

Unit 220

Medical Terminology

UAN:	L/505/1245
Level:	2
Credit value:	6
GLH:	45
Aim:	The aim of this unit is to enable the learner to develop a basic knowledge of how to accurately construct, identify and use a specified range of medical terminology.

Learning outcome
The learner will: 1. know the structure and meaning of medical word parts
Assessment criteria
The learner can: 1.1 identify definitions of medical word parts 1.2 identify medical terms derived from the medical word parts

Range
Word parts Prefixes, roots and suffixes, use of combining vowel See list in Appendix 1

Learning outcome
The learner will: 2. know the meaning of medical terminology relating to the human body
Assessment criteria
The learner can: 2.1 identify definitions of medical terms relating to the human body

Range
Human body Includes medical terms of anatomy and physiology (structure, function, organs, systems), diseases, conditions and procedures See list in Appendix 2

Learning outcome

The learner will:

3. know the meaning of medical terminology relating to the medical specialities

Assessment criteria

The learner can:

- 3.1 identify definitions of medical terms relating to the **medical specialities**

Range**Medical specialities**

See list in Appendix 3

Learning outcome

The learner will:

4. know the meaning of pharmaceutical abbreviations

Assessment criteria

The learner can:

- 4.1 identify the meaning of **pharmaceutical abbreviations**

Range**Pharmaceutical abbreviations**

See list in Appendix 4

Appendix 1 Word part list Level 2

Learning outcome 1 only

This list can be referred to as a framework for other learning outcomes, however candidates will need to know the **full range** of terminology in relation to the individual body systems.

Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning
a-	absence of
ab-	away from
ad-	towards
an-	absence of
ante-	before
anti-	against
auto-	self
bi-	two
bio-	life
brady-	slow
circum-	around
co-/con-	together/joined
contra-	against
cryo-	cold
cyano-	blue
de-	away from/removing
dia-	through
diplo-	double
dys-	difficult/ abnormal/ painful
ecto-	external/ outside/without
en-/endo-	within/in/into
epi-	upon/above/on
ery-/erythro-	red
hemi-	half

Prefix	Meaning
hetero-	unlike/dissimilar
homo-	same
hyper-	above/high/in excess of normal
hypo-	low/below/ under/less than normal
inter-	between
intra-	within/inside
iso-	equal
kypho-	crooked/hump/ curvature
latero-	side
leuco-/leuko-	white
lordo-	curvature forward
macro-	large
mal-	poor/abnormal/ impaired
mega-/megalo-	big/enlarged
melano-	black/dark/ pigment
meta-	after/beyond
micro-	small
mono-	one/single
multi-	many
neo-	new
oligo-	scanty/ deficiency

Prefix	Meaning
ortho-	straight
pachy-	thick
pan-	all
para-	alongside
peri-	around
polio-	grey
poly-	many
post-	after
pre-/pro-	before
quadri-	four
retro-	backwards

Prefix	Meaning
sclero-	hard
scolio-	sideways/ twisted
semi-	half
steno-	narrow
sub-	below
super-/supra-	above
syn-	with/together/ union
tachy-	rapid/fast
uni-	one

Word Roots

Word Root	Meaning
abdomino-	abdomen
adeno-	gland (any)
albumen- /albumin-	albumin/ a protein
alveolo-	air sac
andro-	man
angio-	vessel
aorto-	aorta/ main artery
appendico-	appendix
arterio-	artery
arthro-	joint
atrio-	atrium/ upper chamber of heart
bili-	bile
blepharo-	eyelid
bronchiolo-	bronchiole/ small air tube in lung
broncho-	bronchus/ tube to the lung
cardio-	heart
carpo-	wrist/hand
cephalo-	head
cerebro-	cerebrum/ part of brain
cerebello-	cerebellum/ lower lobe of brain
cervico-	cervix/neck
cholangio-	bile/biliary vessels
chole-	bile
cholecysto-	gallbladder
chondro-	cartilage
colo-/colono-	colon (large intestine)
colpo-	vagina
corono-	heart/crown
costo-	rib
cranio-	skull containing brain

