

Term	Definition
Ace inhibitor	A drug that lowers blood pressure
Angina Pectoris	Chest pain or discomfort around the heart, sometimes radiates to the left shoulder and arm. It is caused by insufficient blood to the heart.
Anterior descending coronary artery	An artery that runs in the front portion of the heart and is located between the two lower chambers of the heart.
Anterior Septal Infarction	A heart attack resulting from the occlusion of circumflex artery of the heart.
Anterior Wall Infarction	A heart attack resulting from the occlusion of the left anterior descending coronary (LAD) artery.
Antianginal	A drug used to treat chest pain
Antiarrhythmics	Prevents or controls abnormal heart beats
Antiarrhythmic	A drug that regulates the heart rate and rhythm
Antibiotic	A drug that kills bacteria to treat infection
Anticoagulant	A drug used to thin the blood and prevent blood clots
Antilipidemic	A drug that helps reduce or modify the materials which can cause artery blockage.
Aorta	The largest artery in the body. It receives blood from the left side of the heart and branches to all parts of the body.
Aortic Regurgitation	The aortic valve does not close tightly and will cause blood to back up into the left lower chamber. This can lead to an eventual failure of the chamber to pump the blood efficiently.
Aortic Stenosis	The narrowing of the aortic valve caused by rheumatic fever, and atherosclerosis or congenital abnormality of valve.
Aortic valve	A valve between the left lower chamber and the aortic artery. It carries the newly oxygenated blood back to the body.
Apex	The bottom of the heart.
Arrhythmia	Any abnormality in the rate or rhythm of the heart. These are also called dysrhythmias.
Arteriole	A small artery.
Artery	Arteries are blood vessels that deliver oxygenated blood away from the heart and into the body. They are thicker than veins.
Atherosclerosis	The development of fatty material in the lining of arteries, causing narrowing and hardening of the vessel wall.
Atrioventricular node	The AV (atrioventricular) is located just above the lower chambers of the heart and receives the electrical impulse generated by the SA (sinoatrial) node. The impulse rate for this area is approximately 60 times a minute. The impulse is slightly delayed while the lower chambers are filling with blood.
Atrium	An upper chamber of the heart that receives blood.
Beta-adrenergic blocker	A drug that decreases the rate and strength of the heart beat.
Bicuspid Valve	The valve between the left upper and lower chamber. Also known as the mitral valve. This can also be a congenital abnormality of the aortic valve.
Blood Pressure	The force exerted by blood against the wall of a blood vessel.
Bradycardia	A slow heart rate of less than 60 beats per minute.
Bruit	An abnormal blowing sound heard usually over a vessel with a stethoscope.
Bundle Branch Block	Blocks in the branches of the heart which transmit electrical messages known as bundle branch block.

Calcium channel blocker	A drug that controls the heart rate or blood pressure.
Capillary	A very small blood vessel through which materials are exchanged between blood and tissues.
Cardiac Output	The amount of blood pumped from the heart per minute.
Cardiac Tamponade	An abnormal accumulation of fluid., blood or pus in the sac that surrounds the heart. May result in injury to the heart or death.
Cardiomyopathy	A disease of the heart muscle. Classified according to functional impairment congestive (lower chambers of heart are weak), hypertrophic (genetically transmitted, characterized by the heart muscle enlargement of the left lower chamber), and restrictive (lower chambers of the heart are stiff).
Chambers	The heart has four chambers, two upper and two lower on the right and left sides of the heart. The upper chambers are known as the atria and are thin walled reservoirs for holding blood. The lower chambers are known as the ventricles and are thicker walled and act as a pumping chamber.
Clubbing	The enlargement of the ends of the fingers and toes with curving of the nails. Seen in patients with various disease, especially diseases of the lung and infection of the lining of the heart.
Coronary Artery	Artery that feeds blood to the heart muscle.
Coronary Artery Disease	A buildup of plaque inside the coronary arteries which supply oxygen rich blood to your heart muscle. Plaque narrows the arteries and restricts blood flow to the heart and makes it more likely that blood clots will form in the arteries.
Cyanosis	Bluish discoloration of the skin due to the lack of oxygen.
Diastole	The resting phase of a heart beat which happens when the lower chambers of the heart are being filled with blood.
Digitalis	A drug that slows and strengthens the heart contraction
Diuretic	A drug that eliminates excess water from the body
Diuretics	Removes excess water
Dyspnea	Labored breathing, shortness of breath
Edema	The accumulation of fluid that can occur in tissues, cells, or spaces of the body.
Embolism	Obstruction of a blood vessel caused by a blood clot, fat flobule, air bubble, piece of tissue, or clump of bacteria.
Embolus	A piece of material carried in the blood stream. The types of matter could be a blood clot, fat globule, air bubble, piece of tissue or a clump of bacteria
Endocarditis	A bacterial infection on the heart valves. This condition can have an abrupt or gradual onset. Outgrowths of bacteria known as vegetation form on the heart valves and can easily break off and become an emboli.
Endocardium	The lining of the inner wall and valves of the heart
Epicardium	The outermost layer of the heart wall
Fatigue	A generalized feeling of tiredness or exhaustion.
Fibrillation	This spontaneous quivering and ineffectual contraction of muscle can occur in the upper or lower champers of the heart.
Fibrous pericardium	The outermost layer of the heart
Flutter	A rapid pulsation or vibration that can occur in the upper chambers of the heart. The upper chamber or atria of the heart can beat with this condition from 200-300 contractions per minute.
Heart	An organ of the body made up mostly of muscle tissue which acts as a pump to deliver oxygen, blood and nutrients throughout the body. It is

