Medical Terminology

The Language of the Healthcare Profession

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Instructional Modules 1-8

Medical Terminology

The Language of the Healthcare Profession

Resources:

- Medical Terminology Packet – Inst. Modules 1-8
- www.ismp.org (Institute for Safe Medication Practices)
- Chabner, D. (2007). *The language of medicine* (9th Edition)

Medical Terminology

The Language of the Healthcare Profession

<u>Learning Outcomes</u>:

Upon completion of the Medical Terminology class, the student will be able to:

1. Interpret and Define medical terms
2. Utilize medical terminology and chart information
3. Interpret medical Symbols
4. Utilize the Military Time format
5. Interpret the individual Emergency Codes

Medical Terminology

Quiz Schedule and Instructions:

Quiz # 1: This quiz will cover pp. 2-7 of your Medical Terminology Packet (Combining Forms: Roots, Suffixes, Prefixes & ISMP "Do Not Use List")

Quiz # 2: This quiz will cover pp. 8-13 of your Medical Terminology Packet (Abbreviations, Military Times & Symbols)

Quiz # 3: This quiz will cover pp. 14-18 of your Medical Terminology Packet (Charting Terms & Emergency Codes)

Quiz # 4: This quiz is comprehensive and will cover pp. 2-18 of the Medical Terminology Packet

- ✓ **Pages 19-22 are practice quizzes**

Medical Terminology

Terminology Sources:

1. Majority based in Greek and Latin word parts
   - Terms used by Aristotle & Hippocrates - The rise of Greek Influence
   - Hematology
2. Eponyms – words based on personal names
   - Alzheimer’s disease, Fallopian tubes, Achilles tendon, Adam's Apple
3. Modern language – EBT scan
   - Electron Beam Tomography scan

Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

Starting with the Main Three

1.Root word

- The "*foundation of the word*"
- All medical terms have one or more roots

2.Combining Vowel

- Links the Root to the Suffix, or Root to Root
- Usually "O"

3.Suffix

- The "*word ending*"
- All medical terms have a suffix

Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

Practice - **Hematology** = **Study of blood**

1.Root word = **Hemat**

- The "*foundation of the word*"
- Meaning - **Blood**

2.Combining Vowel = **-O-**

- Links the Root to the Suffix, or Root to Root
- Usually "O"

3.Suffix = **-logy**

- The "*word ending*"
- Meaning - **Study of**

Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

Practice - **Gastroenteritis** = **Inflammation of stomach and intestines**

1.Root word = **Gastr** **enter**

- The "*foundation of the word*"
- Meaning - **Stomach** **intestines**

2.Combining Vowel = **o-**

- Links the Root to the Suffix, or Root to Root
- Usually "O"

3.Suffix = **-itis**

- The "*word ending*"
- Meaning - **inflammation**

Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

The other two components besides the root, combining vowel, and the suffix:

4.Combining Form

- Simply the Root plus the combining vowel
- Hemat/o, Gastr/o, Enter/o

5.Prefix

- Attached to the beginning of the term
- Not all terms have a prefix
- The prefix can change the meaning

Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

Practice - **Epigastric** vs. **Subgastric**

1.Root word = **Gastr**

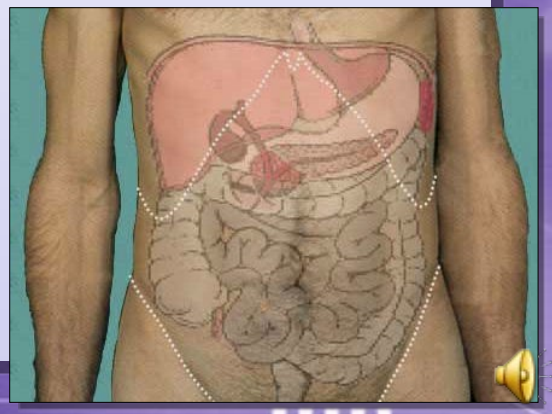
- The "*foundation of the word*"
- Meaning - **Stomach**

2.Combining Vowel = **none**

- Links the Root to the Suffix, or Root to Root
- Usually "O"

3.Suffix = **-ic**

- The "*word ending*"
- Meaning - **Pertaining to**



Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

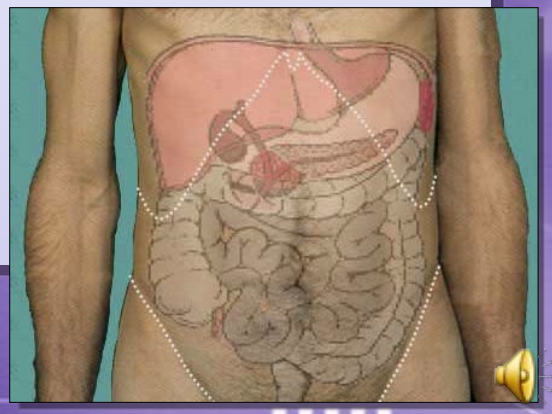
Practice - **Epigastric** vs. **Subgastric**

