

- fibrinogen** (fi-brinō-jen)(†) A protein found in plasma that is important for blood clotting. (28)
- fibroid** (fi'broid') A benign tumor in the uterus composed of fibrous tissue. (35)
- fibromyalgia** (fi-brō-mī-al'jē-ā)(†) A condition that exhibits chronic pain primarily in joints, muscles, and tendons. (26)
- fibula** (fib'yə-lə) The lateral bone of the lower leg. (25)
- file guide** (filgid) A heavy cardboard or plastic insert used to identify a group of file folders in a file drawer. (10)
- filtration** (fil-trā'shən) A process that separates substances into solutions by forcing them across a membrane. (23)
- fimbriae** (fi'm-brē-ə) Fringe-like structures that border the entrances of the fallopian tubes. (35)
- first morning urine specimen** (fūrst mōr'ning yōōr'in spēś-ə-mən) A urine specimen that is collected after a night's sleep; contains greater concentrations of substances that collect over time than specimens taken during the day. (47)
- fixative** (fik'sə-tiv) A solution sprayed on a slide immediately after the specimen is applied. It is used to preserve and hold the cells in place until a microscopic examination is performed. (22)
- flexion** (flek'shūn)(†) A bending movement of the two elements of a jointed body part. (26)
- floater** (flō'tər) A nonsterile assistant who is free to move about the room during surgery and attend to unsterile needs. (42)
- fluidotherapy** (flōō'id-ōthēr'ə-pē) A technique for stimulating healing, particularly in the hands and feet, by placing the affected body part in a container of glass beads that are heated and agitated with hot air. (43)
- follicle** (fōl'i-kəl) An accessory organ of the skin that is found in the dermis and the sites at which hairs emerge. (24)
- follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)** (fōl'i-kəl stim'yū-lā-ting hōr'mōn) A hormone that in females stimulates the production of estrogen by the ovaries; in males, it stimulates sperm production. (32)
- follicular cells** (fə-lī'kyə-lər selz) Small cells contained in the primordial follicle along with a large cell called a primary oocyte. (35)
- folliculitis** (fō-lik-yū-lī'tis)(†) Inflammation of the hair follicle. (24)
- fomite** (fō'mit)(†) An inanimate object, such as clothing, body fluids, water, or food, that may be contaminated with infectious organisms and thus serve to transmit disease. (19)
- fontanel** (fān-tə-n'el) The soft spot in an infant's skull that consists of tough membranes that connect to incompletely developed bone. (25)
- food exchange** (fōōd iks-chānj') A unit of food in a particular food category that provides the same amounts of protein, fat, and carbohydrates as all other units of food in that category. (49)
- foramen magnum** (fə-rā'-mən mag-nəm) The large hole in the occipital bone that allows the brain to connect to the spinal cord. (25)
- foramen ovale** (fō-rā'men ō-vā'lē)(†) A hole in the fetal heart between the right atrium and the left atrium. (35)
- forced vital capacity (FVC)** (fōrst vit'ī kə-pās'ī-tē) The greatest volume of air that a person is able to expel when performing rapid, forced expiration. (52)
- formalin** (fōr-mā-lin)(†) A dilute solution of formaldehyde used to preserve biological specimens. (42)
- formed elements** (fōrmd ēl'ə-mənts) Red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets; comprise 45% of blood volume. (48)
- formulary** (fōr'myū-lā-rē)(†) An insurance plan's list of approved prescription medications. (15)
- fraud** (frōd) An act of deception that is used to take advantage of another person or entity. (3)
- fracture** (frāk'chər) Any break in a bone. (41)
- frequency** (frē'kwən-sē) The number of complete fluctuations of energy per second in the form of waves. (39)
- frontal** (frūn'tl) Anatomical term that refers to the plane that divides the body into anterior and posterior portions. Also called coronal. (23)
- full-block letter style** (fōōl blōk lēt'ər stīl) A letter format in which all lines begin flush left; also called block style. (7)
- functional résumé** (fūngk'shə-nəl rēz'ōō-mā') A résumé that highlights specialty areas of a person's accomplishments and strengths. (54)
- fungus** (fūng'gəs) A eukaryotic organism that has a rigid cell wall at some stage in the life cycle. (46)
- gait** (gāt) The way a person walks, consisting of two phases: stance and swing. (43)
- ganglia** (gāng'glē-ə) Collections of neuron cell bodies outside the central nervous system. (27)
- gastric juice** (gās'trik jüs) Secretions from the stomach lining that begin the process of digesting protein. (31)
- gastritis** (gā-strī'tis) Inflammation of the stomach lining. (31)
- gastroenterologist** (gās'trō-ēn-ter-ol'ō-jist)(†) A specialist who diagnoses and treats disorders of the entire gastrointestinal tract, including the stomach, intestines, and associated digestive organs. (2)
- gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)** (gās'trō-ē-sof'ā-jē'āl-rē'flēks dī-zēz') A condition that occurs when stomach acids are pushed into the esophagus and cause heartburn. (31)
- gene** (jēn) A segment of DNA that determines a body trait. (23)
- general physical examination** (jēn'ər-əl fīz'ī-kəl ig-zām'ə-nā'shən) An examination performed by a physician to confirm a patient's health or to diagnose a medical problem. (22)
- generic name** (jə-nēr'ik nām) A drug's official name. (50)
- gerontologist** (jēr'ən-tōl'ə-jist) A specialist who studies the aging process. (2)
- giantism** (jī'an-tizm)(†) A condition in which too much growth hormone is produced in childhood, resulting in an abnormally increased stature. (32)
- glans penis** (glanz pē'nīs) A cone-shaped structure at the end of the penis. (35)
- glaucoma** (glou-kō'mə) A condition in which too much pressure is created in the eye by excessive aqueous humor. This excess pressure can lead to permanent damage of the optic nerves, resulting in blindness. (33)
- global period** (glō'bəl pīr'ē-əd) The period of time that is covered for follow-up care of a procedure or surgical service. (16)
- globulins** (glob'yū-lin)(†) Plasma proteins that transport lipids and some vitamins. (28)
- glomerular capsule** (glō-mār'yū-lār kăp'səl)(†) A capsule that surrounds the glomerulus of the kidney. (34)
- glomerular filtrate** (glō-mār'yū-lār fil'trāt')(†) The fluid remaining in the glomerular capsule after glomerular filtration. (34)
- glomerular filtration** (glō-mār'yū-lār fil-trā'shən)(†) The process by

- which urine forms in the kidneys as blood moves through a tight ball of capillaries called the glomerulus. (34)
- glomerulonephritis (glō-mār-yū-lō-nē-rī'tis) (†)** An inflammation of the glomeruli of the kidney. (34)
- glomerulus (glō-mār-yū-lūs) (†)** A group of capillaries in the renal corpuscle. (34)
- glottis (glot'is) (†)** The opening between the vocal cords. (30)
- glucagon (glōō'kə-gōn')** A hormone that increases glucose concentrations in the bloodstream and slows down protein synthesis. (32)
- glycogen (glī'kə-jən)** An excess of glucose that is stored in the liver and in skeletal muscle. (31)
- glycosuria (glī-kō-sū-rē-ā) (†)** The presence of significant levels of glucose in the urine. (47)
- gonads (gō'nādz)** The reproductive organs; namely, in women, the ovaries, and in men, the testes. (32)
- gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) (gō'nad-ō-trō-pin-rī-lēs'ing hōr'mōn')** Hormone that stimulates the anterior pituitary gland to release **follicle stimulating hormone (FSH)**. (35)
- goniometer (gō-nē-ā'-me-tər)** A protractor device that measures range of motion. (43)
- gout (gowt) (†)** A medical condition characterized by an elevated uric acid level and recurrent acute arthritis. (25)
- G-protein (jē-prō'tēn) (†)** A substance that causes enzymes in the cell to activate following the activation of the hormone-receptor complex in the cell membrane. (32)
- gram-negative (grām-nēg'ə-tiv)** Referring to bacteria that lose their purple color when a decolorizer has been added during a Gram's stain. (46)
- gram-positive (grām-pōz'ī-tiv)** Referring to bacteria that retain their purple color after a decolorizer has been added during a Gram's stain. (46)
- Gram's stain (grāmz stān)** A method of staining that differentiates bacteria according to the chemical composition of their cell walls. (46)
- granular leukocyte (grān'yə-lər lōō'kə-sīt')** A type of leukocyte (white blood cell) with a segmented nucleus and granulated cytoplasm; also known as a polymorphonuclear leukocyte. (48)
- granulocyte (gran'yū-lō-sīt) (†)** See **granular leukocyte**. (28)
- Grave's disease (grāvz dī-zēz')** A disorder in which a person develops antibodies that attack the thyroid gland. (32)
- gray matter (grā māt'ər)** The inner tissue of the brain and the spinal cord that is darker in color than **white matter**. It contains all the bodies and dendrites of nerve cells. (27)
- gross earnings (grōs ūr'nīngz)** The total amount an employee earns before deductions. (18)
- growth hormone (GH) (grōth hōr'mōn')** A hormone that stimulates an increase in the size of the muscles and bones of the body. (32)
- gustatory receptors (gās-tə-tōr-ē ri-sé-p-tər)** Taste receptors that are found on taste buds. (33)
- gynecologist (gī-nī-kōl'ə-jist)** A specialist who performs routine physical care and examinations of the female reproductive system. (2)
- gyri (jī'rī) (†)** The ridges of brain matter between the sulci; also called **convolutions**. (27)
- haptén (hap'tēn) (†)** Foreign substances in the body too small to start an immune response by themselves. (29)
