The following were collected by a British hospital (see the medical slang website below), which surveyed US and UK hospitals about in-house slang terms used by doctors and nurses. It is not advised that medical professionals use some of these around patients. Some more colorful or vulgar expressions have been omitted; see the above site for a full unedited listing.

**Resources**

Dictionary: www.dictionary.com  
Thesaurus: www.thesaurus.com  
Slang: www.urbandictionary.com  
Medical slang: http://www.aboutlanguageschools.com/slang/medical-slang.asp

**A. Descriptions of symptoms**

1. GOK: “God only knows”; an admission of ignorance.  
2. TAT: “tired all the time”  
3. UBI: “unexplained beer injury”  
4. DB: dirt ball (dirty person)

**B. Other acronyms**

1. CTD: “circling the drain” (expected to die soon)  
2. DBI: “dirt bag index”: a number calculated from number of tattoos and missing teeth.  
3. TTR: “tooth to tattoo ratio,” a synonym of DBI. A low TTR indicates that the patient will probably live, especially if he is a trauma patient.  
4. GOMER: “get out of my emergency room”; patient, usually poor or elderly, in the emergency room with a chronic, non-emergency condition. Popularized by Samuel Shem in his novel The House of God.  
5. GPO: “good for parts only”  
6. LOBNH: “Lights on but nobody home”; stupid.  
7. TEETH: “tried everything else, try homeopathy”  
8. LGFD: “looks good from door”; used to describe a difficult patient that you do not want to enter the room and interact with.  
9. PBTB: “pine box to bedside”; indicates an imminent demise  
10. LOL: “little old lady”  
11. FFDID: “found face down in ditch”  
12. FFDIG: “found face down in gutter”  
13. POPTA: “passed out prior to arrival”
14. TFTB: “too fat to breathe”
15. FUBAR: “F** up beyond all repair;” a patient who is so sick or trauma-injured that they are beyond help; terminal; i.e., the guy who tried to commit suicide with a shotgun, but only blew off half his head and was still breathing when the paramedics arrived. Fubar is also used in computer science and information technology for computer and technology problems.

C. Terms related to occupations
1. Captain Kangaroo: head of a pediatrics department
2. Freud Squad: psychiatry department
3. Gasser, gas passer, gas man: anaesthetist
4. Slasher: surgeon
5. Short-order chef: morgue worker
6. Knuckledragger: orthopedist
7. Flea: internal medicine doctor
8. Humpty-dumpty doctor: a physiatrist or rehabilitation physician; referring to verse from the popular nursery rhyme: “all the king’s horses and all the king’s men could not put Humpty Dumpty back together again.”
9. Stream team: the urology service
10. Pecker checker: urologist
11. Pediatron: pediatrician
12. Baby catcher: obstetrician
13. Unclear medicine: nuclear medicine
14. BoneHo: off-service resident working on orthopedic service
15. Cath Jockey: A cardiologist that catheterizes every patient they see. Or one that does cardiac catheterizations.
16. Hammered: To get a bunch of admits while on call. “I got hammered last night with 10 admissions.”
17. Doc in a box: a small health-care center, usually with high staff turnover

D. Physical Exam Signs
1. O-sign [noun]: used to describe a comatose patient with his mouth agape.
2. Q-sign [noun]: similar to an O-sign but with the patient’s tongue protruding.
3. Q-dot sign [noun]: similar to a Q-sign, but with a fly on the tongue. A poor prognostic sign.

E. Other terms
1. Code brown: fecal incontinence emergency
2. Code yellow: urination emergency
3. Code pink (triangle): likely homosexual, used in the early days of HIV/Aids when test results took a while to come back.
4. Slow code: usually an elderly patient who is very ill, but wants everything done so they will not die. Everyone on the medical team disagrees. “Mr. Smith is a slow code,” i.e. don’t run to get the code cart (take your time).

5. Psycode: a code blue in a psychiatric hospital. It is always someone passing out from the side effects of their meds.

6. Brain Fry: Electroconvulsive therapy, ECT. For depression.

7. Tattoo titer: a way to measure the likelihood of a patient being insane. The more tattoos (like more than 5) the more likely they are to be crazy.

