

Blackwell's Nursing Dictionary

SECOND EDITION



Blackwell
Publishing

**BLACKWELL'S NURSING
DICTIONARY**

BLACKWELL'S NURSING DICTIONARY

Editors

Dawn Freshwater

Institute of Health and Community Studies,
Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, UK
and Edith Cowan University, Perth

and

Sian E. Maslin-Prothero

University of Southampton, School of Nursing
and Midwifery, Southampton, UK



Blackwell
Publishing

© 1994 Blackwell Science, 2005 by
Blackwell Publishing Ltd

Editorial offices:

Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1865 776868

Blackwell Publishing Asia Pty Ltd, 550 Swanston Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia

Tel: +61 (0)3 8359 1011

The right of the Authors to be identified as the Authors of this Work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

First published 1994

Reprinted 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002

Second edition published 2005

This second edition is a comprehensive revision of the first edition of *Blackwell's Dictionary of Nursing*, first published in 1994. The first edition was updated and adapted from *Duncan's Dictionary for Nurses* by Helen A. Duncan, published by Springer Publishing Co. Inc., New York, in 1989. Permission for this adaptation is acknowledged.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available

ISBN 1-4051-0534-8

A catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library

Set in 8 on 9pt Times

by Kolam Informations Services Pvt. Ltd, Pondicherry, India

Printed and bound in Great Britain

by CPI Bath

The publisher's policy is to use permanent paper from mills that operate a sustainable forestry policy, and which has been manufactured from pulp processed using acid-free and elementary chlorine-free practices. Furthermore, the publisher ensures that the text paper and cover board used have met acceptable environmental accreditation standards.

For further information on Blackwell Publishing, visit our website:

www.blackwellnursing.com

CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Foreword</i> | <i>vii</i> |
| <i>List of contributors</i> | <i>ix</i> |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | <i>xi</i> |
| <i>Pronunciation</i> | <i>xii</i> |
| <i>Abbreviations</i> | <i>xiii</i> |
| Dictionary | 1 |
| Appendices | 669 |
| Appendix 1 | 673 |
| Appendix 2 | 679 |
| Appendix 3 | 683 |
| Appendix 4 | 687 |
| Appendix 5 | 694 |
| Appendix 6 | 708 |
| Appendix 7 | 721 |
| Appendix 8 | 726 |
| Appendix 9 | 733 |

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.

Sarah Mullally
Chief Nursing Officer
Department of Health
England

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

**Professor Dawn Freshwater PhD BA (Hons) RGN RNT FRCN DipPsych
Professor of Mental Health and Primary Care, IHCS, Bournemouth
University, UK, and Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia**

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.

**Garfield J. Griffiths BEd (Hons) DipN RN ONC RCNT
Senior Lecturer, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK**

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.

**Dr Sian E. Maslin-Prothero RN RM DipN CertEd MSc PhD
Senior Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery,
University of Southampton, UK**

Sian has worked in academic, education, clinical nursing, and midwifery in a variety of settings in both the United Kingdom and overseas. She has a Master of Science degree from the University of Bristol and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Nottingham. Her research interests include policy and practice in the NHS, and the recruitment of women to breast cancer clinical trials, user and carer involvement in health and social care. Sian believes in helping individuals to fulfil their potential by fostering skills and strategies that encourage them to be creative, critical thinkers who can respond to the dynamic health-care environment and the requirements of users.

Abigail Masterson MN BSc RGN PGCEA

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.

Les Storey FRCN RGN MSc PGDipHE

**Principal Lecturer, Faculty of Health, University of
Central Lancashire, UK**

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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:

- Barrett, J. (1983) *Accident and Emergency Nursing*.
Bray, J.J. Cragg, P.A. Macknight, A.D.C. Mills, R.G. and Taylor, D.W. (1989) *Lecture Notes on Human Physiology* Second Edition.
Gibson, J. (1981) *Modern Physiology and Anatomy for Nurses* Second Edition.
Hickman, M. (1985) *Midwifery* Second Edition.
Middleton, D. (1986) *Nursing 2*.
Moffat, D.B. (1987) *Lecture Notes on Anatomy*.

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.

