

Medical terms for patient status

1. **Acute:** Patient with a sudden flare-up or potentially severe issue who needs immediate care.
2. **Critical:** Patient's vital signs are out of the normal range and patient may be unconscious.
3. **Inpatient:** Status of a patient who requires hospital admission.
4. **Observation:** A temporary status that allows patients to continue receiving care for a set amount of time in the hospital while the physician determines whether admission or discharge is best.
5. **Outpatient:** Status of a patient who is not admitted to a hospital for overnight care. This can include clinic visits, same-day surgeries, and one-day emergency room visits.

Medical terms for conditions and diseases

6. **Abrasion:** A scrape that typically only affects the skin and can usually be treated at home.
7. **Abscess:** A tender, pus-filled pocket usually due to infection.
8. **Acute:** Signifies a condition that begins abruptly and is sometimes severe, but usually short.
9. **Aneurysm:** A bulge in the wall of an artery that weakens the artery and can lead to rupture.
10. **Aortic dissection:** A tear in the inner layer of the aorta.
11. **Bradycardia:** A slowing of the heart rate—typically less than 60 beats per minute for adults.
12. **Benign:** Usually in reference to tumors or growth, meaning not cancerous or malignant.
13. **Biopsy:** A small sample of tissue that's taken for testing to discover the cause or extent of a disease.
14. **Chronic:** Signifies a recurring, persistent condition, usually more than three months.
15. **Contusion:** A bruise typically from impact or force.
16. **Cyanosis:** Condition resulting bluish skin, stems from lack of oxygen in the blood.
17. **Diagnosis:** Identification of a condition, disease or disorder by evaluation of symptoms, tests and other factors.
18. **Thrombosis:** A blood clot within a blood vessel that affects normal blood flow.
19. **Edema:** Swelling caused by fluid accumulation.
20. **Embolus:** A blood clot, air bubble or other obstruction blocking blood flow in the affected blood vessel.
21. **Fracture:** Broken bone ranging from a crack to a complete break.
22. **Atrial fibrillation:** An uncoordinated, quivering movement of the heart muscle resulting in an irregular pulse and poor blood flow.
23. **Hypertension:** Abnormally high blood pressure.
24. **Hypotension:** Abnormally low blood pressure.
25. **Ischemia:** Characterized by a lack of blood flow to an organ or part of the body. Often refers to the heart-cardiac ischemia.
26. **Malignant:** In reference to tumors or growths—indicating the presence of cancerous cells.
27. **Cancer:** Collection of related diseases where some of the body's cells multiply out of control spreading into surrounding tissues and interfering with normal body function.
28. **Normal sinus rhythm:** A normal heartbeat pattern, usually is between 60 and 80 beats per minute in an adult.
29. **Tumor:** A swelling or mass, often used in relation to cancer.
30. **Tension pneumothorax:** A collapsed lung that occurs when air leaks into the space between the lungs and the chest wall.
31. **Pericardial effusion:** Blood or fluid leaking into the pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart.
32. **Myocardial infarction:** When an arterial blockage or slow blood flow deprives the heart of blood. Known more commonly as a heart attack.
33. **Angina:** A disease in which narrowing of the arteries supplying the heart results in reduced blood flow and chest pain. Usually a symptom of coronary artery disease.
34. **Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA):** Commonly called a stroke. Occurs when the brain is deprived of blood and oxygen by either a blockage or the rupture of a blood vessel.

35. **Sepsis:** A serious condition caused the body's response to severe infection. Occurs when the body's infection-fighting response gets out of balance and can lead to severe issues like organ failure.

Tools and equipment, and medication terms

36. **Endoscope:** A long flexible tube with its own special lighting and camera used to look into the body. There are many specific kinds of endoscopes.
37. **Foley:** An indwelling catheter. A thin flexible tube inserted into the urethra to drain the bladder.
38. **Fluoroscope:** An X-ray machine—can be used for still images or in motion, like an animation created by x-ray images.
39. **Stethoscope:** A small instrument used for listening to a patient's breathing and heartbeat.
40. **Intravenous (IV):** Indicates medication or fluid given through the vein.
41. **Epidural:** An injection of a local anesthetic to the lumbar level of the spin often used to relieve pain during labor.
42. **Sublingual:** Meaning "below the tongue," typically seen with medication that is administered by dissolving it under the patients' tongue.
43. **Nocte:** Latin for at night, typically in reference to when medication should be administered.
44. **Mane:** Latin for in the morning, typically in reference to when medication should be administered.
45. **OD:** When referring to medication instructions, "once daily."
46. **BDS :** Latin, "bis die sumendum" meaning take two times per day.
47. **TDS:** Latin, "ter die sumendum" meaning take three times per day.
48. **QDS:** Latin, "quarter die sumendum" meaning take 4 times per day.
49. **PRN:** Latin, "pro re nata" or take as needed.
50. **PR:** Latin, "per rectum" to be taken rectally.
51. **PO:** Latin, "per orem" to be taken by mouth or orally.
52. **IV push:** A direct, rapid injection of medication delivered intravenously.
53. **NS:** Normal saline—a mixture of salt and water similar to what's produced by the body.

