

Medical terms

The charts providers use for making notes are often filled with this kind of medical terminology. You might even know some of them by a different name.

1. Abrasion: A cut or scrape that typically isn't serious.
2. Abscess: A tender, fluid-filled pocket that forms in tissue, usually due to infection.
3. Acute: Signifies a condition that begins abruptly and is sometimes severe, but the duration is short.
4. Benign: Not cancerous.
5. Biopsy: A small sample of tissue that's taken for testing.
6. Chronic: Signifies a recurring, persistent condition like heart disease.
7. Contusion: A bruise.
8. Defibrillator: A medical device that uses electric shocks to restore normal heartbeat.
9. Edema: Swelling caused by fluid accumulation.
10. Embolism: An arterial blockage, often caused by a blood clot.
11. Epidermis: The outer layer of the skin.
12. Fracture: Broken bone or cartilage.
13. Gland: An organ or tissue that produces and secretes fluids that serve a specific function.
14. Hypertension: High blood pressure.
15. Inpatient: A patient who requires hospitalization.
16. Intravenous: Indicates medication or fluid that's delivered by vein.
17. Malignant: Indicates the presence of cancerous cells.
18. Outpatient: A patient who receives care without being admitted to a hospital.
19. Prognosis: The predicated outcome of disease progression and treatment.
20. Relapse: Return of disease or symptoms after a patient has recovered.
21. Sutures: Stitches, which are used to join tissues together as they heal.
22. Transplant: The removal of an organ or tissue from one body that is

implanted into another.

23. Vaccine: A substance that stimulates antibody production to provide immunity against disease.

24. Zoonotic disease: A disease that is transmissible from animals to humans.

Medical prefixes and suffixes

Medical terminology follows the same structural rules all language does, including use of prefixes and suffixes. You may be familiar with some of these from words outside the realm of medicine.

25. A-, an-: Lack of or without.

26. -ation: Indicates a process.

27. Dys-: Abnormal, difficult, or painful.

28. -ectomy: Surgical removal of something.

29. -ismus: Indicates a spasm or contraction.

30. -itis: Signifies inflammation.

31. -lysis: Decomposition, destruction, or breaking down.

32. Macro-: Large in size.

33. Melan/o-: Black or dark in color.

34. Micro-: Small in size.

35. -ology: The study of a particular concentration.

36. -osis: Indicates something that is abnormal.

37. -otomy: To cut into.

38. -pathy: Disease or disease process.

39. -plasty: Surgical repair.

40. Poly-: Many.

41. Pseudo-: False or deceptive, usually in regard to appearance.

42. Retro-: Behind or backward.