	about the size of a fist, less than a pound, and rests in the middle of the chest.
Heart Attack	A heart attack is caused by a blockage that restricts oxygenated blood flow to a section of the heart. Heart muscle will become damaged from lack of oxygen and if blood flow is not restored quickly, the section of the heart affected by the blockage will become damaged and begin to die.
Heart Beat	The heart beat is known as the cardiac cycle. There are two phases of a heart beat, a resting phase also known as diastole, when the lower chambers of the heart are being filled with blood. The other phase is when the heart contracts known as systole, when the heart contracts it pushes the blood from the right side of the heart into the lungs to be oxygenated. The left side of the heart contracts and pumps the oxygenated blood back into the body.
Heart Block	An interference in the electrical conduction of the heart which causes an abnormal heart rhythm. Heart blocks are classified in order of severity as first, second, and third degree heart block. There are also blocks in the branches of the heart which transmit electrical messages known as bundle branch block.
Heart Failure	The inability of the heart to maintain adequate circulation of the blood.
Heart Sounds	The sound of the heart functioning. The sound produced is from the closing of the heart valves.
Hypertension	A higher than normal blood pressure. A blood pressure with the top number (systolic) equal to or over 140 and the bottom number (diastolic) equal to or over 90. It causes the heart to work harder and may result in damage if untreated.
Hypotension	A lower than normal blood pressure. A blood pressure is considered hypotensive when the top number (systolic) is less than 100. It can be a symptom of a serious condition.
Infarction	Death or necrosis of tissue resulting from a blocked blood supply to an area. This condition is caused by a blockage or narrowing of the artery supplying the area. A heart attack or myocardial infarction is one such example.
Inferior Myocardial Infarction	A heart attack caused when the right coronary artery is occluded.
Inferior Vena Cava	A main vein that brings blood back to the heart from the lower part of the body.
Interventional	Interventional cardiology is when a cardiologist uses special balloon and stent devices during cardiac catheterization to open a blockage in the heart vessels.
Invasive	Invasive cardiology involves performing cardiac catheterization to assist in diagnosing cardiac disease.
Ischemia	A deficient blood supply to a muscle due to an obstruction or constriction of a blood vessel.
Left coronary artery	An artery that runs in the front portion of the heart and is located between the two lower chambers of the heart.
Left Sided Heart Failure	The left side of the heart is not pumping efficiently to pump the blood back into the system. Usually occurs before right sided failure.
Mitral Stenosis	The narrowing of the mitral valve. The leaflets of the valve become inflamed, scarred and thickened. The valve is unable to open and close easily which impedes blood flow from the left upper chamber to the left lower chamber. Therefore, the heart must work harder to pump the blood. This can lead to left sided heart failure and eventually right sided heart failure.

Mitral Valve	The valve between the left upper and lower chamber. Also known as a bicuspid valve.
Mitral Valve Prolapse	When the part of the mitral valve is pushed back too far into the upper chamber when the heart contracts.
Mitral Valve Regurgitation	The mitral valve does not close completely. The damage to the mitral valve results in blood backing up from the left lower chamber to the left upper chamber when the heart contracts.
Murmur	An abnormal heart sound usually made by a valve problem.
Myocardial Ischemia	Myocardial ischemia or relating to the heart is when the heart muscle is not receiving enough blood due to a constriction or blockage of a coronary artery.
Myocarditis	Inflammation of the muscle layer of the heart. This condition could occur along with endocarditis or pericarditis.
Myocardium	The thick middle layer of the heart wall.
Nocturia	Having to frequently urinate at night.
NonTransmural Myocardial Infarction	A heart attack involving a partial thickness. Categorized as either subendocardial involving the endocardium and the myocardium, or a subepicardial, involving the myocardium and the epicardium.
Orthopnea	Trouble breathing when lying down.
Pallor	Pale skin
Perfusion	The passage of fluid, such as blood, through tissues or an organ.
Pericarditis	Inflammation of the pericardium. Accumulation of blood and pus can occur in the space that is between the sac and the heart. This can cause a fatal constriction on the heart known as cardiac tamponade.
Pericardium	The sac that surrounds the heart.
Peripheral Intervention	A peripheral intervention is when a cardiologist uses special balloon and stent devices to open a blockage in vessels in the body that are outside of the heart.
PFO (patent foramen ovale)	An incomplete closure in the wall (septum) between the two upper chambers of the heart. It is normal during fetal development and usually closes within the first or second year of life. However, in approximately 25% of people it doesn't seal shut and results in a valve-like opening in the atrial septal wall. This allows blood to flow directly between the left and right atrium when pressure is created in the chest such as when coughing or sneezing.
Pitting Edema	Fluid in the tissues that retains the impression of a finger when pressed firmly into the skin.
Plaque	Made up of fat, cholesterol, calcium, and other substances found in the blood. It builds up on the insides of your arteries as you age. Plaque can slow down or block the flow of blood allowing a blood clot to form.
Posterior Wall Infarctions	Heart attacks resulting from the occlusion of the circumflex branch of the left or right coronary artery.
Potassium	A mineral element found in the body. It plays a very important role in the functioning of the heart.
Premature Ventricular Contractions	An abnormal heart beat also known as a PVC. The lower chamber of the heart is electrically signaled to contract too early.
Prothrombin or Protine	A lab test to monitor results of patients receiving anticoagulant drug therapies.
Pulmonary Edema	The back up of fluid into the lungs
Pulmonary Veins	Four veins that carry oxygenated blood from the lungs and back to the heart.
Pulmonic Valve	A valve between the right lower chamber of the heart and the

