

Glossary of Lay Terms for Use in Preparing Consent Documents

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A

AAHRPP	Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs
ABSORB	take up fluids, take in
ACIDOSIS	condition when blood contains more acid than normal
ACUITY	clearness, keenness especially of vision - airways
ACUTE	new, recent, sudden
ADENOPATHY	swollen lymph nodes (glands)
ADJUVANT	helpful, assisting, aiding
ADJUVANT TREATMENT	added treatment
ANTIBIOTIC	drug that kills bacteria and other germs
ANTIMICROBIAL	drug that kills bacteria and other germs
ADVERSE EFFECT	side effect
ALLERGIC REACTION	rash, trouble breathing
AMBULATE -ATION -ORY	walk, able to walk
ANAPHYLAXIS	serious, potentially life threatening allergic reaction
ANEMIA	decreased red blood cells; low red cell blood count
ANESTHETIC	a drug or agent used to decrease the feeling of pain, or eliminate the feeling of pain by putting you to sleep
ANGINA	pain resulting from insufficient blood to the heart
ANGINA PECTORIS	same as above
ANTIBODY	protein made in the body in response to foreign substance; attacks the foreign substance and protects us from infection
ANTICONVULSANT	drug used to prevent seizures

ANTECUBITAL	area inside the elbow
ANTILIPEMIC	a drug that counteracts fat in the blood
ANTITUSSIVE	a drug used to relieve coughing
ARRHYTHMIA	any change from the normal heartbeat (abnormal heartbeat)
ASPIRATION	fluid entering lungs following vomiting
ASSAY	lab test
ASSESS	to learn about
ASYMPTOMATIC	without symptoms
AXILLA	armpit

B

BENIGN	not malignant, without serious consequences
BINDING/BOUND	carried by, to make stick together, transported
BIOAVAILABILITY	the extent to which a drug or other substance becomes available to the body
BLOOD PROFILE	series of blood tests
BOLUS	administration of something all at once
BONE MASS	the amount of [calcium in a given amount of] bone
BRADYARRHYTHMIAS	slow irregular heart beats
BRADYCARDIA	slow heartbeat
BRONCHOSPASM	breathing distress caused by narrowing of the airways

C

CARCINOGENIC	capable of causing cancer
CARCINOMA	type of cancer
CARDIAC	pertains to the heart
CARDIOVERSION	restoration of normal heart beat by electric shock
CATHETER	a tube for withdrawing or introducing fluids

CATHETER -	a tube placed near the spinal cord used for anesthesia indwelling epidural during operations
CC (cubic centimeters)	equivalent to 1 milliliter (ML) or 1/5 of a teaspoon
CEREBRAL TRAUMA	damage to the brain
CHD	coronary heart disease
CHEMOTHERAPY	treatment of disease, usually cancer, by chemical agents
CHRONIC	continuing for a long time
CLINICAL	pertaining to medical care
CLINICAL TRIAL	an experiment in patients
COMPLETE RESPONSE	total disappearance of disease
CONSOLIDATION PHASE	treatment phase intended to make a remission permanent, follows induction
CONTROLLED TRIAL	study in which the experimental treatment or procedure is compared to a standard (control) treatment or procedure
COOPERATIVE GROUP	association of multiple institutions to perform clinical trials
CORONARY	pertains to the blood vessels that supply the heart
CT SCAN (CAT) (computerized tomography)	computerized series of x-rays
CULTURE	test for infection or organisms that could cause infection
CVA (cerebrovascular accident)	stroke

D

DIASTOLIC	lower number in blood pressure reading
DISTAL	toward the end, away from the center of the body
DIURETIC	"water pill" or drug that causes increase in urination
DOPPLER	sound waves
DOUBLE BLIND	study in which neither investigators nor subjects know what drug the subject is receiving

DYSPLASIA abnormal cells

E

ECHOCARDIOGRAM sound wave test of the heart

EDEMA increased fluid

EEG (electroencephalogram) electric brainwave tracing

EFFECTIVE how well it works

EFFICACY effectiveness

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG or EKG) electrical tracing of heartbeat

ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE imbalance of minerals in the blood

EMESIS vomiting

EMPIRIC based on experience

ENDOSCOPIC EXAMINATION examination of an internal part of the body with a lighted tube; looking at a part of the body with a lighted tube

ENTERAL by way of the intestines

EPIDURAL outside the spinal cord

EXPEDITED REVIEW review of a protocol by the IRB chair or a designated IRB member without full committee review, permitted with certain low risk research; categories specified in the regulations

EXTRAVASATE to leak outside of a blood vessel

F

FDA U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the branch of federal government which approves new drugs, devices, and biologics