Word Root	Meaning
cysto-	bladder
cyto-	cell
dento-	tooth
derm- /dermato-	skin
duodeno-	duodenum (part of intestine)
encephalo-	brain
endocardio-	lining of heart
endometrio-	endometrium (lining of uterus)
entero-	intestine
epididymo-	tubules above testes/ testicles
febro-	fever
feto-	fetus/unborn baby
gastro-	stomach
gingivo-	gums
glosso-	tongue
glyco-	sugar
gyno-/gynaeco-	woman
haemo-/ haemato-	blood
hep-/hepato-	liver
hernio-	hernia, rupture, protrusion
histo-	tissue
hydro-	water
hystero-	womb
iatro-	doctor/ physician
ileo-	ileum (part of intestine)
ilio-	ilium (bone of the pelvis)
immuno-	immunity
jejuno-	jejunum (part of intestine)
laparo-	abdomen/ abdominal wall

Word Root	Meaning
laryngo-	larynx/voice-box
leuco-	white
lipo-	fat
litho-	stone
lymphadeno-	lymph gland
lymphangio	lymph vessel
lympho-	lymphatic, lymph/tissue fluid
mammo-/masto-	breast
mandibulo-	lower jaw bone
maxillo-	upper jaw bone
meningo-	meninges/membrane covering brain and spinal cord
menisco-	meniscus (knee cartilage)
meno-	menstruation/monthly period
metro-	womb
myelo-	marrow/spinal cord
myo-/myos-	muscle
myocardio-	myocardium (heart muscle)
myometri-	myometrium (muscle of uterus)
myringo-	ear drum
naso-	nose
nato-	birth
necro-	death
nephro-	kidney
neuro-	nerve
oculo-	eye
oesophago-	oesophagus (gullet)
onco-	tumour
onycho-	nail
oophoro-	ovary
ophthalmo-	eye
opto-	sight/eye

Word Root	Meaning
orchio-/orchido-	testis/male gonad/male gland
osteo-	bone
oto-	ear
paedo-	child
pancreato-	pancreas/a gland
patho-	disease
pericardio-	outer layer of heart (covering of heart)
phago-	swallow, eat
Phaso-	speech
pharmaco-	drug
pharyngo-	pharynx/throat
phlebo-	vein
pleuro-	lung covering/membrane
pneumo-/pneumono-	air/gas/lung
pnoe-	breathing
procto-	anus/rectum
prostato-	prostate/a male gland
phallo-	penis
pulmono-	lung
pyo-	pus
pyro-	fever
recto-	rectum
reno-	kidney
rhino-	nose
salpingo-	fallopian/uterine tube
sigmoido-	sigmoid colon/part of large intestine
spleno-	spleen
steato-	fat
stoma-/stomato-	mouth
tarso-	foot/eyelid
thermo-	heat
thoraco-	chest/thorax

Word Root	Meaning
thrombo-	blood clot
thyro-	thyroid/gland in neck
tonsillo-	tonsils/lymph gland
tox-/toxico-	poison
tracheo-	windpipe/ trachea
tympano-	ear drum
uretero-	ureter/tube from kidney

Word Root	Meaning
urethro-	urethra/tube from bladder
uro-	urine/urinary organs
utero-	womb
vaso-	vessel
veno-	vein
ventrico- /ventriculo-	ventricle (lower chamber of heart)

Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning
-a	condition of
-aemia	blood
-ac	concerning/ pertaining
-al	concerning/ pertaining to
-algia	pain
-blast	immature cell
-cele	swelling/ protrusion
-centesis	to puncture/ tapping
-cide	kill/destroy
-cyte	cell
-demic	people/ population
-desis	binding together
-dynia	pain
-ectasis	dilatation
-ectomy	surgical removal of
-form	shape/form of
-gen	producing/ forming
-genesis	forming or origin
-genic	producing or forming
-gram	picture/tracing
-graph	machine that records/tracing
-graphy	procedure of recording/ tracing
-gravida	pregnancy
-ia/-iasis	condition of/state of
-iac	pertaining to
-iatic	pertaining to medicine/ physician
-ic	concerning pertaining to
-iosis/-ism	condition of/state of

