationally in the development and implementation of competency-based approaches within nursing and healthcare. He has been involved in managing a number of research and development projects, has published widely and presented papers at a number of international and national conferences. In 2000 he was conferred as a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing for his work on competency-based education, and in 2001 was awarded the Edith Cavell scholarship by the Florence Nightingale Foundation.
When we agreed to undertake this project neither of us realized the amount of effort and concentration that would be required, not only of us, but also of the individuals who had agreed to provide their time and intellect. We would like to thank those people who have supported us in the development and completion of what we believe is a dictionary that is nursing focused, drawing on the dynamic and contemporary health-care context that we now enjoy. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Professor Veronica Bishop, Alison Twycross, Theo Stickley, Abi Masterson, Linda Antoniw Sarah Fisher, Julia Wynn, Tom Tait, Mary Foss, Liz Walsh, and Elizabeth Rosser. We would also like to thank Beth Knight and the staff at Blackwell Publishing for their encouragement and advice.

D.F.
S.M-P.

The publishers would like to thank Nursing Times for permission to reproduce the handwashing diagram on page 55, reprinted from the sixth edition of The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures, edited by Lisa Dougherty and Sara Lister and published in 2004 by Blackwell Publishing Ltd; and the Royal Marsden Hospital for permission to reproduce the figures from the same source on pages 494 and 596. Other illustrations in the Dictionary are taken from the following, all published by Blackwell Publishing, who would like to acknowledge their indebtedness to these authors:


Appendix 4 is reproduced by permission of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and Appendix 9 by permission of The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.
The system of pronunciation used has deliberately been kept simple. Words that the nurse might have difficulty pronouncing are broken down into their component syllables and respelled phonetically. The accented syllables are indicated by a slanting mark at their terminations (').

**Vowels**

Vowels may be pronounced long or short. When short, they are unmarked and are pronounced as follows:

- $a$ as in fat or father
- $e$ as in bed
- $i$ as in fit
- $o$ as in for or hot

When long, they are given a long mark and are pronounced as follows:

- $a$ as in tame
- $e$ as in he
- $i$ as in time
- $o$ as in over
- $u$ as in use

Other long vowels are:

- $ah$ as in spa
- $ai$ as in air
- $aw$ as in saw

Words that end with $y$ are usually pronounced as though they ended with a short $i$, as, for example, chemistry (kem'-is-tri).

**Consonants**

Consonants ordinarily take the common English language pronunciation. When this is not the case, the word is respelled phonetically, for example:

- $c$ may be pronounced as $s$ or $k$ as in cicatrix (sik'-a-triks)
- $ch$ may be pronounced as $k$ as in psychosis (sī-kō'-sis)
- $g$ may be pronounced as $j$ as in pharyngeal (far-in'-jē-al)
- $ph$ is usually pronounced as $f$ as in physical (fiz'-i-kal)
- $psy$ is pronounced as $sī$ as in psyche (sī'-kē)
- $-sion$ may be pronounced $shun$ as in compassion (kom-pa'shun) or $zhun$ as in explosion (eks-plō'zhen)
- $-tion$ is usually pronounced $shun$. 
ABBREVIATIONS

AA Alcoholics Anonymous
ABC airway, breathing, and circulation
Abd abdomen
ABE acute bacterial endocarditis
ABGs arterial blood gases
ACE angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACTH adrenocorticotrophic hormone
ADH antidiuretic hormone
ADHD attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ADL activities of daily living
ADP adenosine diphosphate
AF atrial fibrillation
AFP alpha-fetoprotein
AHF antihaemophilic factor
AI (1) aortic insufficiency; (2) artificial insemination
AID artificial insemination using donor semen
AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AIH artificial insemination using husband’s semen
ALG antilymphocyte globulin
ALS (1) advanced life support; (2) amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; (3) antilymphocyte serum
AMP adenosine monophosphate
ANF antinuclear factor
ANOVA analysis of variance
anti-HBc antibody against hepatitis B core antigen
anti-HBe antibody against hepatitis B e antigen
anti-HBs antibody against hepatitis B surface antigen
APCL accreditation (assessment) of prior certificated learning
APEL accreditation (assessment) of prior experiential learning
APL accreditation (assessment) of prior learning
APT alum-precipitated diphtheria toxoid
ARC AIDS-related complex
ASD atrial septal defect
ASO antistreptolysin O
ATP adenosine triphosphate
Abbreviations

