

Introduction to Medical Terminology

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1. Introduction

- Medical terminology is the standardized language used by healthcare professionals to describe the body, conditions, and procedures.
- It promotes clear, precise, and universal communication.

2. Word Structure

- **Root:** the core meaning, often referring to a body part, e.g. cardi (heart).
- **Prefix:** added to the front to modify meaning, e.g. hyper- (excessive).
- **Suffix:** added to the end, often indicating a condition or procedure, e.g. -itis (inflammation).

3. Building and Analyzing Terms

- A combining vowel, usually "o", links roots to suffixes for easier pronunciation.
- Terms are interpreted by reading the suffix first, then the prefix, then the root.

4. Importance

- Reduces ambiguity and errors in documentation and care.
- Supports accurate coding, billing, and information sharing.

5. Application

- Used in charts, prescriptions, diagnoses, and electronic health records.
- Mastery aids comprehension across all medical specialties.