FIBRILLATION irregular beat of the heart or other muscle

G

GENERAL ANESTHESIA pain prevention by induction of drugged sleep, as in surgery

H

HEMATOCRIT	amount of red blood cells in the blood
HEMATOMA	a bruise, a black and blue mark
HEMODYNAMIC MEASURING	measuring of blood flow
HEMOLYSIS	breakdown in red blood cells
HEPARIN LOCK	needle placed in the arm with blood thinner to keep the blood from clotting
HEPATOMA	cancer or tumor of the liver
HOLTER MONITOR	a portable machine for recording heart beats
HYPERCALCEMIA	high blood calcium level
HYPERKALEMIA	high blood potassium level
HYPERNATREMIA	high blood sodium level
HYPERTENSION	high blood pressure
HYPOCALCEMIA	low blood calcium level
HYPOKALEMIA	low blood potassium level
HYPONATREMIA	low blood sodium level
HYPOTENSION	low blood pressure
HYPOXEMIA	a decrease of oxygen in the blood
HYPOXIA	a decrease of oxygen in the blood

I

IATROGENIC	caused by a health care worker or by treatment
IDE	investigational device exemption, the approval to test an unapproved new medical device; issued by the Food and Drug Administration
IDIOPATHIC	of unknown cause or origin
IMMUNOGLOBIN	a protein that fights infections

IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE	drug which suppresses the body's immune response; used in transplantation and diseases caused by disordered immunity
IMMUNOTHERAPY	giving of drugs to help the body's immune (protective) system
IND	investigational new drug; the approval to test an unapproved new drug; issued by the Food and Drug Administration
INDUCTION PHASE	beginning phase or stage of a treatment
INDURATION	hardening
INFARCT	death of tissue because of lack of blood supply
INFUSION	introduction of a substance into the body, usually into the blood
INGESTION	eating; taking by mouth
IN SITU	in its normal place; confined to the site of origin
INTRAMUSCULAR	into the muscle; within the muscle
INTRATHECAL	into the spinal fluid
INTRAVENOUS (IV)	through the vein
INTRAVESICAL	in the bladder
INTUBATE	the placement of a tube into the airway
INVASIVE PROCEDURE	puncture, opening or cutting of the skin
IN VITRO	in a test tube
IN VIVO	within the living body
ISCHEMIA	decreased oxygen in a tissue (usually because of decreased blood flow)

L

LEUKOPENIA	low white blood cell count
LIPID CONTENT	fat content in the blood
LOCAL ANESTHESIA	creation of insensitivity to pain in a small, local area of the body
LOCALIZED	restricted to one area, limited to one area
LUMEN	the cavity of an organ or tube (e.g., blood vessel)

LYMPHANGIOGRAPHY	an x-ray of the lymph nodes or tissues after injection of dye in lymph vessels (e.g., in feet)
LYMPHOCYTE	a type of white blood cell important in immunity and defense against infection
LYMPHOMA	a cancer of the lymph nodes (or tissues)
<u>M</u>	
MALAISE	a vague feeling of bodily discomfort, feeling bad
MALIGNANCY	cancer or other progressively enlarging and spreading tumor, usually fatal if not successfully treated
MEDULLABLASTOMA	a type of brain tumor
MEGALOBLASTOSIS	change in red blood cells
METABOLIZE	process of breaking down substances in the cells to obtain energy
METASTASIS	spread of cancer cells from one part of the body to another
MI	myocardial infarction
MILLILITER (ML)	5 ML is the equivalent of 1 tsp.; 10 ML is the equivalent of 2 tsp.; 15 ML is the equivalent of 1 Tbs.
MINIMAL	slight
MINIMIZE	reduce
MONITOR	check on; keep track of; watch carefully
MOBILITY	ease of movement
MORBIDITY	undesired result or complication
MORTALITY	death
MOTILITY	the ability to move
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging, body pictures created using magnetic rather than x-ray energy
MUCOSA, MUCOUS MEMBRANE	moist lining of digestive, respiratory, reproductive, and urinary tracts
MULTIPLE PROJECT ASSURANCE	agreement between institutions and OPRR regarding institutional policies on the use of human subjects in research

MYOCARDIAL	pertaining to the heart
MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	heart attack
<u>N</u>	
NASOGASTRIC TUBE	tube from the nose to the stomach
NCI	the National Cancer Institute
NECROSIS	death of tissue
NEOPLASIA	tumor, may be benign or malignant
NEUROBLASTOMA	a cancer of nerve tissue
NEUTROPENIA	decrease in the main part of the white blood cells
NIH	the National Institutes of Health
NONINVASIVE	not breaking, cutting or entering the skin
NONRESECTABLE	not operable
NOSOCOMIAL PNEUMONIA	pneumonia acquired in the hospital

<u>O</u>	
OCCLUSION	closing; obstruction
ONCOLOGY	the study of tumors or cancer
OPHTHALMIC	pertaining to the eye
OPTIMAL	best, most favorable or desirable
OHRP	the Office for Human Research Protections
ORAL ADMINISTRATION	by mouth
ORTHOPEDIC	pertaining to the bones
OSTEOPETROSIS	rare bone disorder characterized by dense bone
OSTEOPOROSIS	softening of the bones

