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
 - 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
 - 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

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E. Refer to the prefix list

- V. Basic Word Parts: Suffixes
 - A. Appear at the ends of words
 - B. Tell us what is happening with a specific body part or system
 - C. Entail what is wrong with you or the procedure used to diagnose or fix it
 - D. Refer to the list of suffixes

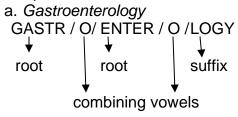
VI. Combining Form

- A. The combination of a word root with the combining vowel
- B. Example: Cardi /o/ gram

 combining form
- C. Refer to the list of combining forms

VII. Analysis

- A. Your goal is to learn the tools of word analysis
- B. This will make the understanding of complex terminology easier
- C. Learning to divide words into basic elements will help you to interpret them
 - 1. Basic elements: roots, suffixes, prefixes, combining vowels
 - 2. Example:



The root gastr means stomach

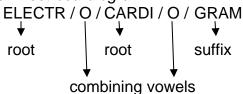
The root enter means intestines

The suffix **-logy** means process of study

The combining vowel **o** links root to root, and root to suffix Meaning of the word: **the process of the study of the**

stomach and intestines

b. Electrocardiogram



The root **electr** means **electricity**

The root cardi means heart

The suffix -gram means record

The entire word means: the record of the electricity of

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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

- Words spelled correctly but pronounced incorrectly may be misunderstood
- B. Example
 - 1. **Urethra** (yoo-ree-thruh) is the urinary tract tube leading form 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)

Assessment

Successful completion of activities

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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

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ТВ	Copyright © Texas Education Agency, 2012. All rights reserved.

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w/c	Convigat © Tayas Education Agency 2012, All rights reserved

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		
Ар	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	
_		
С	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
СТ	computer tomography
CVA	cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
CVU	cardiovascular unit
СХ	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
Нх	history
hypo	hypodermic injection
hyst	hysterectomy
1 & D	incision and drainage
1&0	intake and output
ICP	intracranial pressure
ICU	intensive care unit
IM	intramuscular
ing	inguinal

IPPB intermittent positive pressure breathing irrig irrigation isolation isolation intrauerine device isol intrauerine device iv intravenous pyelogram int	inj	injection
Irrig intercostal space isol intercostal space isol isolation intercostal space isol isolation intrauterine device intrauterine device intrauterine device in vitro fertilization intravenous intravenous pyelogram py	IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing
IS intercostal space isol isolation IT inhalation therapy IUD intrauterine device IV intravenous IVF in vitro fertilization IVP intravenous pyelogram K+ potassium KCI potassium chloride KUB kidney, ureter, bladder L lumbar L & D labor and delivery lac laceration lab laboratory 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 It 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 MCM magnetic resonance imagery MS morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis MVA motor vehicle accident	irrig	
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MVA motor vehicle accident	MRI	magnetic resonance imagery
	MS	morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis
NVD nausea, vomiting, diarrhea	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
0	oxygen
ОВ	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
	after
P P	pulse
P&A	percussion & auscultation
PAC	premature atrial contraction
palp	palpation
PAR	postanesthesia room
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
pc	after meals
pCO2	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PDR	physician's desk reference
PE	physical exam, pulmonary embolism
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q2h, q3h, every two hours, every three hours, qhs every night at bedtime qid four times a day qm. everyminutes 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	qd	every day
qhs every night at bedtime qid four times a day qm. 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	qh	every hour
qid four times a day qm. everyminutes 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	q2h, q3h,	every two hours, every three hours,
qm. 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	qhs	every night at bedtime
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	qid	four times a day
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	qm.	every minutes
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	qns	quantity not 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	qod	every other day
R (resp) respirations, rectal RAIU radioactive iodine uptake study RBC red blood cell/count RDA recommended daily allowance reg regular REM rapid eye movement	qs	quantity sufficient
RAIU radioactive iodine uptake study RBC red blood cell/count RDA recommended daily allowance reg regular REM rapid eye movement	r (R)	rectal
RBC red blood cell/count RDA recommended daily allowance reg regular REM rapid eye movement	R (resp)	respirations, rectal
RDA recommended daily allowance reg regular REM rapid eye movement	RAIU	radioactive iodine uptake study
reg regular REM rapid eye movement	RBC	red blood cell/count
REM rapid eye movement	RDA	recommended daily allowance
1 ,	reg	regular
Rh rhesus	REM	rapid eye movement
Title Tileaus	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
Т	temperature, thoracic
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
tab	tablet
TAH	total abdominal hysterectomy
ТВ	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-	
COLORS	
albus-	
chloro-	
chromo-	
cirrhos-	
cyano-	
erythro-	
leuko-	

