

# Glossary

## A

**Absolute Granulocyte/Neutrophil Count** - the number of white blood cells mature enough to fight infections

**Afebrile** - without fever

**Anemia** - a condition in which there is a decreased amount of hemoglobin due to a decreased number of red blood cells

**Anesthesia** - a process using medicines to put a patient into a sleep-like state, thereby eliminating the sensation of pain

**Anesthetic** - medication that dulls the pain sensation in the area it is injected into or puts the patient in a sleep state

**Antacid** - a drug that relieves heart burn or acid indigestion

**Antibiotic** - a drug used to fight bacterial infections

**Antithymocyte** - globulin (ATG) a drug used to fight graft versus host disease

**Antifungal** - a drug used to fight fungal infections

**Antiviral** - a drug used to fight viral infections

**Apheresis** - separating the blood into various components

**Arterial Blood Gases (ABGs)** - reports how much oxygen and carbon dioxide is carried by the arterial blood

**Arterial Line (art line)** - an IV-type catheter placed into an artery to monitor blood pressure and sample arterial blood

## B

**Bands** - a form of less mature granulocyte that fights infection

**Bacteria** - small organisms that can cause an infection, germs

**Biopsy** - the removal of a small piece of tissue for microscopic examination

**Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)** - a waste product in the blood; used as a measurement of kidney function

**Bronchoscopy** - an examination of the large air passages in the lungs

## Glossary, continued

### C

**CAT or CT Scan** - computerized axial tomography; a three dimensional X-ray

**Central Line** (see Central Venous Catheter)

**Central Venous Catheter** - a small hollow tube inserted into blood vessels and used to painlessly draw blood and give medicines and fluids

**Chest X-ray** - examination of lungs using low-dose radiation to produce a picture

**CMV (cytomegalovirus)** - a virus that can cause infection in immunosuppressed people; it can affect the lungs or other organs

**Coagulation** - process where blood clots form

**Corticosteroid** - steroid hormones that are produced in the adrenal cortex

**Creatinine** - a waste product in the blood; used as a measure of kidney function

**Culture** - a process for identification of bacteria and other organisms in blood, sputum and other body fluids

**Cyclosporin (CSA)** - a drug used to prevent rejection

### D

**Detoxify** - removal of toxic substances from the body

### G

**Diabetes** - persistent high blood glucose levels

**Dialysis** - a process that filters impurities and excess fluids from the blood when the kidneys are not working well

### E

**Echocardiogram (echo)** - a measurement of heart function and blood flow through the use of sound waves

**Edema** - swelling caused by too much fluid

**Electrocardiogram (EKG)** - a recording of the heart's electrical activity

**Electrolytes** - minerals in the blood such as potassium, sodium, etc., that must be maintained within a certain range to keep the body functioning well

**Endotracheal (ET)** - a tube placed through the mouth or nose into the windpipe or airway

**Erythrocytes** - another name for red blood cells

### F

**Febrile** - with a fever

## Glossary, continued

### G

**Granulocyte** - a sub-type of white blood cells named because of the presence of granules in the cell. These cells protect the body against bacterial infection

**Gut** - stomach and intestines

### H

**Hematocrit** - part of the blood occupied by red blood cells

**Hemoglobin** - the part of red blood cells that carries oxygen to tissues

**Hematology** - the medical specialty involved in the study and treatment of diseases related to the blood and blood-forming tissue

**HEPA Filter** - high efficiency particulate air filter used to provide clean air in transplant rooms

**Herpes Virus** - a group of viruses, one of which is herpes simplex virus

**Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)** - markers found on white blood cells and most body cells which is used for typing tissues of donor and recipient for compatibility

**Hyperalimentation or "Hyperal"** - an IV solution with a high nutritional content given in place of oral food intake when someone is unable to eat; also called total parenteral nutrition (TPN)

**Hypertension** - high blood pressure

### I – K

**Immune system** - a network of cells and organs that work to defend the body against infection

**Immunity** - biological defenses to avoid infection or disease

**Incentive Spirometer** - a device or piece of equipment to aid the function of your lungs by having you breathe in deeply

**Intake** - volume of fluids going into the body

**IgG** - immune gamma globulin used to increase resistance to certain infections

**IV, or Intravenous** - directly into the vein  
**Irradiated Blood Products** - treated with radiation to kill white cells that could attack other cells in your body

**Intrathecal (IT)** - an injection into the fluid of the spinal column

**Intubated** - having an endotracheal tube placed into the windpipe to assist a patient who has difficulty breathing

## Glossary, continued

### L

**Lied Transplant Cooperative Care (LTCC)**

- inpatient unit in the Lied Transplant Center. The patient rooms are located on the fifth floor; treatment is given in the Treatment Center

**Lumbar Puncture (LP)** - a needle is placed into the spinal column to obtain samples of spinal fluid; also called a spinal tap

**Lymphoid Cells** - blood cells that mature in the lymph tissue

**Lytes** - abbreviated version of electrolytes; see Electrolytes

### M – N

**Megakaryocytes** - another word for platelets

**Modified Protective Isolation (MPI)** - a type of isolation where increased precautions are taken to protect the patient from infection

**Muga Scan/Heart Scan** - test that determines how the heart is functioning

**Myeloid Cells** - blood cells that mature in the bone marrow

### O

**Output** - volume of fluid going out of the body

**Oximeter** - a device that clips to the finger or ear lobe and measures how much oxygen is being carried by the blood circulating in the body

### P – Q

**Perineal Care** - special care of the skin and tissue in the genital and rectal areas

**PET Scan** - also called Position Emission Tomography, a medical imaging technique that monitors metabolic, or biochemical, activity in the brain and other organs by tracking the movement and concentration of a radioactive tracer injected in the bloodstream

**Petechiae** - a small dark purple or red spots under the skin caused by blood leaking out of the vessels; may indicate a low platelet count

**Platelets** - blood cells that helps prevent bleeding and help the blood to clot when vessels are broken

**Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)** - a type of lung infection that may cause severe pneumonia in people with low resistance to infection

**Potassium** - mineral element in the body important for heart and muscle activity

## Glossary, continued

**Protocol** - a plan of care or treatment

**Pulmonary Function Test (PFT)** - a study of how well the lungs are working, i.e., the amount of air you are breathing in and out

### R

**Red Blood Cells** - cells in blood that carry oxygen to blood and tissues

**Renal** - pertaining to the kidney

**Respirator/Ventilator** - a machine that pushes air and extra oxygen into the lungs

### S

**Segs** - a form of granulocyte mature enough to fight infection

**Sepsis** - the presence of organisms or infection in the blood

**Septic Shock** - the body's reaction to infection in the blood characterized by a dangerous drop in blood pressure and altered function of other organs

**Shingles** - painful lesions caused by a virus

**Sodium** - an electrolyte important for fluid balance

**Spinal Tap** (see Lumbar Puncture)

**Steroid** - a drug used in combination with other drugs to prevent and/or control graft versus host disease

**Swan Ganz** - a catheter (or thin tube) used to measure pressures within the heart and lungs

### T

**Thrush** - yeast infection in the mouth and throat causing white patches

**Titer** - a special measurement of substance in blood or urine

**TPN or Total Parenteral Nutrition** (see Hyperalimentation (hyperal))

### U - Z

**Urinary Tract Infection** - infection involving bladder, kidneys, or urethra

**Ventilator** (see Respirator)

**Virus** - a type of organism that invades cells and causes them to produce more virus, leading to an infection

**White Blood Cell** - a type of blood cell that helps fight infection