Medical jargon/slang

54. **Champagne tap:** A successful lumbar puncture done by a student with no red blood cells found. Traditionally this challenging procedure is celebrated with a bottle of champagne from a supervising doctor—in part because the fluid collected resembles the color of champagne.
55. **Stat:** Immediately
56. **Thready:** Refers to a weak pulse that disappears with pressure—an indicator of larger issues.
57. **Golden hour:** Refers to the first hour after a traumatic injury or event where chances of successful treatment are highest.

Medical procedures and tests

58. **Blood culture:** A test used to find any unusual bacteria or fungi in a patient's blood.
59. **Blood gas:** A test to show the gas-phase components of blood including oxygen, carbon dioxide, pH balance, etc.
60. **Blood pressure:** Measure of how well the blood is circulating. Normal blood pressure measure about 120/80 for adults.
61. **Blood swab:** A blood sample taken with a cotton-tipped stick.
62. **Bowel disimpaction:** Manual removal of hardened fecal matter from a patient's rectum.
63. **Central line:** Catheter placed in a large vein that allows multiple IV fluids to be given and blood to be drawn more easily.
64. **C-section:** Shorthand for cesarean section the surgical delivery of a baby through the abdominal wall.
65. **Puls/ox:** Pulse oximetry, a measure of oxygen saturation in blood.
66. **Dialysis:** Procedure to filter blood for patients with kidney failure.
67. **Pulse:** Measure of a pulsating artery.
68. **Intubation:** Insertion of an endotracheal tube to assist patient breathing.

- 69. **Laparotomy:** Any surgery involving an incision in the abdominal wall.
- 70. **Lumbar puncture:** Withdrawal of cerebrospinal fluid through a hollow needle inserted into the lumbar region. Also referred to as a spinal tap.
- 71. **Sternotomy:** Surgical opening of the breast bone.
- 72. **Thoracotomy:** Surgery on the chest cavity.
- 73. **Tox screen:** Toxicological analysis of the blood. Ordered when a drug overdose is suspected and the drugs need to be identified.
- 74. **Ultrasound:** A form of **diagnostic imaging** that uses high-frequency sound waves.
- 75. **Venipuncture:** The drawing of blood from a vein.

Abbreviations

- 76. **ALOC:** Acute Loss of Consciousness
- 77. **ASA:** The abbreviation for acetylsalicylic acid, commonly known as aspirin.
- 78. **BMI:** Body mass index, a measure of body fat based on height and weight.
- 79. **BP:** Blood pressure.
- 80. **BLS:** Basic life support includes CPR and removal of foreign body airway obstruction.
- 81. **CAT scan:** Computerized axial tomography—another form of diagnostic imaging.
- 82. **CHF:** Congestive heart failure.
- 83. **CPR:** Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, a life-saving technique that’s also called mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- 84. **DNR:** Do not resuscitate. A medical order indicating providers should not perform CPR or other life-saving measures on a patient.
- 85. **DOA:** Dead on arrival.
- 86. **ED/ER:** Emergency department or emergency room.
- 87. **EEG:** Measures brain activity.
- 88. **EKG/ECG:** Electrocardiogram. Records the electrical signals in the heart.
- 89. **EMS:** Emergency medical services.
- 90. **HR:** Heart rate, expressed as beats per minute.
- 91. **KUB:** Kidney, ureter, and bladder x-ray, commonly used for diagnosing abdominal pain.
- 92. **LFT:** Liver function test.
- 93. **MRI:** Magnetic resonance imaging, a form of diagnostic imaging that uses a large magnet and radio waves to view organs inside of the body.
- 94. **NICU:** Neonatal intensive care unit, a specialized unit for premature infants.
- 95. **NSAID:** Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (ibuprofen, aspirin, naproxen).
- 96. **OR:** Operating room where surgeries are performed.
- 97. **OT:** Occupational therapy.
- 98. **Psych:** Refers to psychiatry practice or the psychiatric ward.
- 99. **PT:** Physical therapy—rehabilitative exercises used to rebuild strength and flexibility after injury.
- 100. **Rx:** Shorthand for prescription, usually for medication but can also signify another treatment.
- 101. **U/A:** Urinalysis—the process of testing patient urine for signs of kidney failure, dehydration, diabetes, undernourishment, or bladder, kidney infection and more.