4.Combining Form = **Gastr/o**

- The Root plus the Combining Vowel
- Gastric Meaning - **Pertaining to the Stomach**

5.Prefix = **Epi-** **Sub-**

- Beginning of the term and adds meaning
- Meaning - **Above ; upon; on** **Under ; below**



Combining Forms

Dividing Words into 5 Component Parts:

1. **Root word** The "*foundation of the word*"
2. **Combining Vowel** Links the Root to the Suffix, or Root to Root *(Usually "O")*
3. **Suffix** The "*word ending*"
4. **Combining Form** The Root with the Combining Vowel together
5. **Prefix** The *"word beginning"*

Start at the end with the Suffix -

then go to the beginning of the term

Practice

Cholecystectomy : *Excision of the gallbladder*

Root	**Cholecyst**	gallbladder
-	None	
Combining vowel -	**ectomy**	excision
Suffix	**Cholecyst/o**	
-	None	

Combining form

Practice

Hypodermic :

pertaining to below the skin

Root **derm** skin

-

non

Combining vowel -

ic pertaining to

derm/a

Suffix

Hypo below

-

Combining form

-

Accuracy - *Spelling*

Correct choice and spelling of medical terms is essential:

- dysphagia vs dysphasia
- intervenous vs intravenous
- ureteral vs urethral
- colectomy vs colostomy

Accuracy - *Interpretation*

Different roots can mean the same

- vascul/o & angi/o = "vessel"

All of the following suffixes mean

- "pertaining to":

-ac	-ary	-ine
-al	-eal	-ous
-an	-iac	-tic
-ar	-ic	

Accuracy - *Interpretation*

Terms may be based on a body part:

- Thyroidectomy
- Subtrochanteric fracture
- Duodenal ulcer

Accuracy - *Interpretation*

Identify and associate opposites

- Dorsal vs **Ventral**
- Proximal vs **Distal**
- Inter- vs **Intra**
- Pre- vs **Post-**
- Ad- vs **Ab-**

Abbreviations & Symbols

- Saves time in documentation
- Must be accurate according to organizational standards
- Usually similar to terms described

Abbreviations & Symbols

- c̄ = with
- STAT= immediately
- s̄ = without
- ad lib.= as desired
- p̄ = after or past
- ā = before
- p.c. = after meals
- p.o. = by mouth
- NPO = Nothing by mouth
- et = and

Abbreviations & Symbols

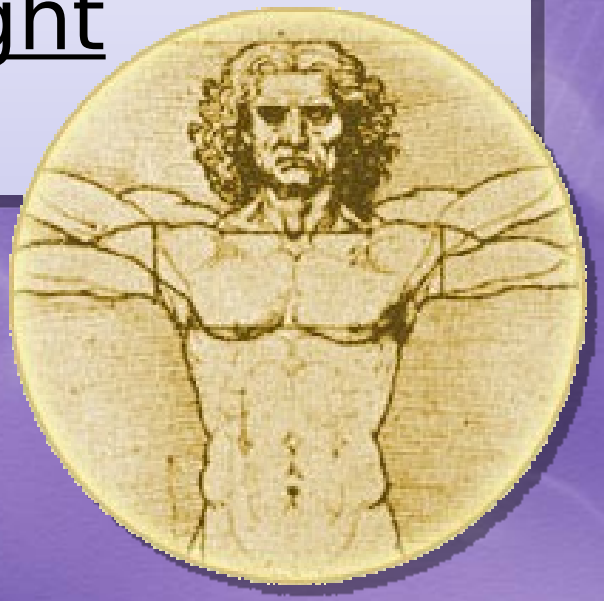
Accuracy is IMPORTANT:

- OD = Overdose ?
  O.D. = right eye
- SSI = Social Security
  S.S.I. = income ?
  sliding scale insulin
- B.S. = blood sugar
  BS = bowel sounds
- DC = discontinue or discharge
  D/C or d/c = discharge or discontinue

Abbreviations & Symbols

Accuracy is IMPORTANT:

- L = Liter
- mL = milliLiter
- L = Left
- R = Right



Abbreviations & Symbols

Abbreviations - Covenant Official "Do Not Use" List[1]

Do Not Use	Potential Problem	Use Instead
U (unit)	Mistaken for "0" (zero), the number "4" (four), or "cc"	Write "unit"
IU (International Unit)	Mistaken for IV (intravenous) or the number 10 (ten)	Write "International Unit"
Q.D., QD (daily) **Q.O.D., QOD** (every other day)	Mistaken for each other Period after the Q mistaken for "I" and the "O" mistaken for "I"	Write "daily" Write "every other day"

1 Applies to all orders and all medication-related documentation that is handwritten (including free-text computer entry) or on pre-printed forms.