	pulmonary artery that goes to the lungs (where the blood will receive its oxygen). It prevents blood from backing up into the right side of the heart.
Pulse Pressure	The difference between upper (systolic) and lower parts (diastolic) of a blood pressure.
Regurgitation	Backward flowing. Seen in heart disease when a heart valve is defective and blood regurgitates backward into a chamber or vessel.
Rheumatic Fever	The exact cause is unknown. It has been related to upper respiratory infections caused by a bacteria known as group A streptococci. The age group most affected are children and teenagers between 5-15. This condition affects many systems including the heart, joints, skin and the nervous system. It can cause permanent damage to the heart.
Rheumatic Heart Disease	The scarring damage of heart valves following an infection of a specific type of streptococcus bacteria (group A hemolytic streptococcus).
Right Sided Heart Failure	When the right side of the heart does not pump as it should, resulting in a back up of blood in the lower legs and organs such as the liver.
Septum	A muscular band that separates the heart into the right and left side.
Sinoatrial node	The SA (sinoatrial) node, also known as the pacemaker of the heart, is the part of the heart's electrical system that generates regular spontaneous electrical impulses approximately 70-80 times a minute. The impulse normally starts in the right upper chamber and travels down causing the chambers to contract.
Sinus Bradycardia	A heart rate slower than 60 beats a minute.
Sinus Rhythm	A normal heart rhythm. 60-100 beats a minute.
Sinus Tachycardia	A heart rate faster than 100 beats a minute.
Stenosis	Narrowing of an opening.
Stroke Volume	The amount of blood pumped by the left lower chamber of the heart (left ventricle) with each beat.
Superior Vena Cava	A main vein that brings blood back to the heart from the upper part of the body.
Syncope	Fainting, caused by an inadequate blood flow to the brain. The loss of consciousness is temporary.
Systole	The working phase of a heart beat which happens when the heart contracts and pushes blood into the lungs to be oxygenated.
Tachycardia	A rapid heart rate, usually over 100.
Thrombolytics	A drug and enzyme used to dissolve blood clots
Thrombosis	The formation or the presence of a mass or clot within a blood vessel.
Thrombus	A blood clot that has formed in a blood vessel. Often caused due to a blockage or interference in circulation of blood.
Transmural Myocardial Infarction	Heart attacks involving all three layers of the heart: Pericardium, myocardium, and the epicardium.
Tricuspid Stenosis	A narrowing of the tricuspid valve. The narrowed valve obstructs the blood flow from the right upper and lower chamber resulting in the right upper chamber dilating and enlarging which causes a backup of blood in the body.
Tricuspid Valve	The valve between the right upper and lower chamber of the heart. Tri signifies that there are three cusps or leaflets which help to prevent the backflow of blood.
Valves	The heart has four valves that keep blood flowing in a forward direction and prevent the backflow of blood.
Vascular Closure Device	A device used to close the femoral artery after diagnostic and interventional cardiovascular procedures.
Vasodilators	A drug used to widen blood vessels

Vegetation	Outgrowths of bacteria on the valves of the heart which is associated with rheumatic fever.
Vein	Veins are blood vessels that carry blood that needs oxygen back to the right side of the heart.
Vena Cava	Two veins (superior and inferior) that carry blood needing oxygen back to the right side of the heart.
Ventricles	The lower chambers of the heart. These are thick walled and act as a pumping chamber.
Ventricular Tachycardia	Abnormal heart rhythm, could be life threatening. When the electrical impulse of the heart is initiated in the lower chamber (ventricles). The rate is 100 times or more a minute.
Venule	A small vein.
Visceral pericardium	The innermost layer of the heart
Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome	An abnormal heart rhythm consisting of periods of a fast heart rate due to an abnormal electrical circuit in the heart.