Common Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
A-, An-	Without; Lacking	Anemia
Andr/o-	Male	Androgen
Anti-	Against	Anticholinergic drugs
Auto-	Self	Autocrine
Bio-	Life	Biology
Chem/o-	Chemistry	Chemotherapy
Contra-	Against	Contraception
Cyt/o-	Cell	Cytokine
Dis-	Separation; Taking apart	Dissection
Dys-	Difficult; Abnormal	Dyspnea
Eu-	Good; Well	Eupnea
Fibr/o-	Fiber	Fibrosis
Gluco-, Glyco-	Glucose; Sugar	Glycogen
Gyn/o-, Gynec-	Female	Gynecology
Hydr/o-	Water	Hydrocephalus
Idio-	Self; One's own	Idiopathic
Lyso-, Lys-	Break down; Destruction; Dissolving	Lysosome
Mal-	Bad; Abnormal	Malignant
Myc/o-	Fungus	Mycetoma
Necr/o-	Death	Necrosis

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
Neo-	New	Neonate
Oxy-	Sharp; Acute; Oxygen	Oxytocin
Pan-, Pant/o-	All or everywhere	Pancytopenia
Pharmaco-	Drug; Medicine	Pharmacist
Re-	Again; Backward	Rejuvenation
Somat/o-, Somatico-	Body; Bodily	Somatic cell

Body Part Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
Acous/o-	Hearing	Acoustic meatus
Aden/o-	Gland	Adenoid
Adip/o-	Fat	Adipocyte
Adren/o-	Gland	Adrenal cortex
Angi/o-	Blood vessel	Angioplasty
Arteri/o-	Artery	Arteriole
Arthr/o-	Joint	Arthroplasty
Bucc/o-	Cheek	Buccal cavity
Bronch/i-	Bronchus	Bronchioles
Burs/o-	Bursa	Bursa
Carcin/o-	Cancer	Basal cell carcinoma
Cardi/o-	Heart	Cardiology
Cephal/o-	Head	Cephalic flexure
Chol-	Bile	Cholesterol
Chondri-	Cartilage	Chondrosarcoma

Coron-	Heart	Coronary arteries
Cost-	Rib	Costal cartilage
Crani/o-	Brain	Cranium
Cutane-	Skin	Cutaneous
Cyst/o-, Cysti-	Bladder or sac	Cystoscopy
Derm-, Dermat/o-	Skin	Dermatologist
Duoden/o-	Duodenum	Duodenitis
Gastr-	Stomach	Gastrectomy
Gloss-	Tongue	Glossectomy
Hem-, Hema-, Hemat-, Hemo-, Hemat/o-	Blood	Hematopoiesis
Hepat/o-, Hepatico-	Liver	Hepatic portal system
Hist/o-, Histo-	Tissue	Histology
Hyster/o-	Uterus	Hysterectomy
Ileo-	Ileum	Ileostomy
Ischi/o-	Ischium	Ischial tuberosity
Kerat/o-	Cornea (eye or skin)	Keratin
Lacrim/o-	Tear (from your eyes)	Lacrimal fluid
Lact/o-, Lacti-	Milk	Lactose
Laryng/o-	Larynx	Laryngitis
Lingu/o-	Tongue	Lingual tonsil
Lip/o-	Fat	Lipolysis
Lymph/o-	Lymph	Lymphocyte
Mamm-, Mast/o-	Breast	Mammary glands
Mening/o-	Meninges	Meningitis
Muscul/o-	Muscle	Musculoskeletal
My/o-	Muscle	Myocardium

Myel/o-	Spinal cord or bone marrow	Myelin
Nephr/o-	Kidney	Nephron
Neur/i-, Neur/o-	Nerve	Neuron
Oculo-	Eye	Oculomotor nerve
Onco-	Tumor; Bulk; Volume	Oncogene
Onych/o-	Fingernail; Toenail	Onychodystrophy
Oo-	Egg; Ovary	Oocyte
Oophor/o-	Ovary	Oophorectomy
Op-, Opt-	Vision	Optic nerve
Ophthalm/o-	Eye	Ophthalmic artery
Orchid/o-, Orchio-	Testis	Orchidectomy
Orth/o-	Straight; Normal; Correct	Orthostatic
Osseo-	Bony	Osseous tissue
Ossi-	Bone	Ossicles
Ost-, Oste/o-	Bone	Osteoporosis
Ot/o-	Ear	Otolaryngologist
Ovar/i-, Ovario-, Ovi-, Ovo-	Ovary	Ovarian follicle
Phalang-	Phalanx	Phalanges
Pharyng/o-	Pharynx; Throat	Pharyngeal tonsil
Phleb/o-	Vein	Phlebotomist
Phren/i-, Phreno-, Phrenico-	Diaphragm	Phrenic nerve
Pleur-, Pleur/a-, Pleur/o-	Rib, pleura	Pleural cavity
Pneum/a- Pneumat/o-	Air; Lung	Pneumonia
Proct/o-	Anus; Rectum	Proctoscopy
Prostat-	Prostate	Prostatectomy

