

# ISLER'S POCKET DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION

A Guide to  
Disorders &  
Diagnostic Tests,  
Procedures,  
Terms

CHARLOTTE ISLER, RN

**ISLER'S**

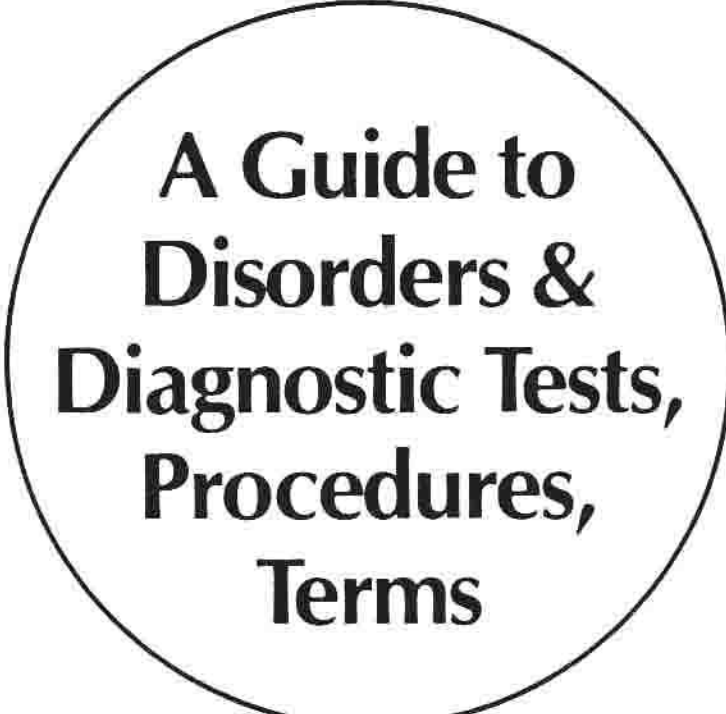
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# Preface

It happens every day: A patient is told by his doctor that he needs a test, or he's informed of his diagnosis, based on the tests he's already had. He's nervous about his health and probably remembers only part of the doctor's explanation. When he tries to look up the test or diagnosis later, he finds there's nothing suitable for that purpose and he doesn't want to bother the doctor for another explanation.

As a health worker, you sympathize with the patient and want to do anything you can to reassure him. After all, he has every right to know what to expect of upcoming tests and to receive a clear explanation of his diagnosis. This concise, easy-to-use dictionary was conceived as the solution to such problems.

In the four years since the first edition of this dictionary was published, medical technology continued its rapid advance. As a result, approximately 75 new tests and 50 new abbreviations have been added. All these terms are part of everyday clinical usage.

Another important addition consists of brief definitions of more than 200 common medical disorders, integrated alphabetically with the diagnostic tests, procedures, and other terms for quick reference. The disorders were added to give the reader—particularly if that reader is a lay person—a general understanding of the diseases that various procedures and tests are performed to diagnose. This feature, which the first edition lacked, rounds out the dictionary's usefulness for health worker and lay person alike.

Here you'll find an up-to-date compendium of all

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the tests, diagnostic procedures, and disorders you or your patients need to know, described in words anyone can understand. You can easily consult this dictionary or safely recommend its use to patients, family members, and friends.

Charlotte Isler, RN

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# How to Use This Dictionary

This dictionary has three parts: Abbreviations, Definitions, and Measures and Equivalents. If you already know the name of the test, procedure, disorder, or term, simply look it up in the Definitions section, which lists them together in alphabetical order. There you'll find a brief explanation of each term and, where relevant, the normal range of values for each test result. The units of measure used to express normal values are explained in the Measures and Equivalents section.

If you know only the abbreviation of a test, procedure, disorder, or term, use the alphabetical Abbreviations section in the front of the book as a cross-reference. Each full name listed there with its abbreviation can be looked up in the Definitions section.

The normal values for a given test may vary. Any test result must be interpreted in the context of each individual case. Test results may also vary depending on the laboratory method and the specific laboratory doing the test. The normal values given in this dictionary have been summarized from the best sources available. These sources are listed in the Bibliography at the back of the book.

The definitions of diagnostic procedures, tests, common medical disorders, and other terms are concise by design. For more detailed information on these subjects, you may wish to refer to the sources listed in the Bibliography.



