

## A Language of Its Own

### Course

Medical  
Terminology

### Unit I

Introduction to  
Medical  
Terminology

### Essential Question

Would learning  
a foreign  
language be fun  
for you?

### TEKS

130.203 (c)  
(1) (A),(B)  
(2)(B)  
(4) (A),(B)

### Prior Student Learning

None needed

### Estimated time

1-1 ½ hours

### Rationale

Healthcare professionals must have a comprehensive medical vocabulary in order to communicate effectively with other health professionals.

### Objectives

Upon completion of this lesson, the learner should be able to:

- Explain and synthesize the basic word parts
- Differentiate an acronym and an abbreviation
- Define and decipher various medical abbreviations and acronyms

### Engage

Write a sentence on the board using medical terms, abbreviations, and acronyms. Ask if anyone can read the sentence. Example of a doctor's order:

Dx CHF, ADLs BR c BRP, vs q2h, valium 5mg po hs.

**Diagnosis: Congestive Heart Failure: activities of daily living; bed rest with bathroom privileges, vital signs every 2 hours and 5 milligrams of valium by mouth at bedtime**

### Key Points

- I. Medical Terminology
  - A. Like a foreign language to most people
  - B. Made of terms that describe the human body in detail
  - C. Used to convey the greatest quantity of information, with the least confusion and the most precision, to any medical professional in the world
  - D. A single medical term can describe a disease, condition or procedure that might otherwise take several words
    1. Example: *appendectomy* = surgical removal of the appendix
    2. Example: *coxitis* = inflammation of the hip joint
  - E. The foundation of medical terms are Greek and Latin
    1. 75% of all medical terms are based on Latin or Greek terms
  - F. The Greeks were the founders of modern medicine
  - G. Latin is the language of choice for medicine and science
  - H. The first medical dictionary appeared in the 1830s
    1. *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary* was first published in 1890
    2. The rapid increase in medical and scientific knowledge necessitates a new medical vocabulary to describe it
    3. It is impossible to learn **all** medical terms, but it is possible to figure out their meanings by analyzing the word parts
    4. By learning the meaning of the basic word parts, you will frequently be able to interpret the meaning of a word

- I. Etymology
  - 1. The science of the origin and development of words
  - 2. Indicates the origin and historical development of a term
  - 3. Helps you to find its origin and historical development
  - 4. Helps you to decipher words with Latin and Greek origins
- J. Eponyms – words named after people
  - 1. Parkinson's disease – named after the English physician Dr. James Parkinson
- K. Acronyms – modern language terms that stand for longer phrases
- L. Abbreviations
  - 1. Shortened forms of words
  - 2. Used in many health fields
  - 3. Each medical facility has an approved abbreviation list
  - 4. It is the responsibility of healthcare workers to learn the meanings of the abbreviations used in the facility in which they work
  - 5. Refer to the abbreviation/acronym list
- II. Basic Word Parts: Roots
  - A. The glue that holds all medical terms together
  - B. The basic form around which the final word is formed
  - C. The main part of the word
  - D. The foundation of the word
  - E. Gives you a clue as to what you're dealing with
  - F. Specifies the body part
  - G. Combining vowel, usually "o" or "i", joins the root with a prefix or suffix, or another root
- III. Basic Word Parts: Combining Vowels
  - A. Are not used if the word root or suffix begins with a vowel
  - B. Example:
    - 1. Encephal (o) (root meaning brain)
      - a. Encephalitis (means inflammation of the brain)
        - i. "itis" is a suffix meaning "inflammation"
        - ii. "itis" starts with an "i" so a combining vowel is not needed
      - b. Encephalogram
        - i. "gram" is a suffix meaning "tracing" or "record"
        - ii. "gram" does not start with a vowel
        - iii. The combining vowel "o" is used
- IV. Basic Word Parts: Prefixes
  - A. Appear at the beginnings of words
  - B. Tell "how, why, where, when, how much, how many, position, direction, time. or status"
  - C. Give us a clue of what to expect in a word's meaning
  - D. Serve to further define the word root