Pseudo-	False	Pseudostratified
Psych/o-, Psyche-	Mind	Psychiatrist
Radio-	Radiation; Radius	Radioisotopes
Ren/o-	Kidney	Renal cortex
Retin-	Retina (of the eye)	Retinitis pigmentosa
Rhin/o-	Nose	Rhinoscope
Salping/o-	Tube	Salpingo-oophorectomy
Sarco-	Muscular; Flesh-like	Sarcomere
Schiz/o-	Split; Cleft	Schizophrenia
Sclera-, Sclero-	Hardness	Sclerosis
Sigmoid/o-	Sigmoid colon	Sigmoidoscopy
Sperma-, Sperm-, Spermato-	Sperm	Spermatocyte
Splen/o-	Spleen	Splenomegaly
Sten/o-	Narrowed; Blocked	Stenosis
Stern-	Sternum	Sternoclavicular joint
Stom/a-, Stomat/o-	Mouth	Stomatitis
Thorac/o-, Thoracico-	Chest	Thoracic cavity
Thromb/o-	Blood clot	Thrombolytic
Thyr/o-	Thyroid gland	Thyroiditis
Trache/o-	Trachea	Trachealis
Tympan/o-	Eardrum	Tympanic membrane
Ur/o-	Urine	Urologist
Vagin-	Vagina	Vaginal
Varic/o-	Duct; Blood vessel	Varicose veins
Vasculo-	Blood vessel	Vasculitis
Ven/o-	Vein	Venae cavae

Vertbr-	Vertebra; Spine	Vertebral column
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Color Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
Chlor/o-	Green	Chlorophyll
Chrom-, Chromato-	Color	Chromosome
Cyano-	Blue	Cyanosis
Erythr/o-	Red	Erythrocyte
Leuk/o-	White	Leukocyte
Melan/o-	Black	Melanin

Physical Property and Shape Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
Cry/o-	Cold	Cryotherapy
Elect-	Electrical activity	Electrocardiogram
Kin/o-, Kine-, Kinesi/o-	Movement	Kinetic energy
Kyphy/o-	Humped	Kyphosis
Rhabd/o-	Rod-shaped; Striated	Rhabdomyosarcoma
Phot/o-	Light	Photoreceptor
Reticul/o-	Net	Reticulocytes
Scoli/o-	Twisted	Scoliosis
Therm/o-	Heat	Thermotherapy

Direction and Position Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
Ab-, Abs-	Away from	Abductor
Ad-	Towards	Adductor
Ante-	Before; Forward	Antenatal
Circum-	Around	Circumcision
Cycl-	Circle; Cycle	Cyclic neutropenia
De-	Away from; Ending	Dehydration
Dia-	Across; Through	Diagnosis
Ect/o-, Exo-	Outer; Outside	Exocrine gland
End/o-, Ent-, Enter/o-	Within; Inner	Endocrine gland
Epi-	Upon; Outside of	Epidermis
Ex-, Extra-	Beyond	Expiration
Infra-	Beneath; Below	Infratemporal fossa
Inter-	Between	Interstitial fluid
Intra-	Within	Intracellular fluid
Meso-	Middle	Mesoderm
Meta-	Beyond; Change	Metabolism
Para-	Alongside; Abnormal	Parathyroid glands
Path/o-	Disease	Pathologist
Peri-	Around	Pericardium
Post-	Behind; After	Postpartum
Pre-	Before; In front	Precancerous
Retro-	Backward; Behind	Retroperitoneum
Sub-	Under	Subcutaneous layer
Super-	Above	Superior
Supra-	Above; Upon	Supraglottis

Sy-, Syl-, Sym-, Syn-, Sys-	Together	Syndrome
Trans-	Across; Through	Transdermal

Quantity Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE OF USE IN MEDICAL TERMS
Bi-	Two	Biceps
Brady-	Slow	Bradycardia
Diplo-	Double	Diploid
Hemi-	Half	Hemihypertrophy
Hetero-	Other; Different	Heterogeneous
Homo-	Same	Homozygous genotype
Hyper-	Above; Beyond; Excessive	Hypertension
Hypo-	Under; Deficient	Hypotension
Iso-	Equal; Like	Isointense
Macro-	Large; Long; Big	Macrophage
Mic-, Micro-	Small	Microglia
Mon-, Mono-	One	Monocyte
Olig/o-	Few; Little	Oliguria
Poly-	Many; Excessive	Polyuria
Quadri-	Four	Quadriceps
Semi-	Half	Semilunar valves
Tachy-	Fast	Tachycardia
Tetra-	Four	Tetralogy of Fallot
Tri-	Three	Triceps
Uni-	One	Unicellular

