

# Terminology and Glossary

## HHD Glossary

### A

**Access:** In dialysis, the natural or artificial blood vessel used to get blood in and out of the dialysis filter.

**Adverse reaction:** An unexpected and undesirable reaction to a drug or treatment that may be serious or life threatening.

**Anticoagulation (ant- eye-KO-AG-you-lay-shun):** The process of administering a substance, such as heparin, to prevent the blood from clotting.

**Artery (AR-ter-ee):** Blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart.

**Arteriovenous (ar-TEER-ee-oh-VEE-nus) fistula (FIST-yoo-lah):** Also called an AV fistula. Surgical connection of an artery directly to a vein, usually in the forearm, created in patients who will need hemodialysis.

**Arteriogram:** An X-ray of the arteries taken with the use of contrast dye; sometimes called angiography.

**Artificial kidney:** Another name for a dialysis filter or dialyzer.

**Aseptic Technique (A-cept-ik Tek-neek):** Practices that reduce the risk of infections.

### B

**Bacteria:** Single cell organisms or "germs" that can cause infection or disease.

**Bloodborne Pathogens:** Organisms or "germs" that can live in the blood and can be spread to other people.

**Blood Flow Rate (BFR):** The volume of blood per minute flowing from and returning to the patient through the blood tubing and filter. Blood flow rate is measured in ml/min.

**Bloodline:** The tubing set that carried the blood from the patient to the HD machine and back to the patient.

**Blood pressure:** The force of blood exerted on the inside walls of blood vessels, expressed as a ratio (example: 120/80, read as "120 over 80").

**Bolus:** Giving a specific amount of IV fluid during dialysis. This is usually used to treat low blood pressure.

## **C**

**Catheter:** A soft tube that is inserted into a large vein in the neck, chest, or leg to provide vascular access.

**Chronic kidney disease (CKD):** Damage of the kidneys from a variety of causes.

**Convection:** A process in which waste products are carried across a membrane or filter by the movement of fluid. This works kind of like a coffee maker.

## **D**

**Dehydration (dee-hy-DRAY-shun):** The loss of too much body fluid through excessive urinating, sweating, diarrhea or vomiting.

**Dialysis (dy-AL-ih-sis):** The process of removing wastes and excess fluid from the blood artificially.

**Dialysate:** A special fluid mixture used to clean the blood during dialysis.

**Dialyzer (DY-uh-LY-zur):** The filter used in a dialysis system to remove wastes and fluid.

**Diastolic (DY-uh-STAH-lik) blood pressure:** The "bottom" number in a blood pressure reading (120/80), the blood pressure when the heart rests.

**Diffusion (De-few-SHUN):** Movement of waste products across a membrane or filter from a high concentration (the blood) to a low concentration (dialysate). This works kind of like making tea with a tea bag.

**Disinfection (Des-in-Fek-shun):** The process of cleaning to prevent the growth of bacteria that could lead to infection.

**Dry Weight:** The "ideal" weight for a person, at which blood pressure is normal and there is no swelling from extra fluid.

**Dwell time:** The amount of time dialysis solution remains in the patient's abdominal cavity during a peritoneal dialysis exchange.

## **E**

**Edema (eh-DEE-muh):** Swelling caused by excess fluid and salt in the body.

**Effluent:** The filtered fluid containing waste products and excess fluid removed from the patient's blood.

**Electrolytes (ee-LEK-troh-lites):** Chemicals in body fluids including sodium, potassium, magnesium, and chloride.

End-stage renal (REE-nul) disease (ESRD): Total and permanent kidney failure.

Erythropoietin (eh-RITH-roh-POY-uh-tin): A hormone made by the kidneys that stimulates the body to make red blood cells.

## **F**

Filter: See dialyzer.

Fistula (FIST-yoo-LAH): A connection created by surgery between an artery and vein to make a bigger blood vessel for dialysis access. The "gold standard" because it is easy to use, has low infection rates, and lasts a long time.

Fluid overload: A condition in which the body contains too much water and salt.

## **G**

Graft: In hemodialysis, a vascular access surgically created using a synthetic tube to connect an artery to a vein.

## **H**

Hemodialysis (HEE-moh-dy-AL-ih-sis): The process of using of a machine to remove wastes and fluid from the blood after the kidneys have failed.

Hypertension (HY-per-TEN-shun): High blood pressure.

Hypertensive (HY-per-TEN-siv): Having high blood pressure.

Hypotension (hy-poh-TEN-shun): Low blood pressure.

## **K**

Kidney: One of two bean-shaped organs that filter wastes from the blood located near the middle of the back.

Kidney failure: Loss of kidney function.

## **M**

Membrane: A thin sheet or layer of tissue that lines a cavity or separates two parts of the body, and that can act as a filter.

Modality (Mo-DAL-uh-tea): A type of treatment.

## **N**

Nocturnal (Knock-turn-el): Happening at night, in dialysis this is treatment that it done at night while sleeping.

## **O**

Oxalate: A chemical that combines with calcium in urine to form the most common type of

kidney stone (calcium oxalate stone).

Over-The-Counter: Medications which can be sold and obtained legally without a doctor's prescription.

## **P**

Phosphate: A substance in many types of foods.

Phosphate binders: Medication that helps prevent a build-up of phosphate in the blood.

Prescription (PRE-skrip-shun): A doctor's written orders; can be for medicines or treatments like dialysis.

## **R**

Renal (REE-nul): Having to do with the kidneys.

Rinse back: Using sterile fluid to rinse the bloodline and dialyzer of all the blood after dialysis.

## **S**

Semipermeable Membrane (Semi-purr-Me-abul Mem-brain): A natural or artificial membrane that aids in the separation of substances and fluids and allows only certain types of substances to move across it.

Stenosis: A narrowing of a blood vessel or other organ.

Systolic (sis-TAH-lik) blood pressure: The first number of a blood pressure (120/80) or the pressure when the heart pushes blood out into the arteries.

Support group: An organized network of people with something in common who give and receive help, advice, friendship and emotional support.

## **T**

Toxin: Something that is poisonous.

## **U**

Ultrafiltration (Ull-trah-fill-TRAY-shun): Removes fluid from the blood, if not replaced removes excess patient weight.

Ultrafiltration Rate (Ull-trah-fill-TRAY-shun): The amount of fluid, measured in liters or milliliters per hour, removed from the patient across the filter to reach dry weight goal.

Universal Precautions (You-ne-VERSE-al PRE-kaw-shuns): A way of preventing infection by treating all blood and body fluids as if they contained infection. See aseptic technique.

## **V**

Vaccine: A serum containing weakened or killed germs that protect against infections.

Vascular (VASS-kyoo-lur) access: A natural or artificial blood vessel used to move blood into

and out of a dialysis filter.

Vein (VANE): A blood vessel that carries blood toward the heart.

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