8. Tattoo to tooth ratio: a rough measure of social class and/or likely status as a hill-billy.

9. Last flea to jump off a dead dog: Oncologists who never seem to be able to let people die with dignity.

10. Crispy critter: severely burnt patient

11. Departure lounge: geriatric ward

12. Fascinoma: any interesting or amusing tumor or malignancy

13. Oligoneuronal: stupid (means ‘small number of brain cells’)

14. Pneumo-cephalic: stupid (means ‘airhead’)

15. Pumpkin positive: lacking in intelligence; implies that the patient’s brain is so small that shining a torch into their mouth would cause their head to light up like a pumpkin

16. Peek and shriek: to open a patient surgically, discover an incurable condition, and close the incision immediately

17. Head bonk: describing an otherwise uninjured patient who was struck on the head but came to the ER just to be sure.

18. Crook-U: similar to ICU, SICU, PICU, etc, but is a prison ward in a hospital.

19. Bounce back [verb]: to be re-admitted to the hospital shortly after discharge, for the same or related condition.

20. Bounce-back [noun]: A patient who has bounced back. For instance “I admitted one of your bounce-backs last night.”

21. Wall [noun]: A physician (usually a resident) adept at preventing admissions to his service. See “dump” below.

22. Sieve [noun]: A physician (usually a resident) who is not skilled at dumping; the opposite of a wall. (Sieve = like a food strainer, but with larger holes)

23. Buff [verb]: to be sure all details regarding a patient’s care are attended to so that discharge or transfer to another service or facility will proceed smoothly and no excuses or objections can be raised to prevent the discharge or transfer. For example “Be sure to buff the guy in 702 before we send him to the nursing home.” It can also mean that you make up lab and other results, even if you haven’t done them, to make yourself look good on rounds.

24. Turf [verb]: to transfer a patient to another service. For example “The GOMER was healed from his surgery but his diabetes was still uncontrolled, so we turfed him to medicine.”

25. Dump [verb]: arranging for a patient who should probably be admitted to your service to be admitted to another service or another facility. Also used as a noun, for example “This guy was a total dump from the private hospital.”

26. Appy [noun]: an appendix, or a patient with appendicitis.

27. Choly or Chole: cholecystitis (inflammation of the gallbladder), or a patient with cholecystitis.
28. Virgin abdomen [noun]: a patient that has never had abdominal surgery before, implying that there will be little intra-abdominal scarring.
29. Celestial discharge [noun]: death.
30. Trauma handshake [noun]: a digital rectal exam. Every major trauma patient gets one.
31. Win the game [verb]: to discharge all of the patients from your service, so that you have no inpatients to care for. For example “Mike won the game and doesn't have to round this weekend.” Also known as a “Yahtzee” (a game played with dice).
32. Supratentorial: adj. literally “above the tentorium”, loosely meaning “in the brain cortex“ and used to imply that something is all in a patient's head, usually right in front of them. For instance, “This patient’s condition is supratentorial.”
33. Donorcycle [noun]: a motorcycle.
34. Digging for worms: varicose vein removal surgery.
35. Gorillacillin [noun]: a very powerful antibiotic.
36. Crump [verb]: to have a sudden change for the worse.
37. Code [verb]: similar to “crump”, usually implies that CPR is necessary.
38. Gorked: adj. unresponsive and nonverbal, either due to sedation or medical condition.
39. Hallucinoma [noun]: used when you though you saw something that wasn't really there. For instance “The mass on the MRI turned out to be a hallucinoma.”
40. Shotgun labs [verb]: to order many labs in the hope that one will be abnormal and give you a clue what is wrong with the patient.
41. GI Rounds [noun]: a meal. GI means “gastrointestinal.”
42. Knife and gun club [noun]: local street gangs and other criminal organizations, for example “We have a very active knife and gun club, so the trauma experience is outstanding.”
43. Two dudes [noun]: This is always the answer when doctors ask a patient who beat them up, as in “I was walking down the street minding my own business when these two dudes jumped me for no reason.” The implication is that if it were only one dude the patient would have won the fight.
44. Tough stick [noun]: a patient from whom it is difficult to draw blood.
45. Treat and street [verb]: to treat a patient in the ER or clinic without admitting them to the hospital.
46. Bean [noun]: kidney.
47. Squash [noun]: brain.
48. Smashola [noun]: a patient with multiple blunt trauma injuries, usually a motor-vehicle accident.
49. Vitamin H [noun]: Haldol
50. Vitamin V [noun]: Valium or any sedative given IV
51. Vitamin L [noun]: Lasix. Also sometimes called “Vitamin P” because it is a diuretic.
52. Dance [verb]: the process of tying a surgical gown behind the surgeon's back; involves a 180-degree spin by the surgeon. “Shall we dance?”
53. Squirrel [noun]: a strange patient, particularly one whose eccentricities make your life difficult. There is a related adjective, “squirrelly.” A common aphorism is “Squirrels get sick too”, used as a reminder not to dismiss such a patient's concerns out of hand because they may actually have a real problem.
54. Trainwreck (synonymous with shipwreck) [adj.]: patient with multiple medical problems and complications that will keep one up all night
55. Incidentaloma: something found on a scan that requires action, even though it was not what the discoverer was looking for in the first place. “I found an incidentaloma in the adrenal gland”. Likely to be benign in nature, but full of liability risks. [Apparently this is not just slang any more, but accepted parlance, even in medical journals.]

56. Bury the Hatchet: accidentally leaving a surgical instrument inside a patient