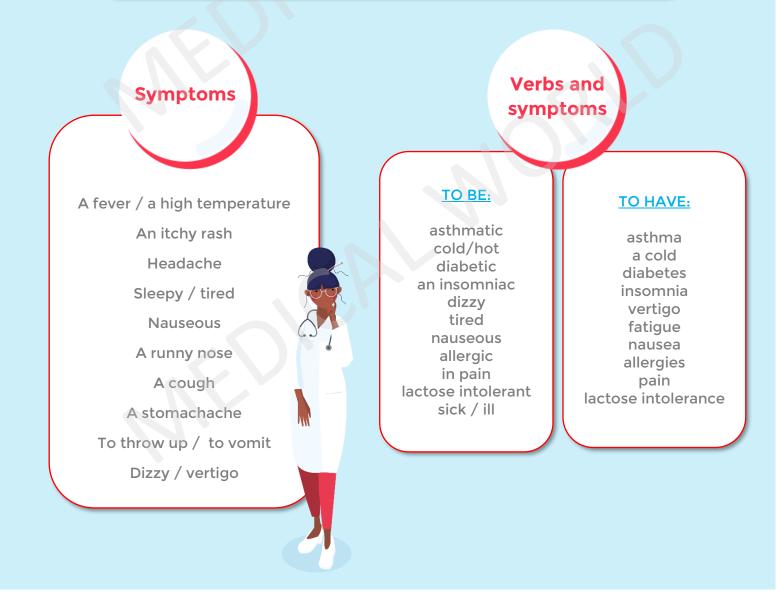


# DISEASES AND SYMPTOMS

# Signs vs. symptoms

Signs are **objective**, symptoms on the other hand are **subjective**. Signs are called objective because they can be felt, heard or seen. *Bleeding, bruising, swelling and a temperature* are **signs**. Symptoms are subjective because they are not visible to others. It is only the patient who experiences the **symptoms**.

A high temperature, a rapid pulse, low blood pressure, open wound and bruising can be called **signs**. Chills, shivering, fever, nausea, shaking and vertigo are the **symptoms**.



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# DISEASES AND SYMPTOMS

# Talking about symptoms

# Asking about symptoms is part of the nursing assessment process. Nurses use the mnemonic OLDCART for assessing a patient's symptoms.

Onset - When did your symptoms start? Location - Where do you feel the headache? Duration - How long have you had these symptoms? Characteristics - How would you describe it? Aggravating factors - Does anything make it worse? Relieving factors - Does anything make it better? Treatments - Are you taking any medication for the nausea?

Future

forms

<u>TO BE + GOING TO + INFINITIVE (without 'to')</u> Used to talk about plans & intentions, and predictions. *He's not going to get any worse, is he?* 

#### <u>WILL + INFINITIVE (without 'to')</u> Used for spontaneous decisions, offers, promises and threats. *I'll call the doctor immediately. We'll send the results tomorrow.*

ZERO CONDITIONAL = If\* + PRESENT SIMPLE, PRESENT SIMPLE Used to talk about facts that are generally true. \*when, unless *When he wakes, let me know. If you pick a scab, it bleeds.* 

FIRST CONDITIONAL = If + PRESENT SIMPLE, WILL\* +INFINITVE Used to talk about future events that are likely. \*shall, can, may If you work out regularly, you'll get fitter.

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# DISEASES AND SYMPTOMS

# **Dialogue sample**

Nurse: Right Mr Andrews, I'm going to ask you a couple of questions before the doctor sees you. When did the vomiting start?

Patient: Yesterday evening. I think it could be something I ate.

Nurse: I see. And what did you eat?

Patient: My wife and I had seafood for lunch at the new restaurant in town.

Nurse: Have you taken any medication?

Patient: No. I can't keep anything down. Everything I eat or drink just comes back up.

Nurse: That sounds awful. Does anything make your nausea worse / better?

Patient: No.

**Nurse:** Alright, thank you. Just wait here. The doctor will be in to see you soon.