9.8: IX Glossary

**Atrial fibrillation:** An irregular heartbeat that is often fast and increases the risk of heart attack or stroke.

**Blanching:** The whiteness that occurs when pressure is placed on tissue or a nail bed, causing blood to leave the area.

**Bruit:** A swishing sound when auscultating the carotid arteries. This indicates turbulence in the blood vessel due to atherosclerotic changes.

**Capillary refill:** The time it takes for color to return after pressure is applied to tissue causing blanching.

**Click:** Clicking sound heard on auscultation of the precordium; often heard in patients with heart valve abnormalities.

**Cyanosis:** A bluish discoloration of the skin, lips, and nail beds. It is an indication of decreased perfusion and oxygenation.

**Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT):** A blood clot that forms in a vein deep in the body.

**Ductus arteriosus:** Shunt that connects the pulmonary artery and aorta in the developing fetus.

**Dyspnea:** A feeling of shortness of breath.

**Edema:** Swelling in tissues caused by fluid retention.

**Heave or lift:** Palpable lifting sensation under the sternum and anterior chest wall to the left of the sternum; it suggests severe right ventricular hypertrophy.

**Jugular Vein Distension (JVD):** Occurs when the increased pressure of the superior vena cava causes the jugular vein to bulge, making it most visible on the right side of a person's neck.
**Murmur:** A blowing or whooshing sound heard on auscultation of the precordium that signifies turbulent blood flow in the heart often caused by a valvular defect.

**Orthopnea:** A feeling of shortness of breath when lying flat.

**Pallor:** A reduced amount of oxyhemoglobin in the skin or mucous membranes. Skin and mucous membranes present with a pale skin color.

**Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea:** An attack of severe shortness of breath that generally occurs at night.

**Perfusion:** The amount of blood flow to tissue.

**Peripheral edema:** Swelling due to an accumulation of fluid in tissues perfused by the peripheral vascular system.

**Pitting edema:** An accumulation of fluid in tissue and causes an indentation when the area is pressed.

**Pleural friction rub:** Uncommon heart sounds produced when the parietal and visceral pericardium become inflamed, generating a creaky-scratchy noise as they rub together.

**Precordium:** The region of the thorax in front of the heart.

**Pulmonary embolism:** A blood clot that lodges in one of the arteries that go from the heart to the lung.

**Sphygmomanometer:** An instrument for measuring blood pressure typically consisting of an inflatable rubber cuff.

**Syncope:** A temporary loss of consciousness usually related to insufficient blood flow to the brain.

**Thrill:** A vibration felt with palpation of the precordium.