## the heart.

### VIII. Rules to Remember

- A. Read the meaning of medical terms from the suffix back to the first part of the word
- B. Drop the combining vowel (usually o) before a suffix beginning with a vowel – **gastric** not *gastroic*
- C. Retain the combining vowel between two roots in a word

### IX. Spelling is essential

- A. Many words are pronounced alike but spelled differently and have entirely different meanings
- B. Examples
  - 1. **Ileum** is a part of the small intestine
  - 2. **Ilium** is a part of the pelvic, or hip, bone

### X. Pronunciation is also important

- A. Words spelled correctly but pronounced incorrectly may be misunderstood
- B. Example
  - 1. **Urethra** (*yoo-ree-thruh*) is the urinary tract tube leading from the urinary bladder to the external surface
  - 2. **Ureter** (*yoo-ree-ter*) is one of two tubes leading from the kidney to the urinary bladder

### XI. Learning a new language

- A. Learning medical words is similar to learning a new language
- B. The words sound strange and complicated at first
- C. The medical language is logical in that each term, complex or simple, can be broken down into its basic component parts.

### Activity

- I. Complete the Abbreviations Worksheet.
- II. Make flash cards of medical terminology abbreviations.
- III. Complete the Prefixes Worksheet.
- IV. Make flash cards of medical terminology prefixes.
- V. Complete the Suffixes Worksheet.
- VI. Make flash cards of medical terminology suffixes.
- VII. Review media terms with the students using review games such as the “Fly Swatter Game” or the “Flash Card Drill” (see the Medical Terminology Activity Lesson Plan - [http://texashste.com/documents/curriculum/principles/medical\\_terminology\\_activities.pdf](http://texashste.com/documents/curriculum/principles/medical_terminology_activities.pdf))

### Assessment

Successful completion of activities

**Materials**

Medical Terminology book  
List of abbreviations  
List of Prefixes  
List of Suffixes  
Computer  
Index cards  
Markers

**Accommodations for Learning Differences**

For reinforcement, the students will use index cards and markers to make flash cards of the medical abbreviations you expect them to learn.

For enrichment, the students will choose 20 medical abbreviations and make a crossword puzzle using the chosen abbreviations.

**National and State Education Standards****National Healthcare Foundation Standards and Accountability Criteria:**

Foundation Standard 2: Communications

2.21 Use roots, prefixes, and suffixes to communicate information

2.22 Use medical abbreviations to communicate information

**TEKS**

130.203 (c) (1) The student recognizes the terminology related to the health science industry. The student is expected to:

- (A) identify abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols;
- (B) identify the basic structure of medical words;

130.203 (c) (2) (B) employ increasingly precise language to communicate

130.203 (c) (4) The student interprets medical abbreviations. The student is expected to:

- (A) distinguish medical abbreviations used throughout the health science industry; and
- (B) translate medical abbreviations in simulated technical material such as physician progress notes, radiological reports, and laboratory reports.

**Texas College and Career Readiness Standards**

English and Language Arts,

Understand new vocabulary and concepts and use them accurately in reading, speaking, and writing.

1. Identify new words and concepts acquired through study of their relationships to other words and concepts.
2. Apply knowledge of roots and affixes to infer the meanings of new words.
3. Use reference guides to confirm the meanings of new words or concepts.

*Cross-Disciplinary Standards,*

I. Key Cognitive Skills D. Academic Behavior: 1. Self monitor learning needs and seek assistance when needed, 3. Strive for accuracy and precision, 4. Persevere to complete and master task. E. Work habits: 1. Work independently, 2. Work collaboratively  
II. Foundation Skills A. 2. Use a variety of strategies to understand the meaning of new words. 4. Identify the key information and supporting details.