***Exception:** A "trailing zero" may be used only where required to demonstrate the level of precision of the value being reported, such as for laboratory results, imaging studies that report size of lesions, or catheter/tube sizes. It may not be used in medication orders or other medication-related documentation.

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MS **MSO4 and MgSO4**	Can confuse morphine sulfate for magnesium sulfate	Write "morphine sulfate" or "magnesium sulfate"
HS (Half Strength) **hs** (hour of sleep)	Confused with each other	Write "Half Strength" Write "hour of sleep"
µ for microgram - mcg	Confused with mg	Write "mcg"

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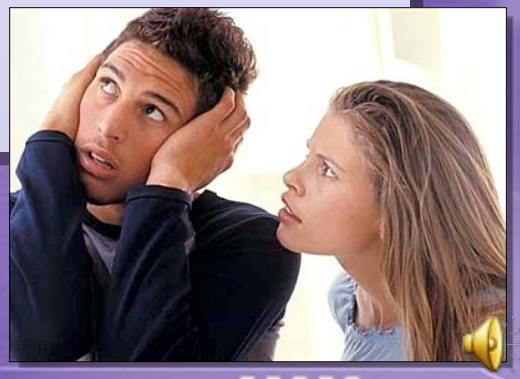
Charting Terms

Learn to chart using medical terms

- Spell correctly
- Be accurate when using medical terms, abbreviations and symbols
- If unsure, check the organization's official list of terms and abbreviations
- *Practice speaking "medical talk" to all who will listen*

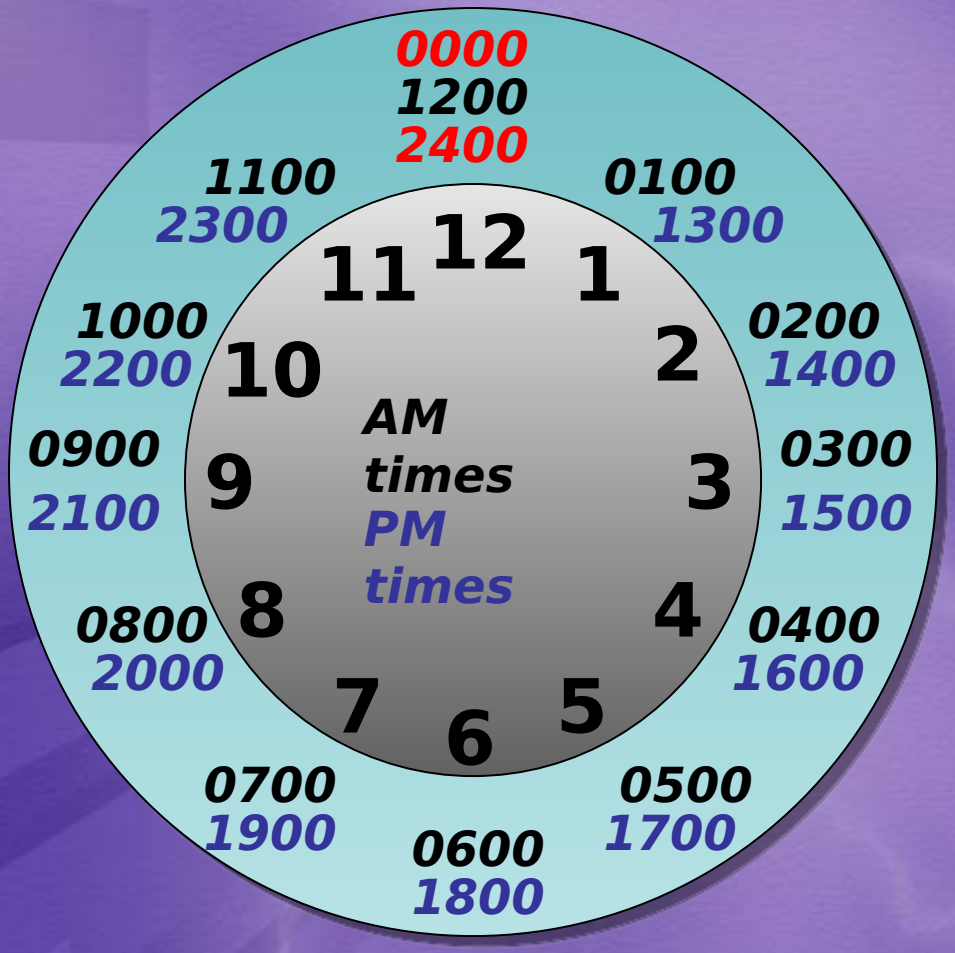


Charting Terms

Examples:

