

Glossary

Absorption	The degree and speed at which a drug enters the bloodstream from the small intestine
Acute hepatitis C	Newly acquired symptomatic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.
Acute tubular necrosis (ATN)	Reversible kidney damage resulting in delayed kidney function. Among other factors, it may be caused by quality of donor organ, time of organ storage before transplantation, or medications to prevent rejection.
Alkaline phosphatase	An enzyme produced by liver (and other) cells; elevated blood levels of this substance may indicate abnormal function of the liver or other organs
Allograft (allogeneic graft or homograft)	A graft between two individuals who are of the same species (e.g. Human) but have genetic differences
Alt	Alanine aminotransferase. An enzyme produced by liver cells. ALT levels are measured to monitor possible liver damage
Antibody	A protein in the blood that helps fight antigens that invade the body. It is one part of the immune system, which consists of many specialized cells working together to fight infections.
Anti-HCV	Antibody to HCV that develops in response to HCV infection detectable in persons with acute, chronic, and resolved infection.
Antigen	Any substance that the body recognizes as foreign and rejects, triggering an immune response. Antigens can be from outside the body (like toxins, bacteria, transplanted organs) or from inside the body (like tissue cells)
Anesthetic	Medication that reduces pain by dulling sensation
Arteriogram	An x-ray of the arteries taken with the aid of a dye
Ascites	Excess fluid in the abdomen
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase.
Asymptomatic	No obvious signs or symptoms of illness or disease.
Atherosclerosis	A buildup of fats in the lining of the arteries that may interfere with the flow of blood
B cell	A specialized white blood cell responsible for the body's immunity. B cells play a central role in antibody production
Bacteria	Small organisms (germs) that can cause disease
Biliary stenosis	Narrowing or constriction of a bile duct

Biliary tree	All passageways inside and outside the liver that carry bile to the intestines
Bile	A fluid produced by the liver, stored in the gallbladder, and released into the small intestine to help absorb dietary fats
Bile ducts	The tubes through which bile flows
Bile leak	A hole in the bile-duct system that causes bile to spill into the abdominal cavity
Bilirubin	An orange-colored substance in bile produced by the breakdown of red blood cells
Bioavailability	A measure of how much of an administered drug is absorbed into the bloodstream, actually reaching the intended site of action in the body. For example, medicine is absorbed from the GI tract, travels through the bloodstream, and reaches the organ tissues, where it works to fight infection, prevent rejection, etc.
Biopsy	The removal and examination of tissue for diagnosis
Bladder	The part of the urinary tract that receives urine from the kidneys and stores it until urination
Blood-borne substances	Anything that is in and carried by the blood throughout the body.
Blood urea nitrogen	A byproduct of protein breakdown in the body
Brain death	When the brain has permanently stopped working, as determined by a neurological surgeon, artificial support systems may maintain functions such as heartbeat and respiration for a few days
Bun	Stands for blood urea nitrogen, a waste product normally excreted by the kidney. Your bun value represents how well the kidneys function
Cadaver donor	An individual who has recently died of causes that do not affect the function of an organ to be transplanted. Either the person or the person's family has generously offered organs and/or tissues for transplantation
Carrier	A person who can give a disease to others and who may or may not have any symptoms of that disease.
Cellcept®	An immunosuppressive drug used with other immunosuppressants to prevent the rejection of the transplanted organ. Also known by its chemical name, myophenolate mofetil
Cholesterol	A form of fat that performs necessary functions in the body but can also cause heart disease; cholesterol is found in animal foods such as meat, fish, poultry, eggs, and dairy products
Chronic (persistent) HCV Infection	Persistent infection with HCV; characterized by detection of HCV RNA >6 months after newly acquired infection.