- HCPCS Level II codes (āch sē pē sē ēs lēv'əl tōō kōdz)** Codes that cover many supplies such as sterile trays, drugs, and durable medical equipment; also referred to as national codes. They also cover services and procedures not included in the CPT. (16)
- hairly leukoplakia (hār-ē lū-kō-plā'kē-ā) (†)** A white lesion on the tongue associated with AIDS. (21)
- hard copy (hārd kōp'ē)** A readable paper copy or printout of information. (6)
- hardware (hārd'wār')** The physical components of a computer system, including the monitor, keyboard, and printer. (6)
- hazard label (hāz'ərd lā'bəl)** A shortened version of the Material Safety Data Sheet; permanently affixed to a hazardous substance container. (45)
- Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) (hēlth kār kōm'ən prə-sé-jər kōd'ing sīs'təm)** A coding system developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that is used in coding services for Medicare patients. (16)
- health maintenance organization (HMO) (hēlth mām'tə-nəns ōr'gə-nī-zā'shən)** A health-care organization that provides specific services to individuals and their dependents who are enrolled in the plan. Doctors who enroll in an HMO agree to provide certain services in exchange for a prepaid fee. (15)
- helper T-cells (hēl'pər tē'sēlz)** White blood cells that are a key component of the body's immune system and that work in coordination with other white blood cells to combat infection. (21)
- hematemesis (hē-mā-tem'ē-sis)** The vomiting of blood. (44)
- hematocrit (hē-mā-tō-krit) (†)** The percentage of the volume of a sample made up of red blood cells after the sample has been spun in a centrifuge. (48)
- hematology (hēmə-tōl'ə-jē)** The study of blood. (48)
- hematoma (hē-mə-tō'mə)** A swelling caused by blood under the skin. (44)
- hematuria (hē-mā-tū-rē-ā) (†)** The presence of blood in the urine. (47)
- hemocytoblast (hē-mā-tō-sī'tō-blast) (†)** Cells of the red bone marrow that produce most red blood cells. (28)
- hemoglobin (hē-mə-glō'bīn)** A protein that contains iron and bonds with and carries oxygen to cells; the main component of erythrocytes. (24)
- hemoglobinuria (hēmō-glō-bi-nū-rē-ā) (†)** The presence of free **hemoglobin** in the urine; a rare condition caused by transfusion reactions, malaria, drug reactions, snake bites, or severe burns. (47)
- hemolysis (hē-mol'ī-sis) (†)** The rupturing of red blood cells, which releases hemoglobin. (48)
- hemorrhoids (hēm'ə-roidz')** Varicose veins of the rectum or anus. (31)
- hemostasis (hē-mō-stā-sis) (†)** The stoppage of bleeding. (28)
- hepatic duct (hī-pāt'ik dūkt)** A duct that leaves the liver carrying bile and merges with the cystic duct to form the common bile duct. (31)
- hepatic lobule (he-pāt'ik lob'yūl) (†)** Smaller divisions within the lobes of the liver. (31)
- hepatic portal system (he-pāt'ik pōr'tl sīs'təm) (†)** The collection of veins carrying blood to the liver. (28)
- hepatic portal vein (hī-pāt'ik pōr'tl vān)** A blood vessel that carries blood from the other digestive organs to the **hepatic lobules**. (31)
- hepatitis (hēp'ə-tī'tiss)** Inflammation of the liver usually caused by viruses or toxins. (31)
- hepatocytes (hep'ə-tō-sītz) (†)** The cells within the lobules of the liver. Hepatocytes process nutrients in the blood and make bile. (31)
- hernia (hūr'nē-ə)** The protrusion of an organ through the wall that usually

- contains it, such as a hiatal or inguinal hernia. (31)
- herpes simplex (her'pēz sim'plēks)(†)** A medical condition characterized by an eruption of one or more groups of vesicles on the lips or genitalia. (24)
- herpes zoster (her'pēz zos'ter)(†)** A medical condition characterized by an eruption of a group of vesicles on one side of the body following a nerve root. (24)
- hierarchy (hī'ā-rār'kē)** A term that pertains to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This hierarchy states that human beings are motivated by unsatisfied needs and that certain lower needs must be satisfied before higher needs can be met. (4)
- hilum (hī'lūm)(†)** The indented side of a lymph node. (28) The entrance of the renal sinus that contains the renal artery, renal vein, and ureter. (34)
- HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) (hīp'ā)** A set of regulations whose goals include the following: (1) improving the portability and continuity of health-care coverage in group and individual markets; (2) combating waste, fraud, and abuse in health-care insurance and health-care delivery; (3) promoting the use of a medical savings account; (4) improving access to long-term care services and coverage; and (5) simplifying the administration of health insurance. (1)
- Holter monitor (hol'tər mōn'ī-tər)** An electrocardiography device that includes a small portable cassette recorder worn around a patient's waist or on a shoulder strap to record the heart's electrical activity. (52)