## Medical Terminology Abbreviations Worksheet

@	
A & P	
ab	
abd	
ABG	
a.c.	
ac & cl	
ACLS	
AD	
ADL	
ad lib	
adm	
AFB	
AKA	
alb	
alt dieb	
am	
AMA	
amal	
amb	
AMI	
amt	
ANS	
ant	
AOx3	
Ap	
AP	
approx	
aq	
ARDS	
AS	
ASA	
asap (ASAP)	
as tol	
ATD	
AU	
Ax	
BE	

bid	
bil	
BK	
BKA	
bl	
bl wk	
BLS	
BM	
BOW	
B/P	
bpm	
BR	
BRP	
BS	
BSI	
BSO	
BUN	
BVM	
bx	
—	
c	
C & S	
c-spine	
CA	
CAD	
cal	
CAT	
cath	
CBC	
cc	
CC	
CCU	
CHD	
CHF	
CHO	
chol	
circ	
cl liq	
CNS	
c/o	
COPD	
CPK	



CPR	
CPT	
CS	
CSF	
CT	
CVA	
CVU	
cx	
CXR	
cysto	
d/c	
D & C	
DAT	
DC	
del	
Del. Rm.	
diff	
DNA	
DNR	
DOA	
DOB	
DPT	
DRG	
D/S	
DT's	
DW	
D5W	
Dx	
EBL	
ECG	
ED	
EEG	
EENT	
EKG	
EMG	
EOA	
ESR	
est	
ER	
ET	
ETA	
etiol	

ETOH	
exam	
exp	
ext	
FBOA	
FBS	
FBW	
FF (F. FI)	
FH	
FHS	
FHT	
FIFO	
FSH	
ft	
FUO	
Fx	
GB	
GI	
GU	
GTT	
gtt(s)	
gyn	
H & H	
HCG	
hct	
HDL	
hgb	
HOB	
hr (h)	
HIV	
HR	
hs	
ht	
Hx	
hypo	
hyst	
I & D	
I & O	
ICP	
ICU	
IM	
ing	

inj	
IPPB	
irrig	
IS	
isol	
IT	
IUD	
IV	
IVF	
IVP	
K+	
KCI	
KUB	
L	
L & D	
lac	
lab	
lap	
lat	
LD	
LDH	
LDL	
liq	
LLQ, LLL	
LMP	
LOC	
LP	
It	
LUQ, LUL	
MA	
MAST	
MCI	
meds	
MI	
MICU	
min	
MN	
MOM	
MRI	
MS	
MVA	
NVD	

Na+	
NaCl	
N/C	
neg	
neuro	
NG	
NGT	
nitro	
NKA	
noc (t)	
NPO	
NS	
nsg	
NSR	
NVS	
O	
OB	
OD	
oint	
OOB	
OPD	
OR	
ord	
ORTH	
ortho	
os	
OS	
OT	
OU	
oz	
—	
p	
P	
P & A	
PAC	
palp	
PAR	
PAT	
pc	
pCO2	
PDR	
PE	

PEDS	
per	
PERL(A)	
PET	
PH	
pH	
PID	
PKU	
pm	
PNS	
po	
post (pos)	
postop, PostOp	
pp (p.p.)	
pO2	
PPD	
preop, PreOp	
prn	
pro time	
pt	
PT	
PTT	
PVC	
Px	
q	
qd	
qh	
q2h, q3h, ...	
qhs	
qid	
q.____m.	
qns	
qod	
qs	
r (R)	
R (resp)	
RAIU	
RBC	
RDA	
reg	
REM	
Rh	

RK	
RL	
RLQ, RLL	
RML	
RO	
R/O	
ROM	
R.R.	
RUQ, RLL	
rt	
RV	
Rx	
—	
s	
S & S	
ss	
SA	
SB	
sc	
SGOT	
SGPT	
SIDS	
Sig:	
SL	
SMAC	
SOB	
spec	
sp. gr.	
SQ, sub q	
SSE	
stat	
STD	
STH	
SVD	
SVN	
SVT	
Sx	
T	
T & A	
tab	
TAH	
TB	