Chronic hepatitis C	Liver inflammation in patients with chronic HCV infection; characterized by abnormal levels of liver enzymes.
Cirrhosis	A disease causing irreversible scarring of the liver
Clinical trials	Carefully controlled tests with humans to determine if the drugs and treatment are safe and effective.
Contagious	The ability of a disease to spread from one person to another.
Cure	The ending of all signs of a disease.
CSTE	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.
Cyclosporine	The immunosuppressive ingredient in Neoral® (cyclosporine capsules and oral solution for microemulsion) and Sandimmune® (cyclosporine), an earlier form of cyclosporine. Neoral® and Sandimmune are not bioequivalent and cannot be used interchangeably without physician supervision
CMV (cytomegalo virus)	A virus infection that is very common in transplant recipients; it can affect the lungs and other organs as well; a member of the family of herpes viruses
Coagulation	Blood clotting
Corticosteroids	A category of immunosuppressive medications that includes prednisone and prednisolone
Creatinine	A substance found in blood and urine; it results from normal body chemical reactions; high blood creatinine levels are a sign of depressed kidney function
Depression	A mental condition that lasts for a long time, indicated by feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and discouragement, as well as difficulty concentrating and inactivity.
Detoxify	To change a harmful substance into a safer form
Diabetes	A disease in which patients have high levels of sugar in their blood
Diagnosis	The identification of a disease by signs, symptoms, and/or laboratory tests.
Dialysis	The processes of cleansing and achieving chemical balance in the blood of patients whose kidneys have failed. Dialysis may refer to hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis (pd)
Diastolic	The bottom of two blood pressure numbers, which measures blood pressure when the heart is at rest
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid.

Edema	Excess fluid in body tissues; swelling of the ankles, for example, is a sign of edema
EIA	Enzyme immunoassay.
Electrocardiogram	A recording of the electrical activity of the heart
Electrolyte	Generally refers to the dissolved form of a mineral such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, chlorine, etc.
Enzyme	A protein made in the body and capable of changing a substance from one form to another
Epidemiology	The study of disease: how many cases develop in large populations like cities, states, countries, and which groups in the population get the disease.
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
Gallbladder	A muscular sac attached to the liver; stores bile
Gastroenterologist	A physician who specializes in the care of the digestive tract
Gingival hypertrophy	Enlargement of the gums. It is a common side effect of cyclosporine therapy, but can be managed with good oral hygiene
Glucose	A type of sugar found in the blood
Graft	An organ or tissue that is transplanted
Graft survival	When a transplanted tissue or organ is accepted by the body and functions properly. The potential for graft survival is increased when the recipient and donor are closely matched, and when immunosuppressive therapy is used
Hepatitis	<p>Inflammation of the liver sometimes accompanied by jaundice, enlarged liver, fatigue, and nausea. Most commonly caused by a virus that attacks the liver.</p> <p>Acute hepatitis - a hepatitis infection that clears up in 6 months or less</p> <p>Chronic hepatitis - a hepatitis infection that lasts 6 months or longer (with or without symptoms)</p> <p>Fulminant hepatitis - a very severe, quickly developing form of hepatitis, which is often deadly.</p> <p>Infectious hepatitis - the original name for hepatitis A</p> <p>Non-A, non-B hepatitis - Most commonly known as hepatitis C</p> <p>Toxic hepatitis - a form of hepatitis caused by chemicals rather than a virus.</p>

