

Pharmacology Terminology

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1. Introduction

- Pharmacology is the study of drugs and their effects on the body.
- Its terminology describes drug actions, doses, and interactions precisely.

2. Key Concepts

- **Pharmacokinetics:** what the body does to a drug, including absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion.
- **Pharmacodynamics:** what the drug does to the body, including its mechanism of action.
- **Indication:** the condition a drug is approved to treat.

3. Drug Naming

- Generic names are official and non-proprietary, such as paracetamol.
- Brand names are trademarked by manufacturers.
- Drug classes group medicines with similar actions, such as antibiotics.

4. Dosage and Administration

- Dose refers to the amount given; frequency describes how often.
- Routes include oral, intravenous, and topical.

5. Effects and Safety

- **Adverse effect:** an unwanted, harmful drug response.
- **Contraindication:** a situation where a drug should not be used.

6. Summary

- Pharmacology terms link drug behaviour to clinical use.
- Accurate terminology supports safe and effective prescribing.