TCDB	
temp (T)	
TH	
TIA	
tid	
TLC	
TMJ	
tol	
TPN	
TPR	
tr	
trach	
TSH	
TT	
TUR	
TV	
TVH	
TWE	
TX	
UA	
umb	
unc.	
ung	
unk	
ur	
URC	
URI	
US	
USP	
UTI	
V fib	
V tach	
vag	
VC	
VD	
vit	
vo	
vol	
V/S	
WA	
WBC	
w/c	

WNL	
wt	
y/o	



## Medical Terminology Abbreviations with Definitions

@	at
A & P	anatomy and physiology
ab	abortion
abd	abdominal
ABG	arterial blood gas
a.c.	before meals
ac & cl	acetest and clinitest
ACLS	advanced cardiac life support
AD	right ear
ADL	activities of daily living
ad lib	as desired
adm	admission
AFB	acid-fast bacillus
AKA	above the knee
alb	albumin
alt dieb	alternate days (every other day)
am	morning
AMA	against medical advice
amal	amalgam
amb	ambulate, walk
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
amt	amount
ANS	automatic nervous system
ant	anterior
AOx3	alert & oriented to person, time, place
Ap	apical
AP	apical pulse
approx	approximately
aq	aqueous
ARDS	acute respiratory distress syndrome
AS	left ear
ASA	aspirin
asap (ASAP)	as soon as possible
as tol	as tolerated
ATD	admission, transfer, discharge
AU	both ears
Ax	axillary
BE	barium enema

bid	twice a day
bil	bilateral
BK	below knee
BKA	below the knee amputation
bl	blood
bl wk	blood work
BLS	basic life support
BM	bowel movement
BOW	bag of waters
B/P	blood pressure
bpm	beats per minute
BR	bedrest
BRP	bathroom privileges
BS	breath sounds
BSI	body substance isolation
BSO	bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
BUN	blood, urea, nitrogen
BVM	bag-valve-mask
bx	biopsy
—	
c	with
C & S	culture and sensitivity
c-spine	cervical spine
CA	cancer
CAD	coronary artery disease
cal	calorie
CAT	computerized axial tomography
cath	catheter
CBC	complete blood count
cc	cubic centimeters
CC	chief complaint
CCU	coronary care unit
CHD	coronary heart disease
CHF	congestive heart failure
CHO	carbohydrate
chol	cholesterol
circ	circumcision
cl liq	clear liquid
CNS	central nervous system
c/o	complains of
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPK	creatine phosphokinase

CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CPT	chest physical therapy
CS	central supply
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CT	computer tomography
CVA	cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
CVU	cardiovascular unit
cx	cervix or complaint of
CXR	chest x-ray
cysto	cystography
d/c	discontinue
D & C	dilation & curettage
DAT	diet as tolerated
DC	discontinue or discharge
del	delivery
Del. Rm.	delivery room
diff	differential
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DNR	do not resuscitate
DOA	dead on arrival
DOB	date of birth
DPT	diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus
DRG	diagnosis-related grouping
D/S	dextrose in saline
DT's	delirium tremens
DW	distilled water
D5W	5% dextrose in water
Dx	diagnosis
EBL	estimated blood loss
ECG	electrocardiogram
ED	emergency department
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eye, ear, nose, throat
EKG	electrocardiogram
EMG	electromyogram
EOA	esophageal obturator airway
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
est	estimated
ER	emergency room
ET	endotracheal
ETA	estimated time of arrival
etiol	etiology

