Healthcare

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each precise term with its definition.

1 preventive care ____	**a** healthcare measures aimed at preventing illness before it develops
2 chronic condition ____	**b** a long-term, persistent health condition
3 acute illness ____	**c** a sudden, severe illness or injury requiring immediate attention
4 comorbidity ____	**d** the presence of two or more health conditions in a person at the same time
5 healthcare disparity ____	**e** an unfair difference in healthcare access or outcomes between groups
6 informed consent ____	**f** a patient's voluntary, informed agreement to a medical procedure
7 clinical trial ____	**g** a research study testing a new treatment on human participants
8 palliative care ____	**h** care focused on comfort and quality of life rather than cure, often for terminal illness
9 triage ____	**i** the process of prioritising patients by the urgency of their condition
10 primary care ____	**j** the first point of contact for general medical care

2 Choose the word with the most suitable connotation.

1 For measures preventing illness before it develops: preventive care / emergency response.

2 For a long-term, persistent condition: chronic condition / temporary illness.

3 For a sudden, severe illness: acute illness / mild discomfort.

4 For having two or more conditions simultaneously: comorbidity / a single diagnosis.

5 For unfair differences in healthcare access: healthcare disparity / equal access.

6 For a patient's voluntary agreement to treatment: informed consent / silent compliance.

7 For a study testing a new treatment: clinical trial / anecdotal report.

8 For care focused on comfort rather than cure: palliative care / aggressive treatment.

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3 **Complete the healthcare collocations with one word.**

1 _____ care (= aimed at preventing illness)

2 a _____ condition (= long-term and persistent)

3 an _____ illness (= sudden and severe)

4 healthcare _____ (= unfair differences in access)

5 give _____ consent (= voluntary, informed agreement)

6 a clinical _____ (= a research study testing treatment)

7 _____ care (= comfort-focused, not curative)

8 undergo _____ (= prioritising by urgency)

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4 Complete the case notes with words and phrases from the box.

acute illness | chronic condition | clinical trial | comorbidity | healthcare disparity | informed consent | palliative care | preventive care | primary care | triage

Case A: The patient's 1 _____ required ongoing management rather than a single cure.
Case B: Emergency staff performed 2 _____, prioritising the most urgent 3 _____ cases first.
Case C: Researchers noted significant 4 _____ affecting outcomes among different income groups.
Case D: Before the procedure, doctors ensured the patient gave 5 _____, understanding the risks involved.
Case E: The hospital ran a 6 _____ testing a new drug for patients with 7 _____, multiple conditions occurring together.
Case F: The family chose 8 _____ to focus on comfort rather than aggressive treatment.
Case G: Investment in 9 _____ was shown to reduce hospital admissions, while strong 10 _____ services remained the first point of contact for most patients.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The case for preventive care

Health economists increasingly argue that healthcare systems focused primarily on treating acute illness after it occurs are structurally inefficient compared with systems investing heavily in preventive care. Chronic conditions such as diabetes or heart disease often develop gradually, meaning early intervention through screening and lifestyle support can prevent far more costly treatment later. However, preventive investment requires patience, since benefits typically emerge over years rather than immediately, making it politically difficult to prioritise against the more visible, urgent demands of acute care. Addressing healthcare disparity, researchers note, requires ensuring preventive services reach disadvantaged communities as effectively as wealthier ones.

1 What do health economists increasingly argue? _____
2 How do chronic conditions such as diabetes often develop? _____
3 What can early intervention through screening prevent? _____
4 Why does preventive investment require patience? _____
5 What makes preventive investment politically difficult to prioritise? _____
6 What does addressing healthcare disparity require, according to researchers? _____

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6 **Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.**

1 The patient had a long-term, persistent condition. CHRONIC CONDITION _____

2 Doctors made sure she understood and agreed to the procedure. INFORMED CONSENT _____

3 Staff prioritised patients by the urgency of their condition. TRIAGE _____

4 There was an unfair gap in healthcare access between groups. HEALTHCARE DISPARITY _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 120-150 word account analysing why preventive care is often underfunded compared with acute treatment, distinguishing observation from argument.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Control connotation carefully. [ ] Avoid unsupported assumptions.

ANSWER KEY

1 Precise terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Connotation

1 preventive care 2 chronic condition 3 acute illness 4 comorbidity 5 healthcare disparity 6 informed consent 7 clinical trial 8 palliative care

3 Collocations

1 preventive 2 chronic 3 acute 4 disparity 5 informed 6 trial 7 palliative 8 triage

4 Case notes

1 chronic condition 2 triage 3 acute illness 4 healthcare disparity 5 informed consent
6 clinical trial 7 comorbidity 8 palliative care 9 preventive care 10 primary care

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 That healthcare systems focused primarily on treating acute illness are structurally inefficient compared with those investing in preventive care.
2 Gradually.
3 Far more costly treatment later.
4 Because benefits typically emerge over years rather than immediately.
5 The more visible, urgent demands of acute care.
6 Ensuring preventive services reach disadvantaged communities as effectively as wealthier ones.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The patient had a chronic condition. 2 Doctors obtained informed consent.
3 Staff performed triage. 4 There was healthcare disparity.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check lexical precision, appropriate connotation and separation of fact from inference.