

The Urinary System: Words to Know

Bladder	A triangle-shaped, hollow organ located in the lower abdomen. It is held in place by ligaments that are attached to other organs and the pelvic bones.
Bowman's capsule	Cupshaped end of a nephron that encloses a glomerulus.
Filtration	Movement of water and dissolved materials through a membrane from an area of higher pressure to an area of lower pressure.
Glomerulus	Network of capillaries enclosed by a Bowman's capsule.
Henle's loop	Looped portion of a renal tubule.
Hilus	Indentation or depression on the surface of an organ such as a kidney.
Kidneys	A pair of purplish-brown organs located below the ribs toward the middle of the back
Micturition	Urination, or the elimination or voiding of urine from the urinary bladder.
Nephrons	Urine-forming structures in the kidneys.
Peristalsis	Series of wavelike muscular contractions that move material in one direction through a hollow organ.
Renal corpuscle	Part of a nephron that consists of a glomerulus enclosed by a Bowman's capsule.
Renal cortex	Outermost layer of the kidney.
Renal medulla	Middle layer of a kidney.
Renal pelvis	A cavity at the innermost area of a kidney that connects to the ureter.
Renal pyramids	Triangular or pie-shaped segments of the renal medulla in which urine production occurs.
Renal tubule	Twisting, narrow tube leading from the Bowman's capsule in a nephron.
Sphincter	Circular muscles that help keep urine from leaking by closing tightly like a rubber band around the opening of the bladder.
Urea	Main nitrogen-containing waste excreted in the urine, produced when the liver combines ammonia and carbon dioxide.
Ureter	Muscular tube that carries urine from the renal pelvis in a kidney to the urinary bladder.
Urethra	Thin-walled tube that carries urine from the urinary bladder to the outside of the body.
Urinary bladder	Hollow, collapsible, muscular sac that stores urine temporarily. (see <i>Bladder</i>)
Urine	Fluid formed by the kidneys from blood plasma.