- homeostasis (hō-mē-ō-stā'sis)** A balanced, stable state within the body. (4)
- homologous chromosome (hō-mōl'ō-gūs krō'mā-sōm')(†)** Members in each pair of chromosomes. (23)
- hormone (hōr'mōn')** A chemical secreted by a cell that affects the functions of other cells. (32)
- hospice (hōs'pīs)** Volunteers who work with terminally ill patients and their families. (4)
- human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) (hyōō'mən kō-rē-on'ik gō'nad-ō-trō'pin)** A hormone secreted by cells of the embryo after implantation. It maintains the corpus luteum in the ovary so it will continue to secrete estrogen and progesterone. (35)
- human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (hyōō'mən im'yū-nō-dē-fish'en-sē vī'rās)** A retrovirus that gradually destroys the body's immune system and causes AIDS. (29)
- humerus (hyū'mā-rəs)** The bone of the upper arm. (25)
- humors (hyōō'mərz)** Fluids of the body. (29)
- hydrotherapy (hī'drā-thēr'ā-pē)** The therapeutic use of water to treat physical problems. (43)
- hyoid (hī'ōid)** The bone that anchors the tongue. (25)
- hyperextension (hī'per-eks-ten'shūn)(†)** Extension of a body part past the normal anatomical position. (26)
- hyperglycemia (hī'pər-gli-sē'mē-ə)** High blood sugar. (44)
- hyperopia (hī-per-ō'pē-ā)** A condition that occurs when light entering the eye is focused behind the retina; commonly called farsightedness. (33)
- hyperpnea (hī-per-nē-ā)(†)** Abnormally deep, rapid breathing. (37)
- hyperreflexia (hī'per-rē-flek'sē-ā)** Reflexes that are stronger than normal reflexes. (27)
- hypertension (hī'pər-tēn'shən)** High blood pressure. (28)
- hyperventilation (hī'pər-vēn'tl-ā'shən)** The condition of breathing rapidly and deeply. Hyperventilating decreases the amount of carbon dioxide in the blood. (30)
- hypodermis (hī'pō-dūr'mīs)** The subcutaneous layer of the skin that is largely made of adipose tissue. (24)
- hypoglycemia (hī'pō-gli-sē'mē-ə)** Low blood sugar. (44)
- hyporeflexia (hī'pō-rē-flek'sē-ā)(†)** A condition of decreased reflexes. (27)
- hypotension (hī'pō-tēn'shən)** Low blood pressure. (37)
- hypothalamus (hī'pō-thāl'ə-məs)** A region of the **diencephalon**. It maintains homeostasis by regulating many vital activities such as heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing rate. (27)
- hypovolemic shock (hī'per-vō-lē'mē-ā shōk)(†)** A state of shock resulting from insufficient blood volume in the circulatory system. (44)
- hysterectomy (hīs'tā-rēk'tā-mē)** Surgical removal of the uterus. (35)
- ICD-9** See *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification*. (16)
- icon (ī'kōn')** A pictorial image; on a computer screen, a graphic symbol that identifies a menu choice. (6)
- identification line (ī-dēn'tā-fī-kā'shən līn)** A line at the bottom of a letter containing the letter writer's initials and the typist's initials. (7)
- ileocecal sphincter** A structure that controls the movement of **chyme** from the **ileum** to the **cecum**. (31)
- ileum (īl'ē-əm)** The last portion of the small intestine. It is directly attached to the large intestine. (31)
- ilium (ī'lē-əm)** The most superior part of the hip bone. It is broad and flaring. (25)
- immunity (ī-myōōn'ī-tē)** The condition of being resistant or not susceptible to pathogens and the diseases they cause. (19)
- immunization (im'yū-nī-zā-shən)** The administration of a vaccine or toxoid to protect susceptible individuals from communicable diseases. (20)
- immunocompromised (im'yū-nō-kom'pro-mīzd)(†)** Having an impaired or weakened immune system. (21)
- immunofluorescent antibody (IFA) test (im'yū-nō-flūr-esént ān'tī-bōd-ē tēst)(†)** A blood test used to confirm enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test results for HIV infection. (21)
- immunoglobulins (im'yū-nō-glob'yū-līnz)(†)** A class of structurally related proteins that include IgG, IgA, IgM, and IgE; also called **antibodies**. (29)
- impetigo (im'pī-tī'gō)** A contagious skin infection usually caused by germs commonly called staph and strep. (24)
- implied contract (īm-plīd kōn'trākt')** A contract that is created by the acceptance or conduct of the parties rather than the written word. (3)
- impotence (īmpō-tens)(†)** A disorder in which a male cannot maintain an erect penis to complete sexual intercourse; also called erectile dysfunction. (35)
- inactive file (īn-āk'tīv fīl)** A file used infrequently. (10)
- incision (īn-sīzh'ən)** A surgical wound made by cutting into body tissue. (42)
- incisors (īn-sī'zərz)** The most medial teeth. They act as chisels to bite off food. (31)
- incomplete proteins (īn'kəm-plēt'prō'tēnz)** Proteins that lack one or more of the essential amino acids. (49)
- incontinence (īn-kon'ti-nens)(†)** The involuntary leakage of urine. (34)
