

## Vocabulary Chart

Title of article: Following Emergency Room Instructions

*Directions:* Your teacher will write a word list on the board for you to copy into the box at the bottom of the page. After you copy the words into the box, write them in the column that best describes what you know about each one. Be prepared to share the meanings of the words you know.

<b>Don't know at all</b>	<b>Have seen or heard – don't know meaning</b>	<b>I think I know the meaning</b>	<b>I know a meaning</b>

### Word List

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## Following Emergency Room Instructions

*Directions:* Imagine you are a patient who has visited the emergency room because you had very bad abdominal pain. The doctor did not find anything serious. She did not give you any prescriptions. She gave you the instruction sheet below and asked you to read it. Read the instruction sheet about abdominal pain. Then do the comprehension check on the next page.

### ABDOMINAL PAIN PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Abdominal pain is pain located somewhere between the bottom of the ribcage and the groin. Abdominal pain can be caused by many things, including overeating, gas pains from drinking too much soda pop, other types of indigestion, food poisoning, a viral intestinal infection, or appendicitis. Often the cause of abdominal pain cannot be determined. With a viral infection, cramps may accompany each bout of vomiting or diarrhea. If the causes of pain are harmless, the pain usually gets better in two (2) hours. However, the pain worsens and becomes constant with more serious causes.

Your doctor did not find any evidence of a serious process that is causing your pain. This does not mean that you do not need to watch your symptoms closely. You must return immediately if you develop any of the symptoms listed below.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- Rest.
- Take your temperature every four (4) hours for twenty-four (24) hours.
- Do not take any medication, including laxatives or painkillers, unless instructed by the doctor or without asking your doctor first.
- Drink plenty of fluids if you are able.

#### **RETURN IMMEDIATELY IF**

- The pain increases or is now only in one specific area.
- You develop persistent vomiting or begin to vomit blood or find blood in your stool.
- You cannot keep down fluids.
- You are dizzy or faint.
- Your abdomen becomes swollen.
- You have a temperature over 100.5 degrees F (38 degrees C).
- You have difficulty passing urine.
- You have shortness of breath.
- For women: heavy or unusual vaginal bleeding.

#### **CALL IF**

- You have any concerns.

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**Following Emergency Room Instructions: Comprehension Check**

*Directions:* You are the emergency room patient. Imagine that after you finished reading the information sheet, the emergency room doctor asked you some questions to make sure you understood. The doctor's questions are below. Work with a partner. Decide together how you would answer the questions. Practice the dialogue between the doctor and you.

1. How often should you take your temperature? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Should you take any medications when you get home? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Are you going to drink fluids when you get home? How much? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you have certain problems, you must call me right away. List at least four (4) problems that are serious enough that you will call me.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have any questions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Following Emergency Room Instructions: Comprehension Check Answer Key**

*Directions:* Imagine that after you finished reading the information sheet, the emergency room doctor asked you some questions to make sure you understood. The doctor's questions are below. Work with a partner. Decide together how you would answer the questions. Practice the dialogue between the doctor and you.

1. How often should you take your temperature?

*[every four hours]*

2. Should you take any medications when you get home?

*[no]*

3. Are you going to drink fluids when you get home? How much?

*[yes, as much as I can]*

4. If you have certain problems, you must return to the emergency room right away. List at least four (4) problems that are serious enough that you will call me.

*[Possible answers include:*

- *The pain increases or is now only in one specific area.*
- *You develop persistent vomiting or begin to vomit blood or find blood in your stool.*
- *You cannot keep down fluids.*
- *You are dizzy or faint.*
- *Your abdomen becomes swollen.*
- *You have a temperature over 100.5 degrees F (38 degrees C).*
- *You have difficulty passing urine.*
- *You have shortness of breath.*
- *For women: heavy or unusual vaginal bleeding.]*

5. Do you have any questions?

*[See what students have asked.]*

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