PRONUNCIATION

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

oo as in tool

u as in but

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

ā as in tame

ē as in he

ī as in time

ō as in over

ū 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'zhun)

-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 |

| | |
|--------|---|
| 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 | <i>bis die</i> (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 |

| | |
|---------|---|
| CMV | cytomegalovirus |
| CNO | Chief Nursing Officer |
| CNS | (1) central nervous system; (2) clinical nurse specialist |
| COAD | chronic obstructive airways disease |
| COPD | chronic obstructive pulmonary disease |
| COSHH | Control of Substances Hazardous to Health |
| CPA | Care Programme Approach |
| CPAP | continuous positive airways pressure |
| CPD | continuing professional development |
| CPK | creatinine phosphokinase |
| CPN | community psychiatric nurse |
| CPPIH | Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health |
| CPR | cardiopulmonary resuscitation |
| CPU | central processing unit |
| CRP | C-reactive protein |
| CSF | cerebrospinal fluid |
| CSP | Chartered Society of Physiotherapists |
| CSSD | Central Sterile Supplies Department |
| CSSU | Central Sterile Supply Unit |
| CT | computed tomography |
| CV | curriculum vitae |
| CVA | cerebrovascular accident |
| CVP | central venous pressure |
| CVS | (1) cardiovascular system; (2) chorionic villus sampling |
| CXR | chest x-ray |
| D and C | dilatation and curettage |
| DASE | Denver Articulation Screening Examination |
| DBT | dialectical behavioural therapy |
| DC | direct current |
| DDA | Disability Discrimination Act |
| DES | diethylstilboestrol |
| DI | donor insemination |
| DIC | disseminated intravascular coagulation |
| DipHE | Diploma in Higher Education |
| DipEd | Diploma in Education |
| DipN | Diploma in Nursing |
| DipNEd | Diploma in Nursing Education |
| DLCC | Disabled Living Centres Council |
| DN | district nurse |
| DNA | deoxyribonucleic acid |
| DOA | death on arrival |
| DOH | Department of Health |
| DPhil | Doctor of Philosophy |
| DPT | diphtheria–pertussis–tetanus (vaccine) |
| DQ | developmental quotient |

| | |
|----------|--|
| DRC | Disability Rights Commission |
| DSM IV | <i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i> , 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 |
| FRCSE | Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons |
| FRCSE | Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh |
| FRCSE | Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland |
| FSH | follicle-stimulating hormone |
| FVC | forced vital capacity |
| GABA | gamma-aminobutyric acid |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| GFR | glomerular filtration rate |
| GGTP | gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase |
| GH | growth hormone |
| GHIH | growth hormone inhibiting hormone |
| GHRH | growth hormone releasing hormone |
| GI | gastrointestinal |
| GIFT | gamete intrafallopian transfer |
| GM | genetically modified |
| GMC | General Medical Council |
| GP | general practitioner |
| GSCC | General Social Care Council |
| GTN | glyceryl trinitrate |
| GUM | genitourinary medicine |
| GVHD | graft-versus-host disease |
| HAZ | Health Action Zone |
| Hb | haemoglobin |
| HBcAg | hepatitis B core antigen |
| HBeAg | hepatitis B e antigen |
| HBIG | hepatitis B immunoglobulin |
| HBsAg | hepatitis B surface antigen |
| HBV | hepatitis B virus |
| HC | head circumference |
| HCA | health-care assistant |
| hCG | human chorionic gonadotrophin |
| HCO | health-care officer |
| HCV | hepatitis C virus |
| HDL | high-density lipoprotein |
| HDU | high dependency unit |
| HEI | higher education institutions |
| HGC | Human Genetics Commission |
| Hib vaccine | <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B vaccine |
| HImp | Health Improvement Programme |
| HIV | human immunodeficiency virus |
| HMSO | Her Majesty's Stationery Office |
| HoNOS | Health of the Nation Outcome Scale |
| HPC | Health Professions Council |
| HPV | human papilloma virus |
| HRT | hormone replacement therapy |
| HSV | herpes simplex virus |
| HTLV | human T-cell leukaemia–lymphoma virus |
| HV | health visitor |
| HVCert | Health Visitor's Certificate |
| HTML | hypertext markup language |
| IBD | inflammatory bowel disease |
| IBS | irritable bowel syndrome |

| | |
|------|--|
| 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 | <i>in vitro</i> 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 <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> |
| 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 |
| PCO ₂ | partial pressure of carbon dioxide |
| PCR | practitioner-centred research |

| | |
|--------|--|
| 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, beathing, 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 | <i>Treponema pallidum</i> 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 | <i>unguent</i> (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 |

A

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 (ā-bak-tē'-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.

arthrosis (ab-ar-thrō'-sis): Diarthrosis (*q.v.*).

abarticulation (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-bāt'-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.*).

