

Medical Specialties and Professions

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1. Introduction

- Medicine is divided into specialties, each focusing on particular body systems, age groups, or techniques.
- Knowing the terminology helps direct patients to the right care.

2. Naming Conventions

- The suffix **-ology** means the study of, as in cardiology.
- The suffix **-ologist** denotes the specialist, as in cardiologist.
- The suffix **-iatrics** or **-iatry** relates to treatment, as in paediatrics and psychiatry.

3. Common Specialties

- **Cardiology**: the heart and circulatory system.
- **Dermatology**: the skin.
- **Oncology**: cancer diagnosis and treatment.

4. Allied Health Professions

- Nurses, pharmacists, and physiotherapists support and deliver care.
- Radiographers, laboratory technologists, and dietitians provide specialised services.

5. Working Together

- Multidisciplinary teams combine expertise for comprehensive care.
- Referral systems connect generalists with specialists.

6. Summary

- Specialty names follow predictable word patterns.
- Understanding roles supports effective teamwork and patient referral.