ATS antitetanus serum
ATT antitetanus toxoid
A-V atrioventricular
BA Bachelor of Arts
BACP British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy
BAI Beck anxiety inventory
BAOT British Association of Occupational Therapists
BBB blood–brain barrier
BCC basal cell carcinoma
BCG bacillus Calmette–Guérin
bd *bis die* (used in prescriptions, meaning twice daily)
BDI Beck depression inventory
BEd Bachelor of Education
BHS Beck hopelessness scale
BIT binary digit
BLS basic life support
BMA British Medical Association
BMI body mass index
BMR basal metabolic rate
BN Bachelor of Nursing
BNF British National Formulary
BP blood pressure
BSc Bachelor of Science
BSE bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CAL computer-assisted learning
CAPD continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
CARATS Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice, and Throughcare Scheme
CAT computerized axial tomography
CATS Credit Accumulation Transfer System
CBT cognitive behavioural therapy
CCETSW Central Council for the Education and Training in Social Work
CCF congestive cardiac failure
CCU (1) coronary care unit; (2) cardiac care unit
CD controlled drug
CDC Centers for Disease Control (USA)
CD-ROM compact disc read-only memory
CF cystic fibrosis
CHAI Commission for Health-care Audit and Inspection
CHC Community Health Council
CHD coronary heart disease
CHF congestive heart failure
CHI Commission for Health Improvement
CINAHL Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature
CJD Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease
CMHT community mental health team
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMV</td>
<td>cytomegalovirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNO</td>
<td>Chief Nursing Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>(1) central nervous system; (2) clinical nurse specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COAD</td>
<td>chronic obstructive airways disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSHH</td>
<td>Control of Substances Hazardous to Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>Care Programme Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPAP</td>
<td>continuous positive airways pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>continuing professional development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPK</td>
<td>creatinine phosphokinase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPN</td>
<td>community psychiatric nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPPIH</td>
<td>Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR</td>
<td>cardiopulmonary resuscitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>central processing unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>C-reactive protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>cerebrospinal fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>Chartered Society of Physiotherapists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSSD</td>
<td>Central Sterile Supplies Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSSU</td>
<td>Central Sterile Supply Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>computed tomography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>curriculum vitae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVA</td>
<td>cerebrovascular accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP</td>
<td>central venous pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVS</td>
<td>(1) cardiovascular system; (2) chorionic villus sampling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CXR</td>
<td>chest x-ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D and C</td>
<td>dilatation and curettage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASE</td>
<td>Denver Articulation Screening Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBT</td>
<td>dialectical behavioural therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>direct current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDA</td>
<td>Disability Discrimination Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>diethylstilboestrol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DI</td>
<td>donor insemination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIC</td>
<td>disseminated intravascular coagulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DipHE</td>
<td>Diploma in Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DipEd</td>
<td>Diploma in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DipN</td>
<td>Diploma in Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DipNEd</td>
<td>Diploma in Nursing Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCC</td>
<td>Disabled Living Centres Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN</td>
<td>district nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNA</td>
<td>deoxyribonucleic acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>death on arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPhil</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPT</td>
<td>diphtheria—pertussis—tetanus (vaccine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DQ</td>
<td>developmental quotient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abbreviations

