

## VDH Q Fever Glossary of Medical Terms

(Supplement to VDH's Q Fever Guidance for Healthcare Providers)

Term	Definition
Angina	Chest pain due to an inadequate supply of oxygen to the heart muscle.
Digital clubbing	A condition in which the ends of the fingers and toes are enlarged and the nails are shiny and abnormally curved
Dyspnea	Difficult or labored breathing; shortness of breath. Dyspnea is a sign of serious disease of the airway, lungs, or heart. The onset of dyspnea should not be ignored; it is reason to seek medical attention
Emboli	Something that travels through the bloodstream, lodges in a blood vessel and blocks it. Examples of emboli are a detached blood clot, a clump of bacteria, and foreign material such as air
Encephalitis	Inflammation of the brain, which may be caused by a bacterium, a virus, or an allergic reaction
Endocarditis	Inflammation of one or more of the heart valves and lining tissues of the heart
Heart murmur	An unusual, 'whooshing' heart sound that may be innocent or may reflect disease or malformation
Hemoptysis	Spitting up blood or blood-tinged sputum from the respiratory tract
Hepatitis	Inflammation of the liver, irrespective of the cause. Hepatitis is caused by a number of conditions, including drug toxicity, immune diseases, and viruses
Malaise	A vague feeling of discomfort, one that cannot be pinned down but is often sensed as 'just not right'
Meningitis	Inflammation of the meninges, the three membranes that envelop the brain and the spinal cord
Microscopic hematuria	Blood in the urine that is visible only under a microscope
Myalgia	Pain in the muscles or within muscle tissue
Myocarditis	Inflammation of the myocardium, the heart muscle
Osteoarthritis	A type of arthritis caused by inflammation, breakdown, and eventual loss of cartilage in the joints. Also known as degenerative arthritis
Osteomyelitis	Inflammation of the bone due to infection, for example, by the bacteria <i>Salmonella</i> or staphylococcus. Osteomyelitis is sometimes a complication of surgery or injury, although infection can also reach bone tissue through the bloodstream. Both the bone and the bone marrow may be infected.
Palpitations	Unpleasant sensations of irregular and/or forceful beating of the heart
Pericarditis	Inflammation of the lining around the heart (the pericardium) that causes chest pain and accumulation of fluid around the heart (pericardial effusion)
Photophobia	Painful oversensitivity to light
Placentitis	Inflammation of the placenta
Pleuritic chest pain	Chest pain pertaining to pleurisy (inflammation of the membrane that surrounds and protects the lungs (the pleura)
Pulmonary edema	Accumulation of fluid in lung tissues and alveoli
Purpuric rash	Purpura is a condition characterized by hemorrhages in the skin and

	mucous membranes that result in the appearance of purplish spots or patches
Renal insufficiency	Reduced capacity to excrete metabolic products which accumulate systemically and are detectable by renal function tests
Splenomegaly	Abnormal enlargement of the spleen.
Vasculitis	A general term for a group of uncommon diseases that feature inflammation of the blood vessels

**Sources:**

- MedTerms Dictionary. Available at <http://www.medterms.com/script/main/hp.asp> (accessed July 15, 2014)
- TheFreeDictionary's Medical dictionary. Available at <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/> (accessed July 15, 2014)