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## Publisher's Notes

Charlotte Isler, RN, editor of the journal *Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality*, is a well-known editor and writer. She is the author of many articles and books on medical, nursing, and other health-care subjects, and previously served as clinical editor of *RN Magazine*. Ms. Isler lives in Irvington-on-Hudson, New York.

# Abbreviations

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## A

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**ACG:** apexcardiogram

**ACTH:** adrenocorticotropic hormone

**ADNase:** antideoxyribonuclease

**AF:** amniotic fluid

**A/G ratio:** albumin/globulin ratio

**a-HBD:**  $\alpha$ -hydroxybutyric dehydrogenase

**AIDS:** acquired immune deficiency syndrome

**ALA:** aminolevulinic acid

**Alb:** albumin

**Alc:** alcohol

**Ald:** aldolase

**Ald assay:** aldolase assay

**ALS:** amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

**ANA:** antinuclear antibodies

**Anti-DNase B:** antideoxyribonuclease B

**Anti-DS-DNA:** anti-doublestranded  
deoxyribonucleic acid

**Anti-ENA:** anti-extractable nuclear antigen

**APPY:** appendectomy

**APTT:** activated partial thromboplastin time

**As:** arsenic

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**ASH:** antistreptococcal hyaluronidase

**ASLO:** antistreptolysin O

**ATA:** antithyroglobulin antibody

**AU:** Australian antigen

**AZ:** Aschheim-Zondek test

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**B**

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**BAO:** basal acid output

**BCG:** Bacillus Calmette-Guerin

**BE:** bacterial endocarditis

**BE:** barium enema

**BE:** base excess

**Be:** beryllium

**BEI:** butanol-extractable iodine

**BG:** blood gases

**bili:** bilirubin

**bl cult:** blood culture

**bleed and CT:** bleeding and clotting time

**BMR:** basal metabolic rate

**BSP:** Bromsulphalein

**BSST:** breast stimulation stress test

**BUN:** blood urea nitrogen

**BX:** biopsy

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## C

---

**C:** Celsius

**Ca:** calcium

**Ca:** cancer

**CA:** coccidioidomycosis antibodies

**CAD:** coronary artery disease

**CAT:** computerized axial tomography

**CBC:** complete blood count

**CEA:** carcinoembryonic antigen

**CENOG:** computerized electro-neuro-  
ophthalmograph

**ceph-flocc:** cephalin-cholesterol flocculation

**CF:** cystic fibrosis

**CHD:** congenital heart disease

**CHF:** congestive heart failure

**CHO:** carbohydrate

**chol:** cholesterol

**CHR:** cercarienhüllenreaktion

**CI:** color index

**Cl:** chloride

**C<sub>L</sub>:** lung compliance test

**CO<sub>2</sub>:** carbon dioxide

**coag:** coagulation

**CP:** cor pulmonale

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**CPK:** creatine phosphokinase  
**CPR:** cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
**creat:** creatinine  
**CRP:** C-reactive protein  
**CSF:** cerebrospinal fluid  
**CST:** contraction stress test  
**CT:** clotting time  
**Cu:** copper  
**cult:** culture  
**CVA:** cerebrovascular accident

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**D**

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**D&C:** dilatation and curettage  
**DHA:** dehydroepiandrosterone  
**diff:** differential  
**DNA:** deoxyribonucleic acid  
**DSA:** digital subtraction angiography  
**DST:** dexamethasone suppression test

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**E**

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**EBV:** Epstein-Barr virus  
**ECG:** electrocardiogram  
**EchoEEG:** echoencephalogram  
**EEG:** electroencephalogram

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**EES:** endocardial electrical stimulation  
**EGD:** esophagogastroduodenoscopy  
**EKG:** electrocardiogram  
**ELISA:** enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay  
**EMG:** electromyogram  
**EPI:** epinephrine  
**EPM:** evoked potential monitoring  
**ER:** estrogen receptor  
**ERCP:** endoscopic retrograde cholangio-  
pancreatography  
**ESR:** erythrocyte sedimentation rate  
**etiol:** etiology

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**F**

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**F:** Fahrenheit  
**Fe:** iron  
**FeBC:** iron-binding capacity  
**FEV:** forced expiratory volume, timed  
**FFA:** free fatty acids  
**FIGLU:** formiminoglutamic acid  
**FSH:** follicle-stimulating hormone  
**FSH & LH:** gonadotropins, pituitary (follicle-  
stimulating hormone and luteinizing  
hormone)  
**FTA-ABS:** fluorescent treponemal antibody  
absorption