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

Medical Terminology Prefixes with Definitions

PREFIX	MEANING
a-, an-	without, lacking, deficient, not
ab-	away from
ad-, af-	toward, to, near
ambi-, ampho-, amphi-	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-, megalo-	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
COLORS	
albus-	white
chloro-	green
chromo-	color
cirrhos-	orange yellow
cyano-	blue
erythro-	red
leuko-	white
luteus-	yellow

melano-	black
polio-	gray
porphyro-	purple
rhodo-	red
xantho-	yellow
NUMBERS	
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	

-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	
-iac -ible, -ile -ician -ictal -ist, -ologist -ites, -itis -ium -ize -logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-ible, -ile -ician -ictal -ist, -ologist -ites, -itis -ium -ize -logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-ician -ictal -ist, -ologist -ites, -itis -ium -ize -logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
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-ist, -ologist -ites, -itis -ium -ize -logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-ites, -itis -ium -ize -logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
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-ize -logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-logy -lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-lysis, -lytic -ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-ma, -mat -malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-malacia -mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-mania -megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-megaly -metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-metor -metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-metry -morph -oma -opsy	
-morph -oma -opsy	
-oma -opsy	
-opsy	
-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	state or condition, disease
-ism, -ity, -y	
-osis, -tion, -sis	
-iasis, -sia	
-form, -oid	resembling, shaped like
-gen, -genic	producing, causing
-genesis	beginning, origin
-gram	record
-graph	instrument that records

-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 -phoria pertaining to sound -phoria feeling -phosis promatics -plasty surgical repair -plasty surgical repair -plesis formation -poss passage -prandia meal -proxis passage -prandia meal -proxis passage -protosis drooping, downward displacement	-graphy	process of recording
-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 -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, tack of -pepsia digestion -pexy, -pexis fixation, storing -phagia, -phagy eating, swallowing -phoria deeling -phoria feeling -phoria pertaining to sound -plosia, -plasm formation, development -plegia paralysis -pnea breathing -poresis passage -pratoial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement		, i
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-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	-morph	form, shape
-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	-oma	tumor
-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	-opsy	to view
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-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	-penia	deficient, lack of
-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 donoping, downward displacement	-pepsia	digestion
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-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 downward displacement	-phagia, -phagy	eating, swallowing
-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	-philia, -phily	love
-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	-phobia	abnormal fear, intolerance
-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	-phonia	pertaining to sound
-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	-phoria	feeling
-plasty surgical repair -plegia paralysis -pnea breathing -poiesis formation -porosis passage -prandial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-physis	growth
-plegia paralysis -pnea breathing -poiesis formation -porosis passage -prandial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-plasia, -plasm	formation, development
-pnea breathing -poiesis formation -porosis passage -prandial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-plasty	surgical repair
-poiesis formation -porosis passage -prandial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-plegia	paralysis
-porosis passage -prandial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-pnea	breathing
-prandial meal -praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-poiesis	formation
-praxia in front of, before -ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-porosis	passage
-ptosis drooping, downward displacement	-prandial	meal
	-praxia	in front of, before
-rrhage, -rrhagia excessive flow	-ptosis	drooping, downward displacement
age,age	-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