- incus (īng'kəs)** A small bone in the middle ear, located between the malleus and the stapes; also called the anvil. (39)

- indication (in'dī-kā'shən)** The purpose or reason for using a drug, as approved by the FDA. (50)
- induration** The process of hardening or of becoming hard. (20)
- infection (in-fēk'shən)** The presence of a pathogen in or on the body. (29)
- infectious waste (in-fēk'shəs wäst)** Waste that can be dangerous to those who handle it or to the environment; includes human waste, human tissue, and body fluids as well as potentially hazardous waste, such as used needles, scalpels, and dressings, and cultures of human cells. (13)
- inferior (in-fir'ē-ər)** Anatomical term meaning below or closer to the feet; also called caudal. (23)
- inflammation (in-flə-mā'shən)** The body's reaction when tissue becomes injured or infected. The four cardinal signs are redness, heat, pain, and swelling. (29)
- informed consent form (in-fōrm'd kən-sənt fōrm)** A form that verifies that a patient understands the offered treatment and its possible outcomes or side effects. (9)
- infundibulum (in-fūn-dib'yū-lūm) (†)** The funnel-like end of the uterine tube near an ovary. It catches the secondary oocyte as it leaves the ovary. (35)
- infusion (in-fyū'zhūn) (†)** A slow drip, as of an intravenous solution into a vein. (51)
- ink-jet printer (ing'kjet' prīn'tər)** A nonimpact printer that forms characters by using a series of dots created by tiny drops of ink. (6)
- inner cell mass (in'ər səl mās)** A group of cells in a blastocyte that gives rise to an embryo. (35)
- inorganic (in'ōr-gān'ik)** Matter that generally does not contain carbon and hydrogen. (23)
- insertion (in-sūr'shən)** An attachment site of a skeletal muscle that moves when a muscle contracts. (26)
- inspection (in-spēk'shən)** The visual examination of the patient's entire body and overall appearance. (38)
- inspiration (in(†)-spə-rā'shən)** The act of breathing in; also called inhalation. (30)
- insulin (in'sə-līn)** A hormone that regulates the amount of sugar in the blood by facilitating its entry into the cells. (32)
- interactive pager (in'tər-āk'tiv pāj'ər)** A pager designed for two-way communication. The pager screen displays a printed message and allows the physician to respond by way of a mini keyboard. (5)
- intercalated disc (in-ter'kā-lā-ted disk) (†)** A disk that connects groups of cardiac muscles. This disc allows the fibers in that group to contract and relax together. (26)
- interferon (in-ter-fēr'on) (†)** A protein that blocks viruses from infecting cells. (29)
- interim room (in'tər-īm rōōm)** A room off the patient reception area and away from the examination rooms for occasions when patients require privacy. (13)
- International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9) (in'tər-nāsh'ə-nəl klās'ə-fī-kā'shən dī-zēz'əz nīnth rī-vīzh'ən klīn'ī-kəl mōd'ə-fī-kā'shən)** Code set that is based on a system maintained by the World Health Organization of the United Nations. The use of the ICD-9 codes in the health-care industry is mandated by HIPAA for reporting patients' diseases, conditions, and signs and symptoms. (16)
- Internet (in'tər-nēt')** A global network of computers. (6)
- interneuron (in'ter-nū'ron) (†)** A structure found only in the central nervous system that functions to link sensory and motor neurons together. (27)
- internist (in-tūr'nīst)** A doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating problems related to the internal organs. (2)
- interpersonal skills (in'tər-pūr'sə-nəl skīlz)** Attitudes, qualities, and abilities that influence the level of success and satisfaction achieved in interacting with other people. (4)
- interphase (in'ter-fāz) (†)** The state of a cell carrying out its normal daily functions and not dividing. (23)
- interstitial cell (in-ter-stish'āl səl)** A cell located between the seminiferous tubules that is responsible for making testosterone. (35)
- intestinal lipase (in-tēs'tī-n lipās)** An enzyme that digests fat. (31)
- intra dermal (ID) (in'trā-der'māl)** Within the upper layers of the skin. (51)
- intra dermal test (in'trā-der'māl tēst)** An allergy test in which dilute solutions of allergens are introduced into the skin of the inner forearm or upper back with a fine-gauge needle. (41)
- intramembranous (in-trə-mém-brā-nəs)** A type of ossification in which bones begin as tough fibrous membranes. (25)
- intramuscular (IM) (in'trā-mūs'kyū-lār)** Within muscle; an IM injection allows administration of a larger amount of a drug than a subcutaneous injection allows. (51)
- intraoperative (in'trā-ōp'ər-ə-tīv)** Taking place during surgery. (42)
- intravenous IV (in'trə-vē'nəs)** Injected directly into a vein. (51)