ETOH	ethyl alcohol, intoxicated
exam	examination
exp	exploratory
ext	external, extract, extraction
FBOA	foreign body obstructed airway
FBS	fasting blood sugar
FBW	fasting blood work
FF (F. FI)	force fluids
FH	family history
FHS	fetal heart sounds
FHT	fetal heart tone
FIFO	first in, first out
FSH	follicle-stimulating hormone
ft	foot
FUO	fever undetermined origin
Fx	fracture
GB	gall bladder
GI	gastrointestinal
GU	genitourinary
GTT	glucose tolerance test (pancreas test)
gtt(s)	drop(s)
gyn	gynecology
H & H	hemoglobin and hemocrit
HCG	human chorionic gonadotrophin
hct	hematocrit
HDL	high-density lipoprotein
hgb	hemoglobin
HOB	head of bed
hr (h)	hour
HIV	human immuno virus
HR	heart rate
hs	bedtime, hour of sleep
ht	height
Hx	history
hypo	hypodermic injection
hyst	hysterectomy
I & D	incision and drainage
I & O	intake and output
ICP	intracranial pressure
ICU	intensive care unit
IM	intramuscular
ing	inguinal

inj	injection
IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing
irrig	irrigation
IS	intercostal space
isol	isolation
IT	inhalation therapy
IUD	intrauterine device
IV	intravenous
IVF	in vitro fertilization
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
K+	potassium
KCl	potassium chloride
KUB	kidney, ureter, bladder
L	lumbar
L & D	labor and delivery
lac	laceration
lab	laboratory
lap	laparotomy
lat	lateral
LD	lethal dose
LDH	lactic dehydrogenase
LDL	low-density lipoprotein
liq	liquid
LLQ, LLL	left lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
LMP	last menstrual period
LOC	level of consciousness
LP	lumbar puncture
lt	left
LUQ, LUL	left upper quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
MA	mental age
MAST	medical antishock trousers
MCI	mass casualty incident
meds	medications
MI	myocardial infarction
MICU	mobile intensive care unit
min	minute
MN	midnight
MOM	milk of magnesia
MRI	magnetic resonance imagery
MS	morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis
MVA	motor vehicle accident
NVD	nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Na+	sodium
NaCl	sodium chloride
N/C	nasal cannula, no complaints
neg	negative
neuro	neurology
NG	nasogastric
NGT	nasogastric tube
nitro	nitroglycerine
NKA	no known allergies
noc (t)	night
NPO	nothing by mouth
NS	normal saline
nsg	nursing
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
NVS	neurological vital signs
O	oxygen
OB	obstetrics
OD	right eye, overdose
oint	ointment
OOB	out of bed
OPD	outpatient department
OR	operating room
ord	orderly
ORTH	orthopedics
ortho	correct, right (bones)
os	mouth
OS	left eye
OT	occupational therapy
OU	both eyes
oz	ounce
—	
p	after
P	pulse
P & A	percussion & auscultation
PAC	premature atrial contraction
palp	palpation
PAR	postanesthesia room
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
pc	after meals
pCO <sub>2</sub>	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PDR	physician's desk reference
PE	physical exam, pulmonary embolism

PEDS	pediatrics
per	by or through
PERL(A)	pupils equal & reactive to light (and accommodation)
PET	positron emission tomography
PH	past history
pH	hydrogen ion concentration
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
PKU	phenylketonuria
pm	between noon and midnight
PNS	peripheral nervous system
po	by mouth
post (pos)	posterior
postop, PostOp	postoperative
pp (p.p.)	postprandial (after eating)
pO <sub>2</sub>	partial pressure of oxygen
PPD	purified protein derivative (TB test)
preop, PreOp	before surgery
prn	as needed, whenever necessary
pro time	prothrombin time
pt	patient, pint
PT	physical therapy
PTT	partial prothromboplastin time
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
Px	physical exam, prognosis
q	every
qd	every day
qh	every hour
q2h, q3h, ...	every two hours, every three hours,...
qhs	every night at bedtime
qid	four times a day
q. ____ m.	every ____ minutes
qns	quantity not sufficient
qod	every other day
qs	quantity sufficient
r (R)	rectal
R (resp)	respirations, rectal
RAIU	radioactive iodine uptake study
RBC	red blood cell/count
RDA	recommended daily allowance
reg	regular
REM	rapid eye movement
Rh	rhesus