DRC Disability Rights Commission
DSM IV *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition*
DSPD dangerous and severe personality disorder
DTP diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis (vaccine)
DTs delirium tremens
DVT deep vein thrombosis
EBL enquiry-based learning
EBM evidence-based medicine
EBP evidence-based practice
EC European Community
ECG electrocardiogram
ECT electroconvulsive therapy
ECV external cephalic version
EDD expected date of delivery
EDTA ethylenediamine-tetra-acetic acid
EEG electroencephalogram
EKG electrocardiogram
ELISA enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMG electromyogram
ENT ear, nose and throat
ERG electroretinogram
ERPC evacuation of retained products of conception
ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
EU European Union
EUA examination under anaesthetic
FBC full blood count
FBS fasting blood sugar
FEV forced expiratory volume
FPCert Family Planning Certificate
FRC functional residual capacity
FRCGP Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners
FRCN Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing
FRCOG Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
FRCP Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians
FRCPath Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists
FRCPE Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
FRCPI Fellow of the Royal College of Ireland
FRCPsych Fellow of the Royal College of Psychologists
FRCR Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists
FRCS Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons
FRCSE Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
FRCSSI Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland
FSH follicle-stimulating hormone
FVC forced vital capacity
GABA gamma-aminobutyric acid
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>glomerular filtration rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGTP</td>
<td>gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH</td>
<td>growth hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHIH</td>
<td>growth hormone inhibiting hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHRH</td>
<td>growth hormone releasing hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI</td>
<td>gastrointestinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIFT</td>
<td>gamete intrafallopian transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GM</td>
<td>genetically modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>General Medical Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>general practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSCC</td>
<td>General Social Care Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTN</td>
<td>glycercyl trinitrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUM</td>
<td>genitourinary medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVHD</td>
<td>graft-versus-host disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZ</td>
<td>Health Action Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hb</td>
<td>haemoglobin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBCAg</td>
<td>hepatitis B core antigen</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBeAg</td>
<td>hepatitis B e antigen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBIG</td>
<td>hepatitis B immunoglobulin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBsAg</td>
<td>hepatitis B surface antigen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBV</td>
<td>hepatitis B virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HC</td>
<td>head circumference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>health-care assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hCG</td>
<td>human chorionic gonadotrophin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCO</td>
<td>health-care officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV</td>
<td>hepatitis C virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDL</td>
<td>high-density lipoprotein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDU</td>
<td>high dependency unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEI</td>
<td>higher education institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGC</td>
<td>Human Genetics Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hib vaccine</td>
<td><em>Haemophilus influenzae</em> type B vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HImP</td>
<td>Health Improvement Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMSO</td>
<td>Her Majesty’s Stationery Office</td>
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<td>HoNOS</td>
<td>Health of the Nation Outcome Scale</td>
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<td>HPC</td>
<td>Health Professions Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV</td>
<td>human papilloma virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRT</td>
<td>hormone replacement therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSV</td>
<td>herpes simplex virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTLV</td>
<td>human T-cell leukaemia–lymphoma virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HV</td>
<td>health visitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVCert</td>
<td>Health Visitor’s Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>hypertext markup language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD</td>
<td>inflammatory bowel disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBS</td>
<td>irritable bowel syndrome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICAS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service
ICD International Classification of Diseases
ICN International Council of Nurses
ICPs integrated care pathways
ICU Intensive Care Unit
IDDM insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
IM&T information management and technology
IPPB intermittent positive pressure breathing
IPPV intermittent positive pressure ventilation
IPV inactivated poliovirus vaccine
IQ intelligence quotient
IRP Independent Reconfiguration Panel
IT information technology
ITU intensive therapy unit
IU International Unit
IUCD intrauterine contraceptive device
IUD intrauterine device
IV intravenous
IVF in vitro fertilization
IVI intravenous infusion
IVP intravenous pyelogram
IVT intravenous therapy
LDH lactic acid dehydrogenase
LDP Local Delivery Plan
LFT liver function test
LH luteinizing hormone
LHRH luteinizing hormone releasing hormone
LMP last menstrual period
LREC Local Research Ethics Committee
LRT lower respiratory tract
LSD lysergic acid diethylamide
LSP Local Strategic Partnership
LVF left ventricular failure
MA Master of Arts
MAO monoamine oxidase
MBA Master of Business Administration
MCH mean cell haemoglobin
MCV mean cell volume
MD Doctor of Medicine
MDMA methylenedioxymethamphetamine
ME myalgic encephalomyelitis
MEd Master of Education
MI myocardial infarction
MIND National Association for Mental Health
MMR measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine
MPhil Master of Philosophy
MRC Medical Research Council
MREC Multi Research Ethics Committee
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
MRV minute respiratory volume
MS multiple sclerosis
MSc Master of Science
MSU midstream specimen of urine
NA Nomina Anatomica
NatPaCT National Primary and Care Trust Development
NBM nil (nothing) by mouth
NCSC National Care Standards Commission
NCVQ National Council for Vocational Qualifications
NDU Nursing Development Unit
NEC necrotizing enterocolitis
NeLH National Electronic Library for Health
NG nasogastric
NHS National Health Service
NHSCRD National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
NICE National Institute for Clinical Excellence
NICU neonatal intensive care unit
NIDDM non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NIPPV non-invasive positive pressure ventilation
NMC Nursing and Midwifery Council
NMR nuclear magnetic resonance
NPN non-protein nitrogen
NREM non-rapid eye movements
NRR National Research Register
NSAIDs non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
NSFs National Service Frameworks
NTO National Training Organisation
NVQ National Vocational Qualification
ONS Office of National Statistics
OPCS Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
OR odds ratio
OTC over the counter
PAF performance assessment framework
PALS Patient Advice and Liaison Service
PBL problem-based learning
p.c. after meals
PCA patient-controlled analgesia
PCG Primary Care Group
PCO₂ partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PCR practitioner-centred research
Abbreviations