- intravenous pyelography (IVP) (in'trə-vē'nəs pī'ē-log'rā-fē) (†)** A radiologic procedure in which the doctor injects a contrast medium into a vein and takes a series of x-rays of the kidneys, ureters, and bladder to evaluate urinary system abnormalities or trauma to the urinary system; also known as excretory urography. (53)
- intrinsic factor (in-trīn'zīk fāk'tər)** A substance secreted by parietal cells in the lining of the stomach. It is necessary for vitamin B<sub>12</sub> absorption. (31)
- invasive (in-vā'siv)** Referring to a procedure in which a catheter, wire, or other foreign object is introduced into a blood vessel or organ through the skin or a body orifice. Surgical asepsis is required during all invasive tests. (53)
- inventory (in'vən-tōrē)** A list of supplies used regularly and the quantities in stock. (8)
- inversion (in-vūr'zhən)** Turning the sole of the foot medially. (26)
- invoice (in'vois')** A bill for materials or services received by or services performed by the practice. (8)
- ions (ī'ənz)** Positively or negatively charged particles. (23)
- iris (ī'ris)** The colored part of the eye, made of muscular tissue that contracts and relaxes, altering the size of the pupil. (33)
- ischium (is'kē-əm)** A structure that forms the lower part of the hip bone. (25)
- islets of Langerhans (ī'līt lan'ger-hans)** Structures in the pancreas that secrete insulin and glucagon into the bloodstream. (32)
- itinerary (ī-tīn'ə-rēr'ē)** A detailed travel plan listing dates and times for specific transportation arrangements and events, the location of meetings and lodgings, and phone numbers. (12)
- jaundice (jōn'dīs)** A condition characterized by yellowness of the skin, eyes, mucous membranes, and excretions; occurs during the second stage of hepatitis infection. (21)
- jejunum (jē-jōō'nəm)** The mid-portion and the majority of the small intestine. (31)

- journalizing (jûr'nə-lîz'ing)** The process of logging charges and receipts in a chronological list each day; used in the single-entry system of bookkeeping. (18)
- juxtaglomerular apparatus (jüks'tă-glō-mer'yū-lăr äp'ə-răt'əs) (†)** A structure contained in the nephron and made up of the macula densa and **juxtaglomerular cells**. (34)
- juxtaglomerular cells (jüks'tă-glō-mer'yū-lăr sëlz)** Enlarged smooth muscle cells in the walls of either the afferent or efferent arterioles. (34)
- Kaposi's sarcoma (kap'ô-sêz sar-kô'mă)** Abnormal tissue occurring in the skin, and sometimes in the lymph nodes and organs, manifested by reddish-purple to dark blue patches or spots on the skin. (21)
- keratin (kêr'ə-tîn)** A tough, hard protein contained in skin, hair, and nails. (24)
- keratinocyte (kê-rat'i-nô-sît) (†)** The most common cell type in the epidermis of the skin. (24)
- key (kê)** The act of inputting or entering information into a computer. (7)
- KOH mount (kă'ô-äch mount)** A type of mount used when a physician suspects a patient has a fungal infection of the skin, nails, or hair and to which potassium hydroxide is added to dissolve the keratin in cell walls. (46)
- Krebs cycle (krêbz sî'kæl)** Also called the citric acid cycle. This cycle generates ATP for muscle cells. (26)
- KUB radiography (kă'yôo-bê ră'dê-og'ră-fê) (†)** The process of x-raying the abdomen to help assess the size, shape, and position of the urinary organs; evaluate urinary system diseases or disorders; or determine the presence of kidney stones. It can also be helpful in determining the position of an intrauterine device (IUD) or in locating foreign bodies in the digestive tract; also called a flat plate of the abdomen. (53)
- kyphosis (kî-fô'sis)** A deformity of the spine characterized by a bent-over position; more commonly called humpback. (38)
- labeling (lă'bəl-ing)** Information provided with a drug, including FDA-approved indications and the form of the drug. (50)
- labia majora (lă'bê-ă mă'jôr-ă)** The rounded folds of adipose tissue and skin that serve to protect the other female reproductive organs. (35)
- labia minora (lă'bê-ă mî'nôr-ă)** The folds of skin between the labia majora. (35)
- labyrinth (lăb'ə-rînth')** The inner ear. (39)
- laceration (lăs'ə-răshən)** A jagged, open wound in the skin that can extend down into the underlying tissue. (42)
- lacrimal apparatus (lăk'rə-məl äp'ə-răt'əs)** A structure that consists of the lacrimal glands and nasolacrimal ducts. (33)
- lacrimal gland (lăk'rə-məl glând)** A gland in the eye that produces tears. (33)
- lactase (lăk'tās) (†)** An enzyme that digests sugars. (31)
- lactic acid (lăk'tîk äs'îd)** A waste product that must be released from the cell. It is produced when a cell is low on oxygen and converts pyruvic acid. (26)
- lactogen (lak'tô-jen)** Substance secreted by the placenta that stimulates the enlargement of the mammary glands. (35)
- lacunae (lə-kü-na)** Holes in the matrix of bone that hold osteocytes. (25)