RK	radial keratotomy
RL	ringer's lactate
RLQ, RLL	right lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
RML	right middle lobe (lung)
RO	reality orientation
R/O	rule out
ROM	range of motion
R.R.	recovery room
RUQ, RLL	right upper quadrant, lobe
rt	right
RV	residual volume
Rx	take (prescription)
—	
s	without
S & S	signs & symptoms
ss	1/2
SA	sinoatrial
SB	small bowel
sc	subcutaneous
SGOT	serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase
SGPT	serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
Sig:	label/write
SL	sublingual
SMAC	sequential multiple analysis computer
SOB	shortness of breath
spec	specimen
sp. gr.	specific gravity
SQ, sub q	subcutaneous
SSE	soap suds enema
stat	immediately
STD	sexually transmitted disease
STH	somatotropic hormone
SVD	spontaneous vaginal delivery
SVN	small volume nebulizer
SVT	supraventricular tachycardia
Sx	symptoms
T	temperature, thoracic
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
tab	tablet
TAH	total abdominal hysterectomy
TB	tuberculosis



TCDB	turn, cough, deep breath
temp (T)	temperature
TH	thyroid hormone
TIA	transient ischemic attack
tid	three times a day
TLC	tender loving care
TMJ	temporomandibular joint
tol	tolerated
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse, respirations
tr	tincture
trach	tracheotomy, tracheostomy
TSH	thyroid-stimulating hormone
TT	tetanus toxiod
TUR	transurethral resection
TV	tidal volume
TVH	total vaginal hysterectomy
TWE	tap water enema
TX	traction
UA	urinalysis
umb	umbilicus
unc.	unconscious
ung	ointment
unk	unknown
ur	urine
URC	usual, reasonable, customary
URI	upper respiratory infection
US	ultrasonic
USP	United States Pharmacopeia
UTI	urinary tract infection
V fib	ventricular fibrillation
V tach	ventricular tachycardia
vag	vaginal
VC	vital capacity
VD	venereal disease
vit	vitamin
vo	verbal order
vol	volume
V/S	vital signs
WA	while awake
WBC	white blood cell/count
w/c	wheelchair

WNL	within normal limits
wt	weight
y/o	year(s) old

## Medical Terminology Prefixes Worksheet

PREFIX	MEANING
a-, an-	
ab-	
ad-, af-	
ambi-, ampho-, amphi-	
ana-	
andro-	
ante-	
anti-, ant-	
ap-, apo-	
aut-, auto-	
brachy-	
brady-	
cata-	
circum-	
co-, com-, con-	
contra-	
de-	
dextro-	
dia-	
dis-	
dorso-	
dys-	
e-, ec-, ef-, ex-	
ect-, ecto-, exo-	
em-, en-, eso-	
end-, endo-, ent-, ento-	
ep-, epi-	
eu-	
extra-, extro-	
gyn-, gyno-	
hemi-	
hetero-	
hyper-	
hyp-, hypo-	
im-, in-	
infra-	

inter-	
intra-, intro-	
mal-	
mega-, megalo-	
mes-, meso-	
meta-	
micr-, micro-	
mult-, multi-	
neo-	
noso-	
oligo-	
pan-	
para-	
per-	
peri-	
poly-	
post-	
pre-, pro-	
pseud-, pseudo-	
pyo-	
pyro-	
re-, retro-	
semi-	
steno-	
sub-	
super-, supra-	
sym-, syn-	
tachy-	
telo-	
therm-	
trans-	
ultra-	
xero-	
<b>COLORS</b>	
albus-	
chloro-	
chromo-	
cirrhos-	
cyano-	
erythro-	
leuko-	

luteus-	
melano-	
polio-	
porphyro-	
rhodo-	
xantho-	
<b>NUMBERS</b>	
nulli-	
haplo-	
mon-, mono-	
bi-, di-, dipl-	
tri-	
quadri-, tetra	
penta-	
hex-, sex-	
octo-, octa-	
nona-	
deci-	