PCT  Primary Care Trust
PD   personality disorder
PEEP positive end expiratory pressure
PFI  Private Finance Initiative
PPD  Purified Protein Derivative
PREP Post-Registration Education and Practice
p.r.n. whenever necessary
PROMIS problem-oriented medical information
PSI  psycho-social intervention
PTSD post-traumatic stress disorder
PUO pyrexia of undetermined origin
PV   polycythaemia vera
PVC  premature ventricular contraction
QAA  Quality Assessment Agency for Higher Education
QCA  Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
QUALYs quality adjusted life years
RAE  Research Assessment Exercise
RCTs randomized controlled trials
REM  rapid eye movements
RNA ribonucleic acid
SAD  seasonal affective disorder
SARS severe acute respiratory syndrome
SCBU special care baby unit
SCID severe combined immunodeficiency disease
SCM  State Certified Midwife
SCOTEC Scottish Technical Education Council
SD   standard deviation
SE   standard error
SHO senior house officer
SIDS sudden infant death syndrome
SNOMED Systemized Nomenclature of Medicine
SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SQA  Scottish Qualifications Authority
SRN  State Registered Nurse
stat statim
STD  sexually transmitted disease
STI  sexually transmitted infection
SVQ Scottish Vocational Qualification
SVT  supraventricular tachycardia
TABS temperature, airway, breathing, sugar
TB   tuberculosis (tubercle bacillus)
tds  three times daily
TEDs thrombo embolic deterrent (stockings)
TENS transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
TIA transient ischaemic attack
TOP  termination of pregnancy
TOPV  trivalent oral poliovirus vaccine
TPI  Treponema pallidum immobilization (test)
TPN  total parenteral nutrition
TPR  temperature, pulse, respiration
TQM  total quality management
TRIC  trachoma and inclusion conjunctivitis
TSH  thyroid-stimulating hormone
TURP  transurethral resection of tumour
TV  tidal volume
UKCC  United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
ung  unguent (ointment)
UNICEF  United Nations International Children’s Fund
UTI  urinary tract infection
UVA  ultraviolet light A
UVB  ultraviolet light B
VC  vital capacity
vCJD  variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
VDU  visual display unit
VF  ventricular fibrillation
VSD  ventricular septal defect
VSO  Voluntary Service Overseas
VT  ventricular tachycardia
WBC  white blood cells/count
WDC  Workforce Development Confederation
WHO  World Health Organization
WTE  Whole Time Equivalent
www  world wide web
ZIFT  zygote intrafallopian transfer
Ar: Chemical symbol for argon.
a-, an-: Prefixes denoting absence, separation, away, away from, without, not, less, lacking, lack of; a — when used before a consonant; an — when before a vowel.
AA: Abbreviation for Alcoholics Anonymous (q.v.).
ab-: Prefix denoting absent, away from, off, negative, separation, departure from, outside, deviating from.
abacterial (a-bak-te′-ri-al): Without bacteria; free from bacteria. A. meningitis aseptic meningitis, see under MENINGITIS.
abaragnosis (a-bar-og-nō′-sis): Lack or loss of the conscious perception of weight, or of the ability to estimate weight.
abarthrosis (ab-ar-thro′-sis): Diarthrosis (q.v.).
articulation (ab′-ar-tik-ū-lā′-shun): 1. The dislocation of a joint. 2. A synovial or freely movable joint; e.g., the hip. See DIARTHROSIS.
abasia (a-bā′-zi-a): Inability to walk, or unsteadiness of gait, due to motor incoordination. ASTASIA A. see under ASTASIA. — abasic, abatic, adj.
abatement (a-ba′t-ment): A decrease or lessening of a symptom or of pain. — abate, v.
Abbott-Miller tube: A long double-lumen intestinal tube with an inflatable balloon attached to the distal end; used in certain diagnostic tests, to treat an obstruction in the small intestine, and to relieve distension of the intestine.
ABC: In emergency medicine, refers to Airway, Breathing, and Circulation in regard to priority of care.
Abd: Abbreviation for abdomen (q.v.).
abdomen (ab′-do-men): The belly. The largest body cavity; lies between the thorax, from which it is separated by the diaphragm, and the pelvis; is enclosed by a wall made up of muscles, the vertebral column and the two ilia; contains the stomach, small and large intestine, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, the descending aorta and inferior vena cava, and (behind the peritoneum) the kidneys and ureters. It is lined with a serous membrane, the peritoneum, which is also reflected over most of the organs as a cover. ACUTE A. term for a pathological condition within the belly that requires immediate surgery; PENDULOUS A. that which occurs when the anterior wall relaxes and the abdomen sags or hangs down; SCAPHOID A. an A. in which the anterior wall ‘caves in’. — abdominal, adj. See REGION, ABDOMINAL.
abdomin-, abdomino-: Combining forms denoting the abdomen.
abdominal (ab-dom′-i-nal): Relating to the abdomen. A. aorta the part of the descending aorta that passes down through the abdomen; A. breathing breathing in which the abdominal muscles and diaphragm are active; the abdomen moves outward during inspiration and inward during expiration. Also called dia-phragmatic breathing. A. cavity the space in the trunk of the body between the diaphragm and the pelvic floor; contains the abdominal organs; A. delivery delivery of an infant through an abdominal incision; A. dropsys ascites (q.v.); A. fistula an artificial opening from an abdominal organ to the surface, e.g., a colostomy; A. gestation see ECTOPIC G.; under ECTOPIC; A. hernia a hernia of a loop of intestine through the muscles of the abdominal wall; A. hysterectomy removal of the uterus through an abdominal incision; A. paracentesis removal of fluid from the abdominal cavity by means of a trocar; also called abdo-minocentesis and abdominal tap; A. pregnancy ectopic pregnancy, see under ECTOPIC; A. regions see under REGION; A. section an incision into the abdominal wall for surgical purposes.
abdominal thrust: An emergency procedure used when a patient’s airway is obstructed; may be executed with the patient prone or standing; consists of giving several quick upwards thrusts against the patient’s abdomen between the xiphoid (q.v.) process and the umbilicus (q.v.). If the patient is standing, the rescuer stands behind the patient, grasps one fist in the other and gives the thrust; if the patient is prone, the rescuer may be either beside or astride the patient and makes the thrust with one hand on the heel of the other. Four thrusts are given in fairly rapid succession. See also HEIMLICH MANOEUVRE.
**abdominoanterior** (ab-dom’-i-nō-ān-tē’-ri-or): Relating to a position with the abdomen forward; usually referring to the position of the fetus in utero.