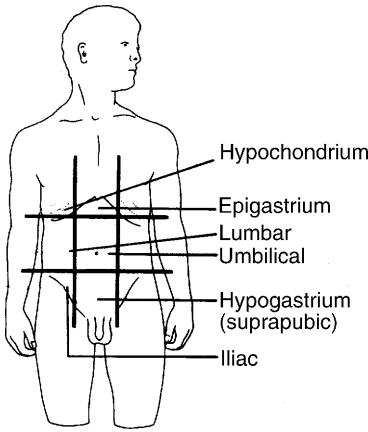
abdomen (ab'-do-men): The belly. The largest body cavity; lies between the thorax, from which it is separated by the diaphragm, and the pelvis; is enclosed by a wall made up of muscles, the vertebral column and the two ilia; contains the stomach, small and large intestine, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, 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 *diaphragmatic 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 *abdominocentesis* 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.



The noughts and crosses grid divides the abdomen into nine regions.

abdominoanterior (ab-dom' -i-nō-an-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 removal of the abdominal cavity; see **PARACENTESIS**.

abdominocyesis (ab-dom' -i-nō-sī-ē' -sis): Ectopic pregnancy; see under **ECTOPIC**.

abdominohysterectomy (ab-dom' -i-nō-his-ter-ek' -to-mi): Operation for the removal of the uterus through an incision in the abdominal wall.

abdominopelvic (ab-dom-i-nō-pel' -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-nos' -ko-pi): Examination or inspection of the abdomen and/or its viscera, either with or without the use of an endoscope.

abdominothoracic (ab-dom' -i-nō-tho-ras' -ik): Pertaining to the abdomen and thorax.

abduct (ab-duk't'): To draw away from the median line of the body or from an adjoining part. Abduce. Opp. to adduct.

abduction (ab-duk' -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-duk' -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-rā' -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-bē' -ta-lip' -ō-prō-tē-in-ē' -mi-a): 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.

abeyance (a-bā' -ans): 1. Cessation of a function or an activity. 2. A state of suspended or temporary abolition of function.

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

ablactation (ab-lak-tā' -shun): 1. Cessation of the flow of milk. 2. Weaning an infant.

ablate (a-blāt'): To excise or amputate a body part completely.

ablatio (ab-lā' -shē-ō): Ablation; detachment. A. **PLACENTAE** premature detachment of the placenta. A. **RETINAE** detachment of the retina.

ablation (ab-lā' -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-a): Blindness.

abluent (ab' -lū-ent): 1. Having a detergent or cleansing action. 2. A cleansing agent such as soap.

ablution (ab-lū' -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'-i-a): 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.

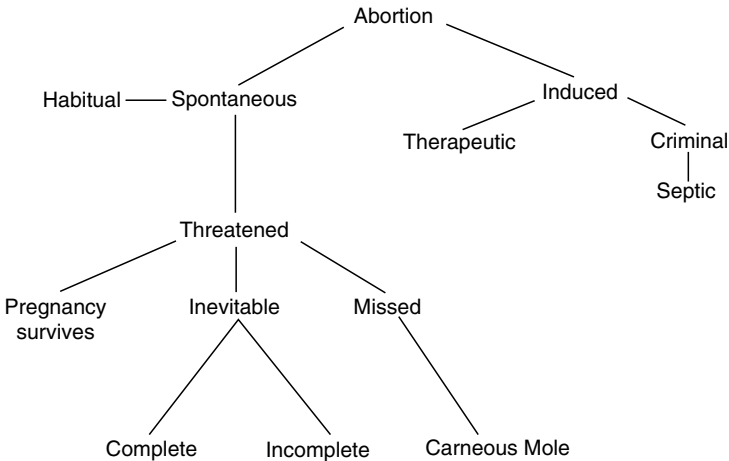
ABO: Abbreviation for the international (Landsteiner) classification of human blood types. Blood is typed according to compatibility of the ABO factors in transfusion as A, B, AB, and O. **ABO INCOMPATIBILITY** a condition usually caused by the mother having O type blood (which has naturally occurring 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



