

Pharmacology Terminology

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1. Introduction

- Pharmacology terminology describes drugs, their actions, and their use in treatment.
- Precise language ensures safe prescribing and administration.

2. Drug Naming

- **Generic name:** the official nonproprietary name, e.g. ibuprofen.
- **Brand name:** the manufacturer's trademarked name.
- **Chemical name:** describes the molecular structure.

3. Core Concepts

- **Pharmacokinetics:** how the body absorbs, distributes, metabolizes, and excretes a drug.
- **Pharmacodynamics:** how a drug affects the body, including mechanism of action.
- Indication, contraindication, and side effects guide appropriate use.

4. Dosage and Administration

- Routes include oral, intravenous, intramuscular, and topical.
- Terms such as dose, frequency, and duration define a regimen.

5. Safety

- Drug interactions and allergies must be checked before administration.
- Accurate terminology reduces medication errors and improves outcomes.