**abdominocentesis** (ab-dom’-i-nō-sen-tē’-sis): Surgical puncture of the abdominal wall for the aspiration of fluid from the abdominal cavity; see PARACENTESIS.

**abdominoceysis** (ab-dom’-i-nō-sē¯-sē¯-sis): Ectopic pregnancy; see under ECTOPIC.

**abdominohysterectomy** (ab-dom’-i-nō-his-ter-ē¯-ktō-mē): Operation for the removal of the uterus through an incision in the abdominal wall.

**abdominopelvic** (ab-dom’-i-nō-pēl’-vik): Relating to the abdomen and pelvis or pelvic cavity.

**abdominoperineal** (ab-dom’-i-nō-per-in-ē’-al): Relating to the abdomen and perineum. A. RESECTION OF THE RECTUM an operation in which the proximal end of the bowel is brought out on to the abdominal wall as a permanent colostomy, and the rectum is removed via the perineum.

**abdominoposterior** (ab-dom’-i-nō-pos-tē’-ri-or): Relating to a position with the abdomen turned backward; usually referring to the position of the fetus in utero.

**abdominoscopy** (ab-dom’-i-nōs’-ko-pē): Examination or inspection of the abdomen and/or its viscera, either with or without the use of an endoscope.

**abdominothoracic** (ab-dom’-i-nō-thō-ras’-ē-kē): Pertaining to the abdomen and thorax.

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**abduct** (ab-dukt’): To draw away from the median line of the body or from an adjoining part. Abduce. Opp. to adduct.

**abduction** (ab-dukt’-shun): 1. The drawing away of a part from the midline of the body or of one part from an adjoining part, or the result of such action. Opp. of adduction. 2. The act of turning outward. 3. A position away from the midline. 4. The result of movement away from the midline. 5. In ophthalmology, rotation of the eye outwardly.

**abductor** (ab-dukt’-tor): A muscle that draws a part away from the median line of the body; or a nerve supplying such a muscle. Opp. to adductor.

**ABE**: Abbreviation for acute bacterial endocarditis; see under ENDOCARDITIS.

**aberrant** (ab-er’-ant): Deviating or wandering from the normal or expected in some way, as in structure, shape, or course. — aberrancy, n.

**aberration** (ab-e-ra¯-shun): A deviation from normal. Mental a. a mild mental abnormality; Optical a. any imperfection in the refraction of a lens of the eye; SPHERICAL A. imperfect focus of light rays by a lens.

**abetalipoproteinaemia** (a-be¯-tal-ip’-ō-prō-te¯-nē¯-ə-mē¯-ə): A rare hereditary disorder characterized by almost complete lack of lipoprotein in the blood and malabsorption of fat, and later, by retinitis, ataxia, and muscular atrophy; usually manifested early in infancy.


**ABGs**: Abbreviation for arterial blood gases; see under ARTERIAL.

**ablation** (ab-la¯-shun): Removal; detachment. In surgery, the removal or amputation of a part of the body. — ablative, adj.

**ablepharia** (a-blef-ai’-ri-a): Congenital absence of the eyelids; may be total or partial. — ablepharous, adj.

**ablepsia** (ab-lep’-si-ə): Blindness.

**abluent** (a-blyū’-ent): 1. Having a detergent or cleansing action. 2. A cleansing agent such as soap.

**ablation** (ab-lā’-shun): 1. Washing or cleansing, especially of the body. 2. The pouring of water.
over the body or part of it as a therapeutic measure.

**ablutomania** (ab-lū’-tō-mān’-ē-ā): Abnormal interest in washing, bathing, or cleansing oneself.

**abnormal** (ab-nor’-mal): Not normal; irregular; different from the usual. — abnormality, n. a. psychology the study that deals with maladaptive behaviour and deviations in mental functioning, including neuroses and psychoses, whether they occur in people of subnormal, normal, or superior intellect.

**ABO**: Abbreviation for the international (Landsteiner) classification of human blood types. Blood is typed according to compatibility of the ABO factors in transfusion as A, B, AB, and O. ABO INCOMPATIBILITY a condition usually caused by the mother having O type blood (which has naturally occurring anti-A and anti-B antibodies) and the fetus having either A or B blood; symptoms in infants include those seen in mild anaemia, hyperbilirubinaemia, hepatosplenomegaly, spherocytosis, reticulocytosis. See blood groups.