Suffix	Meaning
-itis	inflammation of
-lith	stone
-lithiasis	condition/ presence of stones
-lysis	destruction/ splitting/ breaking down
-malacia	softening
-megaly	enlargement of
-meter	measure
-natal	birth
-oedema	swelling caused by excess fluid
-oid	likeness/ resembling
-ology	study of/science of
-oma	tumour
-opia	condition of the eye
-orrhage	burst forth/ bleeding
-orrhagia	condition of heavy bleeding
-orrhaphy	sew/repair
-orrhoea	flow/discharge
-oscopy	examination with a lighted instrument
-osis	condition of
-ostomy	artificial opening into
-otomy	cutting into/dividing/ incision
-para	given birth
-pathy	disease
-penia	lack of/decreased
-pexy	fixation of
-phagia	swallowing
-phasia	speech
-philia	liking/loving/ affinity for
-phobia	irrational fear

Suffix	Meaning
-phylaxis	protection/ prevention
-plasia	formation
-plasty	form/mould/recons truct
-plegia	paralysis
-pnoea	breathing
-porosis	thinning/ passage
-ptosis	drooping/falling
-rrhythmia	rhythm
-sclerosis	hardening

Suffix	Meaning
-scope	lighted instrument used to examine
-spasm	Involuntary contraction of
-stasis	cessation of movement/flow
-staxis	dripping
-stenosis	narrowing
-tome	cutting instrument
-tripsy	crushing
-trophy	nourishment/ food
-uria	condition of urine

Appendix 2 Human body systems Level 2

The learner should be able to identify and give definitions of terms relating to:

Skeletal/locomotor system

- the skeleton:
 - skull (main bones)
 - cranium
 - face bones (main)- maxilla, mandible
 - nasal
- vertebrae – atlas, axis, cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral, coccyx, thorax - rib cage, sternum
- appendicular
 - scapula, clavicle
 - pelvis
- Extremities -humerus, radius, ulna, carpals, metacarpals, phalanges, femur, tibia, fibula, patella, tarsals, metatarsals
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the skeletal/locomotor system**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Blood and cardiovascular system

Blood

The learner should be able to identify and give definitions of terms relating to:

- individual blood cells
 - erythrocytes
 - leucocytes (phagocytes)
 - lymphocytes
 - thrombocytes/platelets
- plasma/serum
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the blood**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Cardiovascular system

- the heart structures
 - pericardium
 - myocardium
 - endocardium,
 - heart chambers - atria, ventricles
- types of blood vessels
 - major blood vessels:
 - arteries – aorta
 - veins – venae cavae
 - minor blood vessels: capillaries

- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the cardiovascular system**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Lymphatic and immune system including **body's response to infection**

- lymphatic structures
 - lymph/tissue fluid
 - vessels
 - ducts
 - nodes (glands)
 - specialised lymph glands ie spleen, tonsils, adenoids,
- processes of infection and body's response
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the lymphatic system**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Respiratory system

- upper respiratory tract structure:
 - nose, pharynx, epiglottis, larynx, trachea
- lower respiratory tract structure:
 - lungs - bronchi, bronchioli, alveoli
 - pleura
- thoracic cavity, diaphragm
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the respiratory system**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Digestive system

- structures of the digestive system:
 - mouth
 - salivary glands
 - pharynx
 - oesophagus
 - stomach:
 - small intestine
 - large intestine
- accessory organs of digestion: teeth, tongue, gums salivary glands, pancreas, liver, gallbladder
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the digestive system and accessory organs of digestion**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Urinary

- structures of the urinary system:
 - kidney and its regions – renal pelvis
 - ureters
 - bladder
 - urethra
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the urinary system**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Reproductive (male and female including obstetrics)

Male reproductive system:

- testes
- scrotum
- epididymis
- penis
- prostate gland
- urethra
- perineum
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the male reproductive system**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Female reproductive system and obstetrics

- ovary
- fallopian (uterine) tubes
- uterus
- cervix
- vagina
- perineum
- vulva
- accessory organs - breast
- menstruation
- structures and stages of pregnancy including development of fertilized egg:
 - embryo
 - fetus – placenta
- **diseases, disorders and conditions of the female reproductive system and obstetrics**
- **medical procedures, diagnostic tests and equipment used with this body system.**