- lag phase (lăg fâz)** The initial phase of wound healing, in which bleeding is reduced as blood vessels in the affected area constrict. (42)
- lamella (lə-mê'-lə)** Layers of bone surrounding the canals of osteons. (25)
- lancet (lăn'sît)** A small, disposable instrument with a sharp point used to puncture the skin and make a shallow incision; used for capillary puncture. (48)
- laryngopharynx (lă-ring'gô-far-ingks) (†)** The portion of the pharynx behind the **larynx**. (31)
- larynx (lăr'ingks)** The part of the respiratory tract between the pharynx and the trachea that is responsible for voice production; also called the voice box. (30)
- laser printer (lă'zər prîn'tər)** A high-resolution printer that uses a technology similar to that of a photocopier. It is the fastest type of computer printer and produces the highest-quality output. (6)
- lateral (lăt'ər-əl)** A directional term that means farther away from the midline of the body. (23)
- lateral file (lăt'ər-əl fîl)** A horizontal filing cabinet that features doors that flip up and a pull-out drawer, where files are arranged with sides facing out. (10)
- law (lô)** A rule of conduct established and enforced by an authority or gov-
- erning body, such as the federal government. (3)
- law of agency (lô ä'jən-sê)** A law stating that an employee is considered to be acting on the physician's behalf while performing professional duties. (3)
- lead (lêd)** A view of a specific area of the heart on an electrocardiogram. (52)
- lease (lêz)** To rent an item or piece of equipment. (5)
- legal custody (lêgəl kûs'tə-dê)** The court-decreed right to have control over a child's upbringing and to take responsibility for the child's care, including health care. (17)
- lens (lênz)** A clear, circular disc located in the eye, just posterior to the iris, that can change shape to help the eye focus images of objects that are near or far away. (39)
- letterhead (lê'tər-hêd')** Formal business stationery, with the doctor's (or office's) name and address printed at the top, used for correspondence with patients, colleagues, and vendors. (7)
- leukemia (lôo-kê'mê-ə)** A medical condition in which bone marrow produces a large number of white blood cells that are not normal. (28)
- leukocytes (lôo-kə-sî'ts)** White blood cells. (28)
- leukocytosis (lû'kô-sî-tô'sis) (†)** A white blood cell count that is above normal. (28)
- leukopenia (lû'kô-pê-nê-ă) (†)** A white blood cell count that is below normal. (28)
- liable (lî'ə-bəl)** Legally responsible. (3)
- liability insurance (lî'ə-bîl'î-tê in-shôor'əns)** A type of insurance that covers injuries caused by the insured or injuries that occurred on the insured's property. (15)
- lifetime maximum benefit (lîf'tîm' măk'sə-məm bèn'ə-fît)** The total sum that a health plan will pay out over the patient's life. (15)
- ligament (lîg'ə-mənt)** A tough, fibrous band of tissue that connects bone to bone. (25)
- ligature (lîg'ə-chôor')** Suture material. (42)
- limited check (lîm'î-tîd chêk)** A check that is void after a certain time limit; commonly used for payroll. (18)
- lingual frenulum (lîng'gwăl fren'yū-lûm) (†)** A flap of mucosa that holds the body of the tongue to the floor of the oral cavity. (31)
- lingual tonsils (lîng'gwăl ton'sîlz) (†)** Two lumps of lymphatic tissue on the

- back of the tongue that act to destroy bacteria and viruses. (31)
- linoleic acid (lin-ō-lē'ik as'id)(†)** An essential fatty acid found in corn and sunflower oils. (31)
- lipoproteins (lip-ō-prō'tēnz)** Large molecules that are fat-soluble on the inside and water-soluble on the outside and carry lipids such as cholesterol and triglycerides through the bloodstream. (49)
- living will (liv'ing wil)** A legal document addressed to a patient's family and health-care providers stating what type of treatment the patient wishes or does not wish to receive if he becomes terminally ill, unconscious, or permanently comatose; sometimes called an advance directive. (3)
- lobe (lōb)** The frontal, parietal, temporal, or occipital regions of the cerebral hemisphere. (27)
- locum tenens (lō'kum tēn'ens)(†)** A substitute physician hired to see patients while the regular physician is away from the office. (12)
- loop of Henle (lōōp hen'lē)** The portion of the renal tubule that curves back toward the renal corpuscle and twists again to become the distal convoluted tubule. (34)
- lumbar enlargement (lūm'bər ɛn-lār'jənt)** The thickening of the spinal cord in the low back region. (27)
- lunula (lū'nū-lā)** The white half-moon-shaped area at the base of a nail. (24)
- lupus erythematosus (lōō'pəs ɛr-ə-thē-tō'səs)** An autoimmune disorder in which a person produces antibodies that target the person's own cells and tissues. (29)
