

Nursing Terminology	
Term	Meaning
abuse	Misconduct or neglect of an older person through the intentional or unintentional behavior of another person(s). Abuse may be collectively categorized as physically, financially, or sexually. This abuse may be physical, psychological, sexual, financial and/or systemic.
ambiguity	Removal of the barriers to writing and reading patterns or writing within any health care setting.
active aging	The process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.
acute care / acute health care	Care that is generally provided for a short period of time to treat a new illness or a flare-up of an existing condition. This type of care may include treatment at home, short-term hospital stays, professional nursing, surgery, surgery and surgery, as well as emergency medical services.
acute disease / illness	A disease which is characterized by a single or repeated episode of relatively rapid onset and short duration from which the patient usually returns to his/her normal or previous state of health or activity. An acute episode of a chronic disease (for example, an episode of diabetes) is a patient with diabetes is often treated as an acute disease.
admission	The act of entering a facility, usually referring to hospital care, although the term may be used for day or overnight care as well.
adult disease	A type of disease care in which an older person lives with an appropriate family.
advance care planning	Planning in advance for decisions that may have to be made prior to incapacity or at the end of life. People may choose to do this planning formally, by means of advance directives, or informally, through discussions with family members, friends, and health care and social service providers, or a combination of both methods.
agents	The negative environmental or immunological agents on the basis of age.
agent (of disease)	A factor, such as a micro-organism, chemical substance, form of radiation, or excessive heat or cold, which is essential for the occurrence of a disease. A disease may be caused by more than one agent acting together or, in the case of deficiency diseases, by the absence of an agent.
anatomy	A system of medicine based on the theory that successful therapy depends on creating a condition analogous to, or incompatible with, the condition to be treated. Thus, drugs such as antibiotics are given to combat diseases caused by the organisms to which they are antagonistic.
ambulatory care	Health services provided on an outpatient basis in contrast to services provided in the home or to persons who are hospitalized. When many residents may be ambulatory, the term ambulatory care usually implies the patient travels to a location to receive services and no overnight stay in hospital is required. Many surgeries and treatments are now provided on an outpatient basis, which promotes their use and reduces costs for patients and hospitals.
ancillary service	Support services provided in conjunction with medical or hospital care. Such services include laboratory, radiology, physical therapy and occupational therapy, among others.
anxiety	The persistent ability to control, cope with and make personal decisions about how one feels, or a state of being, according to one's own needs and preferences.
anxiety disorder	A person who has less than full professional qualifications in a particular field and is supervised by a professional worker.
anxiety disorder	A person of legal age and capacity, usually associated with death.
anxiety disorder	The total significance of disease for society beyond the immediate cost of treatment. It represents years of life lost to the health as the difference between total life expectancy and healthy adjusted life expectancy.

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