

# STRAIGHT TALK

## A cheat sheet to cure “Doctor Speak”

Simplifying medical terminology isn't always easy, but using plain language with patients pays off. Patients who better understand their conditions and your recommendations are more likely to ask questions, follow recommendations, and feel less intimidated, making for a better overall experience in your ED. Need help trading complex terms for simple ones? Here's a list of common replacements to get you started.

COMPLEX	SIMPLE
Acetaminophen	<b>Tylenol</b>
Analgesic	<b>Pain killer</b>
Attempt	<b>Try</b>
Authorize	<b>Allow, approve</b>
Bacteria	<b>Germs</b>
Benign	<b>Not cancer</b>
Bronchodilator	<b>Drug that helps you breathe better</b>
Carcinoma	<b>Cancer</b>
Cardiologist	<b>Heart doctor</b>
Cellulitis	<b>Skin infection</b>
Cerebral Hemorrhage	<b>Stroke, bleeding in brain</b>
Contusion	<b>Bruise</b>
Demonstrate	<b>Show</b>
Dermatologist	<b>Skin doctor</b>
Economical	<b>Cheap, low cost</b>
Embolism	<b>Blood clot</b>
Facilitate	<b>Help</b>
Gradually	<b>Slowly, over time</b>
Herpes Zoster	<b>Shingles</b>
Hypertension	<b>High blood pressure</b>
Immediately	<b>Right away</b>
Influenza	<b>Flu</b>
Injection	<b>Shot</b>
Jaundice	<b>Skin and eyes turn yellow</b>
Menses	<b>Period</b>
Monitor	<b>Keep track of</b>
Oral or PO	<b>By mouth</b>
Referral	<b>Send to another doctor</b>
Toxic	<b>Poisonous</b>