

APPENDIX 3.2 – Medical terms for patient complaints

Added value to **Module 3 Exercises**

PATIENT COMPLAINTS	MEDICAL TERM
“My blood count is really low, the doctor said.”	anemia
“I have no appetite” / “I don’t feel like eating”	anorexia
“The bumps are full of clear liquid.”	blisters
“I can’t pass stool” / “My stool is really hard.”	constipation
“His fingers and lips have gone blue.”	cyanosis / cyanotic
“Everything I eat tastes funny or bad.”	dysgeusia / parageusia
“I can’t swallow properly” / “I have problems swallowing”	dysphagia
“I feel like I can’t catch my breath” / “I feel out of breath”	dyspnea
“She’s got bad breath.”	halitosis
“I’m coughing up blood”	hemoptysis
“I see blood in my stool.” / “I’m bleeding from my bum.”	hematochezia
“I have this bruise, but I don’t remember hitting anything.” / “It looks like blood under my skin”	hematoma / purpura
“I’m vomiting up blood”	hematemesis
“I can’t get to sleep”	insomnia
“His eyes got yellow and his skin, too”	jaundice
“He’s just sleepy all the time, and weak.”	lethargy
“All my muscles ache.”	myalgia
“I feel like I’m suffocating if I lie flat” / “I have to prop up in bed.”	orthopnea
“I’ve got this odd / numb / tingling feeling”	paresthesia
“The rash is fine smooth red dots”	petechiae

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"It's itching"	pruritus
"The bumps are full of pus"	pustules
"I can feel my heart racing" / "I get palpitations."	tachycardia
"I have this strange ringing or buzzing in my ears"	tinnitus
"Everything is swimming around" / "My head is swimming."	vertigo