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## G

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**GA:** gastric analysis

**gal:** galactose

**GBIA:** Guthrie bacterial inhibition assay

**GB series:** gallbladder series

**GF-BAO:** gastric fluid, basal acid output

**GG:** gamma globulin

**GGTP:** gamma glutamyl transpeptidase

**GI series:** gastrointestinal series

**GnST:** gonadotropin stimulation test

**G-6-PD or G6PD:** glucose-6-phosphate  
dehydrogenase

**GTT:** glucose tolerance test

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## H

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**HAA:** hepatitis associated antigen

**Hb:** hemoglobin

**HbA<sub>1c</sub>:** glycosylated hemoglobin

**HbA<sub>2</sub>:** hemoglobin A<sub>2</sub>

**HBAg:** hepatitis B antigen

**HbF:** hemoglobin F

**HCG:** human chorionic gonadotropin

**HCO<sub>3</sub>:** carbonate

**H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>:** carbonic acid

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**Hct:** hematocrit  
**Hgb:** hemoglobin  
**HGH:** human growth hormone  
**5-HIAA:** 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid  
**HIT:** hemagglutination inhibition test  
**HL-A:** human leukocyte locus A antigen  
**Hp:** haptoglobin  
**HPL:** human placental lactogen  
**HSV<sub>1</sub>:** herpes virus type 1  
**HSV<sub>2</sub>:** herpes virus type 2  
**HT:** hypertension  
**HVA:** homovanillic acid

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**IBC:** iron-binding capacity  
**IC:** intravascular coagulation  
**ICDH:** isocitric dehydrogenase  
**IDDM:** insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus  
**IF:** intrinsic factor  
**Ig:** immune globulin, immunoglobulin  
**IM:** intramuscular  
**immunol:** immunology  
**incompat:** incompatible  
**infect:** infection  
**I sat %:** iron saturation, percent

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**isoenz:** isoenzyme

**IV:** intravenous

**IVP:** intravenous pyelogram

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**J**

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**jaund:** jaundice

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**K**

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**K:** potassium

**17-KS:** 17-ketosteroids

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**L**

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**LA:** lactic acid

**LAP:** leucine aminopeptidase

**LAP:** leukocyte alkaline phosphatase

**LATS:** long-acting thyroid stimulator

**LDH:** lactic dehydrogenase

**LE:** lupus erythematosus

**LF:** latex fixation

**LH:** luteinizing hormone

**Li:** lithium

**LP:** lumbar puncture

**L/S ratio:** lecithin/sphingomyelin ratio

**LT:** lactose tolerance

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## M

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**MAO:** maximal acid output

**MAO:** monoamine oxidase

**MBC:** maximum breathing capacity

**MCH:** mean corpuscular hemoglobin

**MCHC:** mean corpuscular hemoglobin  
concentration

**MCV:** mean corpuscular volume

**metab:** metabolism

**Mg:** magnesium

**MI:** myocardial infarction

**MIC antibody:** microsomal antibody (thyroid)

**MIC/MBC:** minimal inhibitory concentration/  
minimal bactericidal concentration

**MMEF:** maximum midexpiratory flow

**MMPI:** Minnesota Multiphasic Personality  
Inventory

**MODY:** mature onset of diabetes in the young

**MS:** multiple sclerosis

**MV $\dot{V}$ :** maximal voluntary ventilation

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## N

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**N:** nitrogen

**5'N:** 5'-nucleotidase

**Na:** sodium

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**NH<sub>3</sub>:** ammonia

**NH<sub>4</sub>:** ammonium

**NIDDM:** non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus

**NMR:** nuclear magnetic resonance

**NPN:** nonprotein nitrogen

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## O

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**O<sub>2</sub>:** oxygen

**OCT:** ornithine carbamoyl transferase

**17-OHCS:** 17-hydroxycorticosteroids

**OI:** opportunistic infection

**O&P:** ova and parasites

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## P

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**P:** phosphorus

**PAH:** para-aminohippuric acid

**Pap smear:** Papanicolaou smear

**Pb:** lead

**PBI:** protein-bound iodine

**PC:** phenol coefficient

**PCG:** phonocardiogram

**pCO<sub>2</sub>:** partial pressure of carbon dioxide

**PEG:** pneumoencephalogram

**PET:** positron emission tomography

**PgRT:** progesterone receptor test

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