

Glossary

LIFESTYLE DISEASES

A

atherosclerosis (ATH uhr OH skluh ROH sis) a disease characterized by the buildup of fatty materials on the inside walls of the arteries

B

benign tumor (bi NIEN TOO muhr) an abnormal, but usually harmless cell mass

blood pressure the force that blood exerts against the inside walls of a blood vessel

C

cancer a disease caused by uncontrolled cell growth

cardiovascular disease (CVD) a disease or disorder that results from progressive damage to the heart and blood vessels

chemotherapy (KEE moh THER uh pee) the use of drugs to destroy cancer cells

D

diabetes a disorder in which cells are unable to obtain glucose from the blood such that high blood-glucose levels result

diabetic coma a loss of consciousness that happens when there is too much blood sugar and a buildup of toxic substances in the blood

H

heart attack the damage and loss of function of an area of the heart muscle

I

insulin a hormone that causes cells to remove glucose from the bloodstream

L

lifestyle disease a disease that is caused partly by unhealthy behaviors and partly by other factors

M

malignant tumor (muh LIG nuhnt TOO muhr) a mass of cells that invades and destroys healthy tissue

S

stroke a sudden attack of weakness or paralysis that occurs when blood flow to an area of the brain is interrupted