**aboral** (ab-aw’-ral): Away from or opposite to the mouth.

**abort** (a-bort’): 1. To terminate before full development. 2. To check a disease process in its early stages. 3. To terminate a pregnancy before the fetus is viable.

**abortion** (a-bor’-shun): 1. Abrupt termination of a process. 2. Expulsion from the uterus of products of conception before the fetus is viable, i.e., before the end of the 24th week of pregnancy, the fetus not being born alive. **ACCIDENTAL A.** one due to an accident; ARTIFICIAL A. one brought on intentionally; COMPLETE A. one in which the entire contents of the uterus are expelled; CRIMINAL A. the illegal intentional evacuation of the uterus; FAILED A. a rare occurrence when a pregnancy persists after incomplete loss of the products of conception; HABITUAL A. repeated successive abortions; preferable term is recurrent abortion; INCOMPLETE A. one in which part of the fetus or placenta is retained within the uterus; INDUCED A., INTENTIONAL A. produced by mechanical or medical means; INEVITABLE A. one that has advanced to a stage where termination of the pregnancy cannot be prevented; MISSED A. one in which early signs and symptoms of pregnancy disappear and the fetus dies but is not expelled for some time, see CARNEOUS MOLE under mole; SEPTIC A. one associated with acute infection of the endometrium and myometrium and high fever; evacuation of the uterus is the usual life-saving procedure; SPONTANEOUS A. unexpected expulsion of the products of conception before the 24th week of gestation; THERAPEUTIC A. intentional termination of a pregnancy that is a threat to the mother’s life or because there is a substantial risk that the child will be born suffering from such mental and/or physical abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped; has been made legal if carried out in accordance with the

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**Classification of abortion**

- Habitual
- Spontaneous
- Induced
  - Therapeutic
  - Criminal
    - Septic
- Threatened
- Inevitable
- Missed
  - Complete
  - Incomplete
- Carneous Mole

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over the body or part of it as a therapeutic measure.
provisions laid down in the Abortion Act of 1967, amended 1990; THREATENED A. one with slight blood loss vaginally while the cervix remains undilated; TUBAL A. tubal pregnancy in which the conceptus dies and is expelled from the fimbriated end of the uterine tube.

**abreaction** (ab-re-æk-shun): In psychoanalysis, a therapeutic reaction resulting from recall of a repressed idea or a traumatic experience or memory; may come about from gaining insight by talking to the analyst or under the influence of light anaesthesia. See **NARCOANALYSIS.** Also called catharsis.

**abruptio** (ab-rup'-shun): A tearing away; separation. A. PLACENTAE a relatively rare occurrence usually happening prior to the third stage of labour in which there is separation of the placenta accompanied by vaginal bleeding in amounts depending on the degree of separation that occurs.

**abscess** (ab'-ses): Severe localized inflammation within a tissue or organ, acute or chronic, with formation of a cavity containing pus and debris from destruction of tissue by pyogenic organisms. ACUTE A. one characterized by heat, redness, swelling, pain, and pus formation; ALVEOLAR A. one at the root of a tooth; ANORECTAL A. one in the tissues around the anus and rectum; APPENDICEAL A. one resulting from the perforation of an inflamed appendix; BLIND A. one with no external opening; BONE A. osteomyelitis (q.v.); BRAIN A. an intracranial A. involving the brain or its meninges; usually arising secondarily to infection elsewhere in the body, especially the ear or frontal sinus; characterized by headache, vomiting, delirium; BREAST A. one involving tissue of the mammary gland; BRODE’S A. chronic osteomyelitis, usually occurring in the long bones and without an acute phase; most often seen in young adults; CEREBRAL A. brain A.; CHRONIC A. one occurring in the course of a chronic inflammation; usually tuberculous; slow-growing with pus formation but slight or no inflammation; COLD A. chronic A.; DRY A. one that dries up without breaking and draining; EPIDURAL A. one outside the dura but inside the cranium or spinal canal; HEPATIC A. one in the liver; HOT A. acute A.; LUNG A. pulmonary A.; LYMPHATIC A. one forming in a lymph node; MAMMARY A. breast A.; METASTATIC A. a secondary A. forming at a distance from the source of infection; PELVIC A. arising in the pelvic peritoneum, often involving the rectouterine pouch; PERINEPHRIC A. one in the kidney cortex or in the tissues surrounding the kidney; PERIDONTAL A. one arising in the periodontium; PERIPROCTIC A. one arising in the tissues around the rectum and anus; PERITONEAL A. one within the peritoneal cavity, frequently following peritonitis; PERITONSILLAR A. one that forms behind the tonsil as an extension of an infection of the tonsil; also called quinsy; PRIMARY A. one forming at the site of infection; PSOAS A. one in the psoas muscle, often resulting from tuberculosis of the lower lumbar vertebrae; PULMONARY A. nontuberculous A. of the lung with necrosis of tissue resulting in cavitation; RETROCAECAL A. one posterior to the caecum, often resulting from a ruptured postcaecal appendix; RETROPHARYNGEAL A. one involving the lymph nodes of the lateral and posterior walls of the pharynx; SECONDARY A. an embolic A. STERILE A. one that contains no culturable material; STITCH A. one that forms at the site of a suture; STREPTOCOCCAL A. one caused by a streptococcal organism; SUBDIAPHRAGMATIC A. one beneath the diaphragm, usually on the right side near or involving the liver; SUBDURAL A. one just under the dura mater; SUBPERISTEOAL A. one forming under the periosteum; SUBPHRENIC A. subdiaphragmatic A.; SUBUNGUAL A. one under the fingernail; SUDORIPAROUS A. one forming in a sweat gland; TONSILLAR A. acute supplicative tonsillitis; TOOTH A. alveolar A.; TUBERCULOUS A. one due to infection with the tubercle bacillus.

