



Practice Using Plain Language

Clinical or Formal Term	Plain Language Examples
Acute	
Consistent	
Contraindicated	
Coping skills	
Court-ordered evaluation	
Decompensation	
Development	
Diagnosis	
Discharge	
Effectiveness	
Emergency	
Ethnicity	
Frequent	
General mental health	
Generic	
Homicidal ideation	
Hygiene	
Impulsivity	
Inpatient	
Intermittent	
Intervention	



Clinical or Formal Term	Plain Language Examples
Intrusive	
Lethal	
Oral	
Outpatient	
Persistent	
Prior	
PRN	
Provider	
Psychotic	
Recovery	
Reliability	
Resources	
Restricted	
Serious mental illness	
Side effects	
Stressors	
Suicidal ideation	
Support system	
Symptom	
Tolerance (to a substance)	
Triggers	
Withdrawal	