OVARIES female sex glands

P

PARENTERAL administration by injection

PATENCY condition of being open

PATHOGENESIS causative mechanism in a disease

PERCUTANEOUS through the skin

PHARMACOKINETICS the study of the way the body absorbs, distributes and gets rid of a drug

PHASE I initial study of an investigational new drug in humans; to determine metabolic and pharmacologic actions of the drug; side effects associated with dose ranging, and if possible gain early evidence of effectiveness

PHASE II second phase of study of an investigational new drug intended to evaluate effectiveness for a particular indication and to determine common short-term side effects and risks associated with the drug

PHASE III administration of an investigational new drug in a large scale trial to determine safety, efficacy, and appropriate dosage

PHASE IV trial after a medicine is marketed to provide additional details about the product's safety and effectiveness for other patient populations or other stages of disease

PHLEBITIS irritation or inflammation of the vein

PLACEBO a substance of no medical value; an inactive substance; a pill that contains no medicine

PLACEBO EFFECT phenomenon of improvement seen with the administration of a placebo

PLATELETS small cells in the blood that help with blood clotting

POTENTIATE increase or multiply the effect of a drug or toxin by administration of another drug or toxin at the same time

POTENTIATOR an agent that helps another agent work better

PROPHYLAXIS a drug given to prevent disease or infection

PER OS (PO) by mouth

PRN as needed

PROGNOSIS outlook, probable outcomes

PRONE	lying on the stomach
PROSPECTIVE STUDY	study following patients forward in time
PROTOCOL	plan of study
PROXIMAL	closer to the center of the body, away from the end
PULMONARY	pertaining to the lungs

R

RADIATION THERAPY	x-ray or cobalt treatment
RANDOM	by chance
RANDOMIZATION	chance selection
RBC	red blood cell
RECOMBINANT	formation of new combinations of genes
RECONSTITUTION	putting back together the original parts or elements
REFRACTORY	not responding to treatment
REGENERATION	regrowth of a structure or of lost tissue
RELAPSE	the return of a disease
RELAPSED	the disease has come back
REMISSION	disappearance of evidence of cancer or other disease
RENAL	pertaining to the kidneys
REPLICABLE	possible to duplicate
RESECT	remove or cut out surgically
RETROSPECTIVE STUDY	study looking back over past experience; research conducted by reviewing records from the past (e.g., medical records, school records) or by obtaining information about past events elicited through interviews or surveys

S

SARCOMA	a type of cancer
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SEDATIVE	a drug to calm or make less anxious
SEMINOMA	a type of testes cancer
SEQUENTIALLY	in a row
SPIROMETER	an instrument to measure the amount of air taken into and exhaled from the lungs
STAGING	a determination of the extent of the disease
STENOSIS	narrowing of a duct, tube, or one of the valves in the heart
STOMATITIS	mouth sores - inflammation of the mouth
STRATIFY	arrange in groups for analysis of results (e.g., stratify by age, sex, etc.)
SUBCLAVIAN	under the collarbone
SUBCUTANEOUS	under the skin
SUPINE	lying on the back
SUPPORTIVE CARE	general medical care aimed at symptoms, not intended to improve or cure underlying disease
SYMPTOMATIC	having symptoms
SYSTOLIC	top number in blood pressure, pressure during active contraction of the heart

I

TERATOGENIC	capable of causing malformations in fetuses
TESTES	male sex glands
THERAPEUTIC	healing - serving to heal or cure
THROMBOSIS	clotting
TITRATION	a method for deciding on the strength of a solution
T-LYMPHOCYTES	type of white blood cells
TOPICAL	surface
TOPICAL ANESTHETIC	applied to a certain area of the skin and reducing pain only in the area to which applied
TRANSDERMAL	through the skin

TRAUMA injury; wound
TREADMILL walking machine used to evaluate heart function

U

UNRESECTABLE not operable

UPTAKE absorption and incorporation of a substance by living tissue, absorb and incorporate a substance, taking in of a substance by living tissue

V

VALVULOPLASTY plastic repair of a valve, especially of the heart

VARICES enlarged veins

VASOSPASM narrowing of the blood vessels in the brain

VECTOR a carrier, usually an insect, that carries and transmits disease causing microorganisms

VENIPUNCTURE needle stick, entering the skin with a needle

W

WBC white blood cell

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References:

OPRR Guidebook

+ Definitions marked with * were taken from the OPRR Guidebook +

Prepared by:
Elaine Adland
Ada Sue Selwitz
University of Kentucky
Office of Research Integrity
301 Kinkead Hall
Lexington, KY 40506-0057
(859) 257-2861
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University of Kentucky