- large amount of drainage = **copious**
- nose bleed = **epistaxis**
- forehead = **frontal region**
- walking = **ambulatory**
- fainting = **syncope**
- difficulty swallowing = **dysphagia**

Military Time



All Times have Four digits

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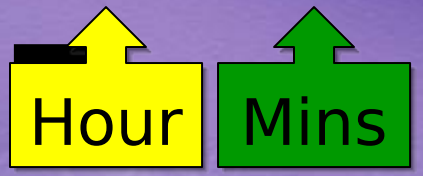


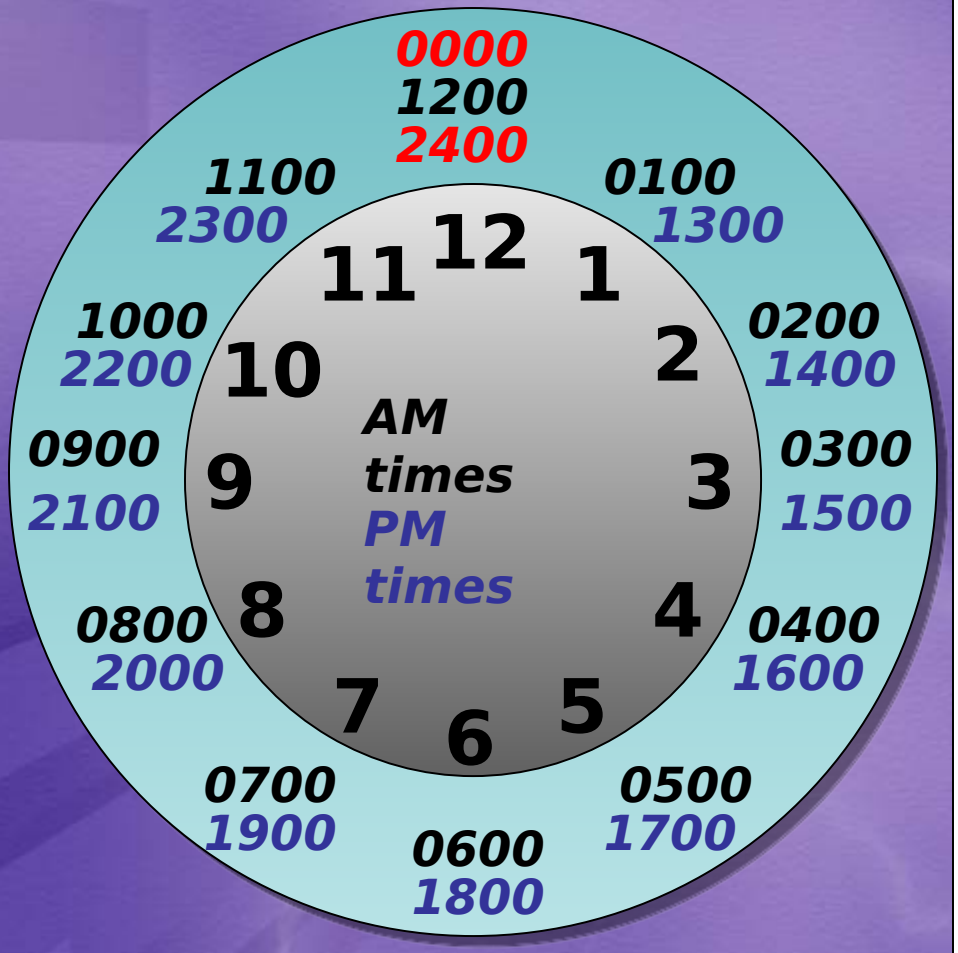
All Times start and end at

Midnight

0000 or **2400**

Note: There is not a time greater than **2400** and Noon is **1200** always

Military Time



CIVILIAN	MILITARY
7:15 AM	0715
11:23 AM	1123
10:20 PM	2220
11:55 PM	2355
12:05 AM	0005

Ante Meridiem – before noon

Post Meridiem – after noon

Emergency Codes

- Code **XTREME:** Facility Lock-down
- Code **RED:** Fire Emergency
- Code **ORANGE:** Dangerous or Violent Situation
- Code **BROWN:** Severe Weather
- Code **BLUE**: Urgent Medical Assistance Needed
- Code **YELLOW**: External Disaster Involving Casualties
- Code **GREEN**: Internal Disaster - Utility Failures
- Code **PINK**: Missing or Abducted Child / Infant
- Code **WHITE**: Evacuate the Unit or Hospital
- Code **GRAY**: Hostage Situation
- Code **BLACK**: Bomb Threat
- Code **Silver**: Active Shooter
- Code *DOWN*: Visitor Injury
- Code ***ELOPEMENT*** : Missing Patient

Phone Numbers to Call a Code

Covenant Medical Center - 44444 Covenant Lakeside - 44444

The End