**absolute** (ab'-so-lut): Unlimited, unconditional. A. ALCOHOL alcohol that contains less than 1% of water. A. REFRACTORY PERIOD in electrocardiography, the period following depolarization of the heart muscle cells when they cannot respond to another stimulus regardless of its strength; A. THRESHOLD the smallest amount of stimulus that can be detected by an organism.

**absorb** (ab-sorb'): 1. To suck up, draw up, take in, or imbibe other material, as a gas or fluid.
absorb

2. To take in, through the skin, as medicinal agents or certain rays. 3. The incorporation by body cells or tissues of substances from the blood or lymph.

absorbable (ab-sor-ba-bl): Capable of being absorbed.

absorbeaficient (ab-sor-be-fa-shent): Causing absorption; an agent or medication that promotes or causes absorption.

absorbent (ab-sor-ent): Having the capability to absorb. 2. Any agent or substance that has the capability to absorb.

absorption (ab-sor-p-shun): 1. The assimilation, incorporation, or taking up of one substance by another, e.g., liquids by solids, or gases by liquids or solids. 2. The passage of water and/or a dissolved substance through a body surface or membrane into the body fluids, tissues, or cells. 3. The taking up of heat by the body. 4. In nutrition, the taking up by the mucous membrane of the digestive tract of certain nutrients resulting from digestion, i.e., water, glucose, alcohol, and certain drugs are taken up by the stomach, as well as calcium if protein and vitamin D are also present; water, electrolytes, carbohydrate, amino acids from proteins, fats, iron and calcium — if vitamin D and protein are also present — are taken up by the small intestine; water and electrolytes are taken up by the large intestine while faeces are being held awaiting evacuation. 5. In pharmacology, the process by which a drug is taken into the bloodstream; the speed and degree to which this is accomplished vary greatly and have a determining influence on the effect of a dose of a particular drug.

abstinence (ab-stin-ens): Voluntarily denying oneself some experience or substance that has provided gratification in the past, often something to which one has become habituated or addicted; especially certain drugs, food, alcohol, sexual intercourse.

abstract (ab-strak): In pharmacology, a preparation made from the soluble principle of a drug, or its fluid extract (q.v.), evaporated to twice the original strength of the drug. A. THINKING the use of concepts and ideas independent of concrete objects.

abstraction (ab-strak-shun): 1. The withdrawal of one or more constituents of a compound or mixture. 2. The mental process of formulating abstract ideas. 3. A state of inattention resembling absent-mindedness.

abortion (ab-tor-shun): The outward turning of both eyes simultaneously.

abuse (a-büz'): 1. To put to a bad or improper use. 2. To treat without compassion and usually in a hurtful manner. See also CHILD ABUSE, ELDER ABUSE, SEXUAL ABUSE.

abused child: A child who has suffered repeated physical or psychological injury, sexual abuse, negligence, or maltreatment, usually inflicted by a parent or parent surrogate. The abuse may consist of fractures; burns; bruises; verbal or sexual abuse; failure to provide adequate food, housing, medical care, or emotional support. See ABUSE.

acampsia (a-kamp'-si-a): Loss or lack of flexibility or movement of a joint; see ANKYLOSIS.

acanth-, acantho-: Combining forms denoting spine, sharp, thorn, spinous.

acanthaesthesia (a-kan-the-s-the-zi-a): The abnormal sensation of being pricked with a sharp point or with needles.

acanthocyte (a-kan'-thō-s-i-t): A misshapen erythrocyte with many protoplasmic projections, giving it a horny appearance; may be hereditary; seen in such conditions as abetalipoproteinemia, severe rheumatic disease, gastric carcinoma, bleeding gastric ulcer.

acanthocytosis (a-kan'-thō-si-tō-sis): The presence of acanthocytes in the blood; a characteristic of congenital abetalipoproteinemia.

acanthokeratodermia (a-kan'-thō-ker-a-to-dér-i-mi-a): Thickening of the horny layer of the skin, particularly that of the hands and feet.