Appendix 3 Medical specialities level 2

Term	Meaning
	Study of the conditions, disease and treatment of:
Anaesthesiology	Study of speciality concerning control of sensation and resuscitation
Bariatrics	Reduction of stomach capacity for treatment of obesity
Cardiology	The heart and blood vessels
Dermatology	The skin
Colorectal	The colon (large intestine) and rectum (last part of the large intestine)
Endocrinology	Endocrine system ie hormones and ductless glands
Gastroenterology	Digestive system
Genitourinary	Urinary and male reproductive system
Geriatrics	Elderly/old people
Gynaecology	Female reproductive system
Haematology	Blood
Hepatology	Liver
Immunology	The immune ie defence system of the body
Nephrology	The urinary system including the kidney
Neurology	The nervous system
Obstetrics	Pregnancy and childbirth
Oncology	Tumours including cancer
Ophthalmology	Eyes
Orthopaedics	Locomotor system/bones and joints
Otorhinolaryngology	Ear nose and throat
Plastic surgery	Reshaping body parts/skin **aesthetics improving visual appearance as opposed to functional need /cosmetic
Paediatrics	Children
Psychiatry	Mental illness
Rheumatology	Connective tissue
Urology	The urinary system
Venereology	Sexually transmitted disease
	Miscellaneous
Cytology	Microscopic study of cells

Term	Meaning
Bacteriology	Microscopic study of bacteria ie a classification of micro-organism
Biochemistry	Study of the chemical contents and processes of the body
Forensic pathology	Study of criminal investigation concerning disease/death
Histology	Microscopic study of tissues
Histopathology	Microscopic study of disease of tissues
Microbiology	Microscopic study of micro-organisms (too small to be seen unless under a microscope)
Pathology	Study of disease; its effects and causes
Pharmacology	Drugs and their effects
Physiotherapy	Treatment with natural, physical means as opposed to drugs eg exercise, massage
Psychology	Study of the mind and behaviour
Radiology	Study of the use of X-rays in diagnosis and treatment
Scintology	Study of use of radioactive isotopes in diagnosis

Appendix 4 Pharmaceutical abbreviations Level 2

Abbreviation *Prescription directions	Meaning
ac	Before food
bd	Twice daily
od	Every day
om	Every morning
on	Every night
pc	After food
prn	When required/whenever necessary
qds	Four times daily
qqh	Every four hours
stat	At once/immediately
tds	Three times daily
tid	Three times daily
Modes of administration and units of measurement	
im or i/m or IM	Intra-muscular
iv or i/v or IV	intravenous
g	gram
mcg (not used in prescriptions)	microgram
mg	milligram
ml	millilitre
L or l	litre
Miscellaneous	
BNF	British National Formulary
BP	British Pharmacopoeia
MIMS	Monthly index of medical specialities
NP	Proper name/named
OTC	Over the counter
rep	Repeat/let it be repeated
R _x	Take/recipe/treatment
SI	International System (of measurement)
TTA	To take away

Legal classification	
CD/cd	Controlled drug
GSL	General Sales List
P	Pharmacy only
POM	Prescription only medicine
MODA	Misuse of Drugs Act
Types of drugs	
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
PPI	Proton pump inhibitor

*Candidates will only be tested on the approved abbreviations in the BNF (as stated in the assessment criteria). Centres may teach common variations eg bid, qid but these will **not** be tested.

Appendix 5 Recommended books

Author	Title	Publisher
Bird, Mary	Medical Terminology & Clinical Procedures 3rd Edition (Revised) (also contains anatomy and physiology)	iUniverse ISBN978-1-4759-9939-6 Available from Amazon
Gyls, Barbara A & Wedding, Mary	Medical Terminology: A Systems Approach (American spellings)	FA Davis Company
Watson, Roger	Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses	Baillière Tindall
Weller, Barbara F	Baillières Nurses' Dictionary	Baillière Tindall
Joint Formulary Committee	British National Formulary	British Medical Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain