

NURSING ONE
Medical Terminology

Why Do I Need to Learn Medical Terminology?

- Language of the medical field
- Communication
- Write and speak concisely
- Bonus: Improve English skills, test scores, look really smart when watching TV medical shows

Prefixes

- Every word has a root and an ending, but not every word has a prefix
- Prefix is always at the beginning of a word
- The meaning of the prefix always stays the same
- Prefixes are attached to words to express numbers, measurements, position, negative, colors

Numbers

- bi – two, double bicuspid
- hemi – half hemiplegia
- milli – 1/1000 milliliter
- mono – one, single monocyte
- primi – first primigravida
- semi – half semiconscious
- tri – three triceps
- uni – one uninuclear

Measurements

- hyper – excessive hypertension
- multi – many multipara
- poly – many polyarthritis

Position and/or Direction

- a – without apnea
- ab – from, away from abduct
- ad – toward, increase adduct
- ambi – both, both sides ambidextrous
- an – without analgesic
- ante – before, in front antecubital
- circum – around circumoral

Position (cont'd)

- de – down, from descend
- dia – through diagnosis
- ecto – outside ectopic
- endo – within, endothelium
- epi – upon, over epigastric
- ex – out, away from extract
- extra – outside of, beyond
 extrahepatic

Position (cont'd)

- para – near, beside paracervical
- peri - around perineal
- pre – in front of before pre-operative
- post – after post operative
- retro – backward, behind retroflexion
- sub – under, below sublingual
- supra – above, over suprapubic
- trans – across, through transverse

Military Time

- Meridian time Military time
- 12 Midnight 2400 hours
- 1 am 0100 hours
- 2 am 0200 hours
- 3 am 0300 hours
- 4 am 0400 hours
- 5 am 0500 hours
- 6 am 0600 hours

Time (cont'd)

- 7 am 0700 hours
- 8 am 0800 hours
- 9 am 0900 hours
- 10 am 1000 hours
- 11 am 1100 hours
- 12 noon 1200 hours
- 1 pm 1300 hours
- 2 pm 1400 hours
- 3 pm 1500 hours

Time (cont'd)

- 4 pm 1600 hours
- 5 pm 1700 hours
- 6 pm 1800 hours
- 7 pm 1900 hours
- 8 pm 2000 hours
- 9 pm 2100 hours
- 10 pm 2200 hours
- 11 pm 2300 hours
- 12 midnight 2400 hours

Color

- alb – white albumin
- rube – red rubella
- cyano – blue cyanosis
- melano – black melanoma
- xanth – yellow xanthochromic

Negatives & other Common Prefixes

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| • anti – against | antibiotic |
| • contra – against | contraindicated |
| • dis – free of, to undo | discharge |
| • im – not | impotence |
| • in- in, inside, within, not | incompetent |
| • non – not | non-invasive |
| • auto - self | autograft |

Common Prefix (cont'd)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| • hyper – excessive | hypertension |
| • idid – individual | idiosyncrasy |
| • pan – all | pancarditis |
| • per – through | percussion |
| • pseudo – false | pseudoanorexia |
| • sym, syn – joined, together | sympathetic |
| • tacky – rapid, fast | tachycardia |
| • ultra – beyond, excess | ultrasound |

Frequent symbols

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| • a.c. | before breakfast |
| • p.c. | after breakfast |
| • ad.lib. | as desired |
| • p.r.n. | when necessary |
| • h.s. | hour of sleep, at bedtime |
| • stat. | immediately, as soon as possible |
| • | |
| • Daily | every day |
| • QD (not safe) | every day |
| • QOD (not safe) | every other day |

Frequent Symbols (cont'd)

• b.i.d.	twice a day
• q.i.d.	three times a day
• min.	minute
• h. or hr.	hour
• q.h.	every hour
• q.2.h.	every two hours
• q.3.h.	every three hours
• q.4.h.	every four hours

Symbols (cont'd)