HBV	Hepatitis B virus.
HCC	Hepatocellular carcinoma.
HCV	Hepatitis C virus.
HCV-positive	Positive for anti-HCV as verified by supplemental testing or positive for HCV RNA.
HCV RNA	Hepatitis C virus ribonucleic acid.
Helper T cell	The specialized white blood cell that tells other parts of the immune system to combat infection or foreign material
Hematocrit	A measure of the red-blood-cell content of blood
Hemodialysis	A method of dialysis in which blood is purified by circulating through an apparatus outside the body (sometimes called an "artificial kidney")
Hepatic	Relating to the liver
Hepatologist	A physician who studies the liver and treats liver disease
Hepatomegaly	An enlarged liver
Herpes	A family of viruses that infect humans; herpes simplex causes lip and genital sores; herpes zoster causes shingles
High risk behavior	Acting in a way that increases your risk of getting or spreading a disease or illness
High risk groups	Groups of people who are proven to be at greater risk of getting or spreading a disease or illness
Hirsutism	An excessive increase in hair growth - especially male-pattern hair growth in a female. Hirsutism is a common side effect of corticosteroids and can also occur with cyclosporine therapy, but is easily treated with depilatory creams or other methods of hair removal
Histocompatibility	The examination of human leukocyte antigens (HLA) in a patient often referred to as "tissue typing" or "genetic matching". Tissue typing is routinely performed for all donors and recipients in kidney and pancreas transplantation to help match the donor with the most suitable recipients. This helps to decrease the likelihood of "rejecting" the transplanted organ.
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus.
HLA (human leukocyte antigens)	genetically determined series of antigens that are present on human white blood cells (leukocytes) and tissues
Hypertension	High blood pressure

IG	Immune globulin.
IM	Intramuscular.
Immune response	Any defensive reaction to foreign material by the immune system
Immune system	The system that protects the body from invasion by foreign substances, such as bacteria and viruses, and from cancer cells
Immunity	A condition of being able to resist a particular infectious disease
Immunosuppressive agents	Medications given to prevent rejection of a transplanted organ
IMURAN®	An immunosuppressive drug used with other immunosuppressive drugs to help prevent the rejection of a transplanted organ. Also known by its chemical name, azathioprine
Incidence	The number of cases of a disease occurring each year.
Inflammation of the liver	An immune response indicated by swelling and the destruction of liver cells
Interferons	Proteins you body makes naturally in different cells, including liver cells, that "interfere" in the growth of diseased cells by stopping or killing them
IV, or INTRAVENOUS	Refers to giving medicines or fluids directly through a vein
Jaundice	Yellowing of the skin and eyes caused by excess bile products in the blood
Kidney	One of the two kidney-bean-shaped organs located on both sides of the spine, just above the waist. They rid the body of waste materials and maintain fluid balance through the production of urine
Liver enzymes	Substances produced by the liver and released into the blood; these are measured to assess liver function
Living-related donor (LRD)	A blood relative who donates an organ
Match	The compatibility between recipient and donor. In general, the more closely the donor and recipient "match", the greater the potential for a successful transplant
Microemulsion	A suspension or mixture of tiny droplets of one liquid in a second liquid, such as the smooth mixture that is formed when Neoral® (cyclosporine capsules and oral solution for microemulsion) combines with fluids in the digestive system
Morbidity	A state of being diseased
Morbidity rate	The proportion of people in a population with a disease

MSM	Men who have sex with men.
Nephrologist	A physician who studies the kidney and treats kidney disease
Neutrophil	A type of white blood cell
NHANES III	Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.
NIH	National Institutes of Health.
Noncompliance	Failure to follow the instructions of one's health care providers, such as not taking medicine as prescribed or not showing up for clinic visits
Orally	By mouth
Organ preservation	Between organ procurement and transplant, organs require special methods of preservation to keep them viable. The length of time that organs and tissues can be kept outside the body varies, depending on the organ, the preservation fluid and the temperature.
Organ procurement organization (OPO)	OPO's serve as the integral link between the potential donor and recipient and are accountable for the retrieval, preservation and transportation of organs for transplantation. All opos are UNOS members.
Organ rejection	An attempt by the immune system to reject or destroy what it recognizes to be a "foreign" presence (for example, a transplanted liver)
PCP	Primary Care Physician or Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, a type of pneumonia seen primarily in patients whose immune systems are suppressed
Perinatal transmission	Passing a disease from mother to baby in the uterus or during/after birth
Peritoneal dialysis	A method of purifying the blood by flushing the abdominal cavity with a dilute salt solution
Platelet	A small blood cell needed for normal blood clotting
Positive predictive value	Probability that a positive screening test is truly positive; dependent on prevalence of disease in a population.
Potassium	A mineral essential for body function
Prednisone	A manufactured steroid hormone taken by most transplant recipients to help prevent rejections
Prevalence	The number of patients with a disease at a specific time
Prognosis	A prediction of the course of a disease, including the odds of recovery.
Prophylactic medication	Medication that helps prevent disease

