

A **sign** is objective evidence of disease such as a fever. Objective means the sign can be evaluated or measured by the patient or others

A **symptom** is subjective evidence of a disease, such as pain or a headache. Subjective means that it can be evaluated or measured only by the patient

A **syndrome** is a set of the signs and symptoms that occur together as part of a specific disease process

A **diagnosis** (DX) is the identification of a disease (plural, diagnoses). To diagnose: is the process of reaching a diagnosis

A **differential diagnosis** is an attempt to determine which one of several diseases can be causing the signs and symptoms that are present

A **prognosis** is a prediction of the probable course and outcome of a disorder (plural, prognoses)

An **acute** condition has a rapid onset, a severe course, and a relatively short duration

A **chronic** condition is of long duration. Although such diseases can be controlled, they are rarely cured

A **remission** is the temporary, partial, or complete disappearance of the symptoms of a disease without having achieved a cure.

A **disease** is a condition in which one or more body parts are not functioning normally. Some diseases are named for their signs and symptoms. For example, chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a persistent overwhelming fatigue of unknown origin

An **acronym** is a word formed from the initial letter of the major parts of a compound term. For example, the acronym **laser** stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation

A **fissure** is a groove or crack-like sore of the skin. This term also describes normal folds in the contours of the brain.

A **fistula** is an abnormal passage, usually between two internal organs or leading from an organ to the surface of the body. A fistula may be due to surgery, injury, or the draining of an abscess

The **ileum** is the last and longest portion of the small intestine.

Memory aid: ileum is spelled with an e as in intestine

The **ilium** is part of the hip bone.

Memory aid: ilium is spelled with an i as in hip

An **infection** is the invasion of the body by a pathogenic (disease-producing) organism. The infection can remain localized (near the point of entry) or can be systemic (affecting the entire body).

Signs and symptoms of infection include: malaise, chills and fever, redness, heat and swelling, or exudate from a wound

Malaise is a feeling of general discomfort or uneasiness that is often the first indication of an infection or other disease

An **exudate** is fluid, such as pus, that leaks out of an infected wound.