• Resulting from, secondary to	
• Change	▲
• Number, followed by a number, pounds	#
• Divided by	
• Multiplied by, magnification	x
• Equals	=
• Greater than, from which is derived	
• Less than, derived from	
• Not less than	
• Not greater than	

Symbols (cont'd)

• Divided by, per	/
• Infinity	∞
• Therefore	
• Degree	
• Percent	%
• Male	
• Female	

Frequency (cont'd)

- q. 6h every 6 hours
- q 8h every 8 hours
- q. 12h every 12 hours
- a before
- p after
- c with
- s without
- q every
- aq. Water
- NPO nothing by mouth

Frequent (cont'd)

- ss one – half
- gtt drop
- tab. tablet
- cap. capsule
- et and
- noct. night
- susp. suspension
- supp. suppository

Terminology

- Vocabulary used in health care medical terms , originate from Latin & Greek
- Medical terms, can also originate from modern language
- ACRONYM – words formed by combining letters of a word or phrase.
- Mash – Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
- Aids – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Terminology (cont'd)

- EPONYM – word based on name of person
- Parkinson's disease
- Kaposi's Sarcoma
- Sulk Vaccine

Parts of Words

- ;Medical term – has 2 or three parts; prefix, root, suffix
- PREFIX – at beginning of word (*not all medical terms have a prefix)
- ROOT – The word's foundation. (all medical terms have at least one root- can begin a word)
- SUFFIX–The word's ending. (Most have a suffix

Medical terms

- Most have Latin or Greek roots
- Medical terms are not recognized internationally
- Medical terminology is part of the language that includes them.
- Therefore English speaking language are English words

Medical Elements

- 300 Latin & Greek word elements
- Thousands of medical terms are made up of these elements
- Learning word elements & adding to medical terms starts to increase your English vocabulary.
- Medical terminology is not a foreign language

Parts (cont'd)

- Root - core of word
- Prefix- can change the meaning of root
- Prefix - explains root
- Example:
- epigastric – on the stomach
- hypogastric – below the stomach

Parts (cont'd)

- Prefix, root, suffix – used in combinations
- Two, three, suffix + connecting vowels
- Example:
- Electrocardiogram – a record
- Suffix = gram of electricity
- Root = electr – of the heart
- Root = cardi
- (o,s) are the connecting vowel

Uses of Parts

- Two uses
- You have 2 uses of the (o) combining vowel .
- You have joining 2 roots
- You have root + suffix, or root + root +suffix

Parts (cont'd)

- A combining vowel (usually o) joins a root to another root or to a suffix. Is combining form
- Example: Thermometer
- Therm. = heat
- Meter = measuring device

- Additional examples combing forms;
- Hepat -o oste - o neur - o

Parts (cont'd)

- Suffix :
will clarify
will make a new word
- will change the meaning of the root
- Example;
- Tonsillitis – inflammation of tonsils
- Tonsillectomy – removal of tonsils

JACHO do not use abb.

Abbreviation	Intended	Preferred
• U	units	"units"
• ug	micrograms	"mcg"
• QD	every day	"daily"
• QOD	every other day	every other day
• AS,AD,AU	Left, right, both ears	write left ear etc
• OS, OD, OU	left, right, both eyes	write left eye etc

JCAHO (cont'd)

• IU	International unit	"write"
• 5.0 mg.	Trailing zero	No zero after decimal point write 5 mg.
• .5	leading zero	Always a zero before a decimal point, write 0.5 mg.
• MS	Morphine Sulfate	"write"
• MS04	Morphine Sulfate	"write"
• mGs04	Magnesium Sulfate	"write"

Common Medical Abbre. Route

• IM	Intramuscular
• IV	Intravenous
• IVPB	Intravenous Piggyback
• SC/SQ	Subcutaneous
• SL	Sublingual
• ID	Intradermal
• GT	Gastrostomy tube
• NG	Nasogastric tube
• po	By mouth