## Medical Terminology Prefixes with Definitions

<b>PREFIX</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
a-, an-	without, lacking, deficient, not
ab-	away from
ad-, af-	toward, to, near
ambi-, amphi-, ampho-	both, double
ana-	up, toward, apart
andro-	man
ante-	before, in front of, forward
anti-, ant-	against, opposing, preventing
ap-, apo-	separation from, derived from
aut-, auto-	self
brachy-	short
brady-	slow
cata-	down, under, lower, against
circum-	around
co-, com-, con-	with, together
contra-	against, opposed
de-	down, from
dextro-	to the right
dia-	through, between, apart, across
dis-	apart, free from
dorso-	to the back
dys-	difficult, bad, painful, abnormal
e-, ec-, ef-, ex-	out of, from, away from
ect-, ecto-, exo-	outside of
em-, en-, eso-	in, into, within
end-, endo-, ent-, ento-	within, inside
ep-, epi-	upon, on, over
eu-	normal, good, healthy
extra-, extro-	outside of, beyond, outward
gyn-, gyno-	woman, female
hemi-	half, partial
hetero-	different, other
hyper-	excessive, above, beyond
hyp-, hypo-	under, beneath, deficient
im-, in-	in, into, within, not
infra-	below, beneath
inter-	between

intra-, intro-	within, into
mal-	bad, abnormal
mega-, megal-	large, big
mes-, meso-	middle
meta-	change
micr-, micro-	small
mult-, multi-	many
neo-	new, recent
noso-	disease
oligo-	little, few
pan-	all, entire
para-	beside, beyond, after
per-	through, excessive
peri-	around, surrounding
poly-	many, much, excessive
post-	after, behind
pre-, pro-	before, in front of
pseud-, pseudo-	false
pyo-	pus
pyro-	fire
re-, retro-	backward, behind, again
semi-	half
steno-	narrow
sub-	under, below, beneath
super-, supra-	above, excess, superior
sym-, syn-	together, with
tachy-	fast
telo-	end
therm-	heat
trans-	across, through, beyond
ultra-	beyond, excess
xero-	dry
<b>COLORS</b>	
albus-	white
chloro-	green
chromo-	color
cirrhus-	orange yellow
cyano-	blue
erythro-	red
leuko-	white
luteus-	yellow

melano-	black
polio-	gray
porphyro-	purple
rhodo-	red
xantho-	yellow
<b>NUMBERS</b>	
nulli-	none
haplo-	single
mon-, mono-	one
bi-, di-, dipl-	two, double, twice
tri-	three
quadri-, tetra	four
penta-	five
hex-, sex-	six
octo-, octa-	eight
nona-	nine
deci-	ten



## Medical Terminology Suffixes Worksheet

SUFFIX	MEANING
-ac, -al, -ic, -ary, -ar	
-agra	
-algia	
-apheresis	
-asthenia	
-ase	
-ate	
-atresia	
-capnia	
-cele	
-centesis	
-cidal	
-clasia, clast	
-cle, -cule, -ole	
--clysis	
-coccus, -coccis	
-crit	
-crine	
-cyte	
-desis	
-drome	
-dynia	
-ectasis	
-ectomy	
-ectopic	
-emesis	
-emia	
-ent, -er	
-ia	
-esis, -ia, -a -ism, -ity, -y -osis, -tion, -sis -iasis, -sia	
-form, -oid	
-gen, -genic	
-genesis	
-gram	

-graph	
-graphy	
-iac	
-ible, -ile	
-ician	
-ictal	
-ist, -ologist	
-ites, -itis	
-ium	
-ize	
-logy	
-lysis, -lytic	
-ma, -mat	
-malacia	
-mania	
-megaly	
-metor	
-metry	
-morph	
-oma	
-opsy	
-oxia	
-paresis	
-pathy	
-penia	
-pepsia	
-pexy, -pexis	
-phagia, -phagy	
-philia, -phily	
-phobia	
-phonia	
-phoria	
-physis	
-plasia, -plasm	
-plasty	
-plegia	
-pnea	
-poiesis	
-porosis	
-prandial	
-praxia	
-ptosis	

-rrhage, -rrhagia	
-rrhaphy	
-rrhea	
-rrhexis	
-sarcoma	
-schisis	
-sclerosis	
-scope	
-scopy	
-sepsis	
-spasm	
-stasis	
-stenosis	
-stomy	
-tome	
-tomy	
-tripsy	
-trophy	
-ule	

## Medical Terminology Suffixes with Definitions

SUFFIX	MEANING
-ac, -al, -ic, -ary, -ar	pertaining to, related to, located in
-agra	excessive pain
-algia	pain
-apheresis	removal
-asthenia	weakness
-ase	enzyme
-ate	use, subject to
-atresia	absence of normal body opening
-capnia	carbon dioxide
-cele	protrusion, hernia
-centesis	surgical puncture to remove fluid
-cidal	killing
-clasia, clast	break
-cle, -cule, -ole	small
--clysis	irrigation, washing
-coccus, -coccis	berry-shaped
-crit	to separate
-crine	separate, secrete
-cyte	cell
-desis	surgical fixation
-drome	run, running
-dynia	pain
-ectasis	dilation, expansion
-ectomy	surgical removal
-ectopic	displacement
-emesis	vomit
-emia	blood condition
-ent, -er	person or agent
-ia	abnormal state
-esis, -ia, -a -ism, -ity, -y -osis, -tion, -sis -iasis, -sia	state or condition, disease
-form, -oid	resembling, shaped like
-gen, -genic	producing, causing
-genesis	beginning, origin
-gram	record
-graph	instrument that records

-graphy	process of recording
-iac	person afflicted with
-ible, -ile	capable, able
-ician	one who
-ictal	seizure, attack
-ist, -ologist	a specialist in
-ites, -itis	inflammation
-ium	membrane
-ize	use, subject to
-logy	science, study of
-lysis, -lytic	destroy, dissolution, separation
-ma, -mat	disease, condition
-malacia	softening
-mania	madness
-megaly	enlargement
-metor	instrument used to measure
-metry	measurement
-morph	form, shape
-oma	tumor
-opsy	to view
-oxia	oxygen
-paresis	slight paralysis
-pathy	disease
-penia	deficient, lack of
-pepsia	digestion
-pexy, -pexis	fixation, storing
-phagia, -phagy	eating, swallowing
-philia, -phily	love
-phobia	abnormal fear, intolerance
-phonia	pertaining to sound
-phoria	feeling
-physis	growth
-plasia, -plasm	formation, development
-plasty	surgical repair
-plegia	paralysis
-pnea	breathing
-poiesis	formation
-porosis	passage
-prandial	meal
-praxia	in front of, before
-ptosis	drooping, downward displacement
-rrhage, -rrhagia	excessive flow

-rrhaphy	suturing in place
-rrhea	flow or discharge
-rrhexis	rupture
-sarcoma	malignant tumor
-schisis	split, fissure
-sclerosis	hardening
-scope	instrument for examining
-scopy	visual examination
-sepsis	infection
-spasm	sudden involuntary muscle contraction
-stasis	control, stop
-stenosis	narrowing
-stomy	surgical opening
-tome	instrument for
-tomy	cutting, incision
-tripsy	surgical crushing
-trophy	nourishment, development
-ule	little