acapnia (a-kap'-ni-a): A condition of diminished carbon dioxide content of the blood; sometimes used when hypocapnia (q.v.) is meant. — acapnial, adj.

acardia (a-kar'-di-a): Congenital absence of the heart.

acardiotrophia (a-kar'-di-o-trō-fi-a): Atrophy of the heart.

acarid (ak'-a-rid): A mite, tick, or other member of the order Acarina.

acarodermatitis (ak'-ar-ō-der'-ma-tē-tis): Inflammation of the skin, with urticaria and pruritus, caused by the bite of mites, often due to handling mite-infested plants.

acatalasia (a-kat-ā-lā'-zi-a): Absence of the enzyme catalase in the body cells, a rare congenital condition that predisposes the individual to recurrent infections of the gingiva and associated structures in the mouth.

acatalepsy, acatalepsia (a-kat'-a-lēp-si,-si-a): 1. Lack of understanding or comprehension; dementia; impairment of the mental processes. 2. A state of uncertainty of diagnosis.

acatamathesia (a-kat'-a-ma-thē'-zi-a): Lack or loss of ability to understand or comprehend,
acclimatization (a-kli-ma-ti-za-shun): 1. The process of becoming accustomed to a new environment, especially to change in temperature and altitude. 2. Structural and physiological changes, such as ventricular enlargement and pulmonary hypertension, which occur in people born and living in high altitudes but which do not interfere with normal activities as long as the person remains in the high altitude.

accreditation (a-kred-i-ta-shun): In healthcare, a voluntary procedure of peer evaluation whereby an educational or healthcare facility and its programme are regularly appraised and recognized as meeting the preset criteria of one or more accrediting agencies. The process involves setting standards, periodic inspections to determine whether the standards have been met, and official approval by the accrediting agency. A. OF PRIOR CERTIFIED LEARNING a process, through which previously certified learning is considered and, as appropriate, recognized for academic purposes; this recognition may give the learning a credit value in a credit-based structure and allow it to be counted towards the completion of a programme of study and the award(s) or qualifications associated with it. CREDIT ACCUMULATION TRANSFER SCHEME, Appendix 8; A. OF PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING a process through which learning achieved outside the education or training systems is assessed and, as appropriate, recognized for academic purposes; this recognition may give the learning a credit value in a credit-based structure and allow it to be counted towards the completion of a programme of study and the award(s) or qualifications associated with it. CREDIT ACCUMULATION TRANSFER SCHEME, Appendix 8.

ACE: Abbreviation for angiotensin-converting enzyme, see under ANGIOTENSIN.


accessory (ak-ses'-or-i): Supplementary; complimentary; concomitant. A. NERVES the 11th pair of cranial nerves.

Access to Health Record Act (1990): Act giving patients statutory rights to see what has been written about them in their medical records since 1 November 1991.

accident (ak'-si-dent): A sudden, unforeseen event that produces unintended injury, death, or property damage. CEREBROVASCULAR A. one that occurs within the cerebrum, e.g., cerebral haemorrhage; abbreviation CVA; A. FORM a data sheet used to record an accident or incident to any individual on the premises; data are collated centrally within the hospital and used to rectify health and safety issues. ACCIDENT-PRONE said of one who appears to be more susceptible to accidents than the average person; ACCIDENT-REPEITITIVENESS having repeated accidents due to inexperience, age, or maladjustment to the environment; to be differentiated from accident-proneness.

acclimatization (a-kli-ma-ti-za-shun): 1. The process of becoming accustomed to a new environment, especially to change in temperature and altitude. 2. Structural and physiological changes, such as ventricular enlargement and pulmonary hypertension, which occur in people born and living in high altitudes but which do not interfere with normal activities as long as the person remains in the high altitude.

accountability (a-kown-ta-bil-i-te): In nursing, the obligation of answering for the results or outcomes of one’s actions, as differentiated from responsibility which refers to what one ought to do. See PRIMARY CARE NURSE under NURSE.

accreditation (a-kred-i-ta-shun): In healthcare, a voluntary procedure of peer evaluation whereby an educational or healthcare facility and its programme are regularly appraised and recognized as meeting the preset criteria of one or more accrediting agencies. The process involves setting standards, periodic inspections to determine whether the standards have been met, and official approval by the accrediting agency. A. OF PRIOR CERTIFIED LEARNING a process, through which previously certified learning is considered and, as appropriate, recognized for academic purposes; this recognition may give the learning a credit value in a credit-based structure and allow it to be counted towards the completion of a programme of study and the award(s) or qualifications associated with it. CREDIT ACCUMULATION TRANSFER SCHEME, Appendix 8; A. OF PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING a process through which learning achieved outside the education or training systems is assessed and, as appropriate, recognized for academic purposes; this recognition may give the learning a credit value in a credit-based structure and allow it to be counted towards the completion of a programme of study and the award(s) or qualifications associated with it. CREDIT ACCUMULATION TRANSFER SCHEME, Appendix 8.

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