16.5: XVI Glossary

**Dry Powder Inhaler (DPI):** An inhaler with medication provided in a powder form that is inhaled from the mouth into the lungs using a quick breath to activate the medication and move it into the lungs. An example of a DPI is tiotropium (Spiriva).

**Innunction:** A medication that is massaged or rubbed into the skin.

**Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI):** An inhaler that provides a mist of medication that is inhaled through the mouth into the lungs. An example of an MDI is albuterol. Optimal administration is achieved with a spacer attached to the inhaler.

**Small-volume nebulizers:** Devices that provide a fine mist using oxygen or compressed air to transport the medication from a nebulizer cup into the mouth and into the lungs as the patient breathes normally through a mask or pipe device.

**Topical medications:** Medications administered via the skin or mucous membranes for direct local action, as well as for systemic effects.

**Transdermal route:** Patches or disks applied to the skin that deliver medication over an extended period of time.