- luteinizing hormone (LH) (lū'tē-in-iz-ing hōr'mōn')(†)** Hormone that in females stimulates ovulation and the production of estrogen; in males, it stimulates the production of testosterone. (32)
- lymph (līm'f)** A pale fluid found between cells that is collected by the lymphatic system and returned to the bloodstream. (28)
- lymphedema (limf'e-dē'mā)** The blockage of lymphatic vessels that results in the swelling of tissue from the accumulation of lymphatic fluid. (29)
- lymphocyte (lim'fō-sīt)(†)** An agranular leukocyte formed in lymphatic tissue. Lymphocytes are generally small. See **T lymphocyte** and **B lymphocyte**. (28)
- lysozyme (lī'sō-zīm)(†)** An enzyme in tears that destroys pathogens on the surface of the eye. (29)
- macrophage (māk'rə-fāj')** A type of phagocytic cell found in the liver, spleen, lungs, bone marrow, and connective tissue. Macrophages play several roles in humoral and cell-mediated immunity, including presenting the antigens to the lymphocytes involved in these defenses; also known as monocytes while in the bloodstream. (19)
- macula densa (mak'yū-lā den'sa)(†)** An area of the distal convoluted tubule that touches afferent and efferent arterioles. (34)
- macular degeneration (mak'yū-lār dē-jeŋ-er-ā'shūn)(†)** A progressive disease that usually affects people over the age of 50. It occurs when the retina no longer receives an adequate blood supply. (33)
- magnetic resonance imaging (mā-gnēt'ik rēz'ə-nəns i-mā'j'ing)** A viewing technique that uses a powerful magnetic field to produce an image of internal body structures. (41)
- maintenance contract (mān'tə-nəns kōn'trākt')** A contract that specifies when a piece of equipment will be cleaned, checked for worn parts, and repaired. (5)
- major histocompatibility complex (MHC) (mā'jər his'tō-kom-pat-i-bil'i-tē kəm-plēks)** A large protein complex that plays a role in T cell activation. (29)
- malignant (mə-līg'nənt)** A type of tumor or neoplasm that is invasive and destructive and that tends to metastasize; it is commonly known as cancerous. (29)
- malleus (māl'ē-əs)** A small bone in the middle ear that is attached to the eardrum; also called the hammer. (39)
- malpractice claim (māl-prāk'tis klām)** A lawsuit brought by a patient against a physician for errors in diagnosis or treatment. (3)
- maltase (mawl-tās)** An enzyme that digests sugars. (31)
- mammary glands (mam'ā-rē glāndz)** Accessory organs of the female reproductive system that secrete milk after pregnancy. (35)
- mammography (mā-mōg'rə-fē)** X-ray examination of the breasts. (53)
- managed care organization (MCO) (mān'ijd kār ōr'gə-nī-zā'shən)** A health-care business that, through mergers and buyouts, can deliver health care more cost-effectively. (1)
- mandible (man'də-bəl)** A bone that forms the lower portion of the jaw. (25)
- manipulation (mə-nip'yə-lā'shən)** The systematic movement of a patient's body parts. (38)
- marrow (mer'-ō)** A substance that is contained in the medullary cavity. In adults, it consists primarily of fat. (25)
- massage therapist (mə-sāzh'thēr'ə-pist)** An individual who is trained to use pressure, kneading, and stroking to promote muscle and full-body relaxation. (2)
- mastoid process (mas'-tō'id pr'ā-sēs)** A large bump on each temporal bone just behind each ear. It resembles a nipple, hence the name mastoid. (25)
- Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) (mə-tīr'ē-əl sāf'tē dā'tə shēt)** A form that is required for all hazardous chemicals or other substances used in the laboratory and that contains information about the product's name, ingredients, chemical characteristics, physical and health hazards, guidelines for safe handling, and procedures to be followed in the event of exposure. (8)
- matrix (mā'triks)** The basic format of an appointment book, established by blocking off times on the schedule during which the doctor is able to see patients. (12) The material between the cells of connective tissue. (23)
- matter (māt'er)** Anything that takes up space and has weight. Liquids, solids, and gases are matter. (23)
- maturation phase (māch'ə-rā'shən fāz)** The third phase of wound healing, in which scar tissue forms. (42)
- maxillae (mak-sī-lə)** A bone that forms the upper portion of the jaw. (25)
- Mayo stand (mā'ō stānd)** A movable stainless steel instrument tray on a stand. (42)
- medial (mē'dē-əl)** A directional term that describes areas closer to the midline of the body. (23)
- Medicaid (mēd'ī-kād')** A federally funded health cost assistance program for low-income, blind, and disabled patients; families receiving aid to dependent children; foster children; and children with birth defects. (15)
- medical asepsis (mēd'ī-kəl ə-sēps'is)** Measures taken to reduce the number of microorganisms, such as hand washing and wearing examination gloves, that do not necessarily eliminate microorganisms; also called clean technique. (42)