Rejection	An immune response against grafted tissue, which, if not successfully treated, results in failure of the graft to survive
Relapse	The return of a disease after a patient was thought to be cured
Remission	The complete disappearance or lessening of disease symptoms, resulting either from treatment or spontaneously.
Renal	Refers to the kidney
Qualitative RT-PCR for HCV RNA	Test to detect HCV RNA by amplification of viral genetic sequences.
Qualitative assays for HCV RNA	Test to detect HCV RNA concentration (viral load) by amplification of viral genetic sequences of by signal amplification.
Resolved HCV infection	Recovery following hepatitis C virus infection; characterized by sustained disappearance of serum HCV RNA and normalization of liver enzymes.
Riba™	Recombinant immunoblot assay.
RNA	Ribonucleic acid.
RT-PCR	Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction.
SANDIMMUNE® (cyclosporin)	An earlier formulation of cyclosporine. An immunosuppressive drug used with other immunosuppressive drugs that act specifically to inhibit helper t cells, thereby helping prevent the rejection of a transplanted organ. Sandimmune and Neoral are not bioequivalent and cannot be used interchangeably without physician supervision
Sensitized	Being immunized, or able to mount an immune response, against an antigen by previous exposure to that antigen
Shingles	A herpes virus infection (herpes zoster) that usually affects a nerve, causing pain in one area of the body
Sodium	A component of table salt (sodium chloride); an electrolyte that is the main salt in blood
Status	Indicates the degree of medical urgency for patients awaiting heart or liver transplants
Std	Sexually transmitted disease.
STRICTURE or STENOSIS	A narrowing of passage in the body
Supplemental anti-HCV test	Additional test (i.e., RIBA™) used to verify a positive anti-HCV result obtained by EIA.
Survival rates	Survival rates indicate how many patients or grafts (transplanted organs) are alive/functioning at a set time posttransplant. Survival rates are often given at one, three and five years. Policy modifications are never made

	without examining their impact on transplant survival rates. Survival rates improve with technological and scientific advances. Developing policies that reflect and respond to these advances in transplantation will also improve survival rates.
Systolic	The top of the two blood pressure numbers, which measures the maximum blood pressure reached as blood is pumped out of the heart chambers
Thrush	A fungus infection in the mouth
Triglycerides	A form of fat that the body makes from sugar, alcohol, and excess calories
T cells	A white blood cell responsible for the body's immunity. T cells can destroy cells infected by viruses, graft cells, and other altered cells
T-tube	A tube placed in the bile duct that allows bile to drain into a bag outside the body
Tissue typing	A blood test (performed prior to transplantation) to evaluate the closeness of tissue match between donor's organ and recipient's HLA antigens
Urinary tract infection (uti)	An infection of one or more parts of the urinary tract
Ventilator	A machine that helps a patient breathe
Virus	A very small agent (germ) that causes infection
Waiting list	After evaluation by the transplant physician, a patient is added to the national waiting list by the transplant center. Lists are specific to both geographic area and organ type: heart, lung, kidney, liver, pancreas, intestine, heart-lung, kidney-pancreas. Each time a donor organ becomes available, the UNOS computer generates a list of potential recipients based on factors that include genetic similarity, organ size, medical urgency and time on the waiting list. Through this process, a "new" list is generated each time an organ becomes available.
White blood cells	Cells in the blood that fight infection; part of the immune system