

Glossary of Terms

This glossary provides definitions of key terms used in this course. Content is structured for accessibility and screen reader compatibility.

Blood Sugar (Blood Glucose)

A type of sugar in your blood that your body uses for energy. In most people, the body naturally controls blood sugar levels. In people with diabetes, this process does not work properly.

Body Mass Index (BMI)

A number calculated using a person's weight and height. $BMI = \text{weight (kg)} \div \text{height (m}^2\text{)}$. BMI does not directly measure body fat but is commonly used to estimate healthy body weight.

Caregiver

A person who helps a patient with daily activities or health-related needs due to illness or disability.

Clinical Study

Research involving human participants to learn more about health and disease, including clinical trials and observational studies.

Clinical Trial

A study that tests the safety and effectiveness of a medical product or intervention in humans.

Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM)

A device that measures blood sugar levels continuously throughout the day and night.

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Machine

A device used during sleep that delivers steady air pressure to keep airways open.

Data

Information collected about patients, including numerical (quantitative) and descriptive (qualitative) data.

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

A treatment using an implanted device to send electrical signals to areas of the brain controlling movement.

Diabetes

A disease where blood sugar levels are too high due to problems with insulin production or use.

Health (Clinical) Outcome

A measure of how a person feels, functions, or survives as a result of a disease or treatment.

Medical Device

An instrument or product used to diagnose, treat, or prevent disease, or to affect how the body works.

Patient

An individual who has or is at risk of a disease and experiences the benefits and risks of medical products.

Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO)

Information about a patient’s health that comes directly from the patient without interpretation.

Quality of Life

A person’s overall perception of well-being, including physical, mental, and social factors.

Regulatory

Refers to laws and rules established by agencies like FDA to ensure safety and effectiveness.

Researcher

A person who systematically collects and analyzes information to increase knowledge.

Sensor

A device that detects and measures physical, chemical, or biological signals.

Study Protocol

The detailed plan for how a clinical study is conducted.

Usability (Human Factors Engineering)

The design of devices to ensure they are safe, effective, and easy for users to operate.