Classification of abortion

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.

abrachia (a-brā'-ki-a): Congenital armlessness.

abrachiocephalia (a-brā'-ki-ō-ke, se-fā'-li-a): A malformed fetus that has neither head nor arms.

abrade (a-brād'): To rub, scrape away, wear away, or roughen the skin or a mucous membrane.

abrasion (a-brā'-zhun): Superficial wound to the skin or mucous membrane caused by rubbing, scraping, or erosion; excoriation. — abrade, v.; abrasive, adj.; abrasive, n.

abrasive (a-brā'-siv): 1. Causing abrasion. 2. An agent that erodes, scrapes off, or rubs off the surface or layer of a substance.

abreaction (ab-rē-ak'-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'-shē-ō): 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; BRODIE'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; PERIODONTAL 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; SUBPERIOSTEAL 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 suppurative 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 electrocardiology, 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.

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'b'-a-bl): Capable of being absorbed.

absorbefacient (ab-sor-be-fā'-shent): Causing absorption; an agent or medication that promotes or causes absorption.

absorbent (ab-sor'-bent): 1. Having the capability to absorb. 2. Any agent or substance that has the capability to absorb.

absorption (ab-sorp'-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'-strakt): In pharmacology, a preparation made from the soluble principle of a drug, or its fluidextract (*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-būz'): 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-thes-thē'-zi-a): The abnormal sensation of being pricked with a sharp point or with needles.

acanthocyte (a-kan'-thō-sīt): A misshapen erythrocyte with many protoplasmic projections, giving it a horny appearance; may be hereditary; seen in such conditions as abetalipoproteinaemia, severe rheumatic disease, gastric carcinoma, bleeding gastric ulcer.

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

acanthokeratodermia (a-kan'-thō-ker-a-tō-der'-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.

acardiostrophy (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-tī'-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-lep-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,

particularly speech; usually due to a central nervous system lesion.

acataphasia (a-kat-a-fā'-zi-a): Lack of power to express connected thought or to formulate sentences correctly; due to a brain lesion.

acataposis (a-kat-a-pō'-sis): Difficulty in swallowing; dysphagia (*q.v.*).

acceleration (ak-sel-er-ā'-shun): 1. Increased speed or velocity of action, motion, or rate. 2. Change in velocity. 3. Advancement beyond normal in either physical or intellectual growth. 4. An increase in the rate of a chemical reaction.

acceleration-deceleration injury: One that occurs when the brain is thrown forward against the skull and then back against the opposite side of the skull; the injury at the first site is called 'coup' and that at the second site 'contrecoup'.

accelerator (ak-sel'-er-āt-or): 1. An agent, machine, or device that speeds up something, as a function or process. 2. A nerve or muscle that speeds up the performance of a bodily function.

accessory (ak-ses'-or-i): Supplementary; complementary; 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-REPETITIVENESS having repeated accidents due to inexperience, age, or maladjustment to the environment; to be differentiated from accident-proneness.

acclimatization (a-klī'-ma-tī'-zā'-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.

accommodation (a-kom-mo-dā'-shun): Adjustment or adaptation of an organ or a part to changing circumstances, particularly the automatic adjustment of the lens of the eye so that a distinct image is always obtained, regardless of the nearness or distance of the object being viewed.

accountability (a-kown-ta-bil'-i-ti): 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-tā'-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 CERTIFICATED LEARNING a process, through which previously certificated 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. 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; A. OF PRIOR LEARNING a process for accessing and, as appropriate, recognizing experiential or certificated prior learning 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, see also A. of prior experiential learning, CREDIT ACCUMULATION TRANSFER SCHEME, Appendix 8.

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

acentric (a-sen'-trik): 1. Not centrally located. 2. Having no centre.