



Prefixes	Root words	Suffixes
Anti - against	Bio - life	ectomy - removal of part of the body
Hyper - above	Card - heart	graphy - process of recording
Hypo - below	Derm - skin	ical - of, or pertaining to
Inter - between	Hemat - Blood	itis - inflammation
Intra - within	Gast - stomach	ology - study of/process of study
Non - not	Gynae - female	oma - swelling or tumour
Endo - in	Neur - nerve	osis - condition/disease process
Post - after	Onc - swelling/tumour	pathy - disease/disease process
Pre - before	Path - disease	plasty - repair
	Pulmo - lung	scopy - exam with instruments

<i>Additional prefixes</i>	<i>Additional root words</i>	<i>Additional suffixes</i>

Combining Vowels

Remember that vowels (a, e, i, o, u) are often used to join the various elements to help with pronunciation.

Example: **Neur** (root) **o** (combining vowel) **pathy** (suffix) = **Neuropathy**

Term	Description
Acute	Something of an abrupt onset.
Ambulatory	Someone that is able to walk.
Analgesia	Unable to feel pain.
Anatomy	The study of the structure of an organism.
Benign	Of a mild type or character that does not threaten health or life.
Biopsy	The removal and examination of tissue, cells, or fluids from the living body.
Chronic	Lasts a long time.
Diagnosis	The identification of the disease.
Fracture	A break in bone or cartilage.
Inflammation	A local response to cellular injury.
Inpatient (IP)	A hospital patient who receives treatment, lodging and food.
Intravenous (IV)	Something that goes into a vein
Laboratory	A place that is equipped to undertake tests and research.
Laceration	A deep cut or tear in the skin.
Lesion	An abnormal change in structure on or in the body, due to injury or disease.
Malignant	Something that tends to produce death or deterioration.
Outpatient (OP)	A patient who is not hospitalised overnight, but who visits a hospital, clinic or associated facility for diagnosis or treatment.
Remission	The partial or complete disappearance of the symptoms of a disease without having achieved a cure.
Prognosis	The forecast or prediction of the probable outcome of a disease.
Syndrome	A combination of signs and symptoms that characterise a condition.
Terminal	Ultimately leading to death.
Tumour	An abnormal new growth of tissue which may be benign or malignant.

Term	Description
Cardiology	Responsible for the provision of care to the heart.
Dermatology	Responsible for the provision of care to the skin.
Emergency department (ED)	Responsible for the provision of immediate care? This may also be referred to as Accident and Emergency (A&E).
Gynaecology	Responsible for the provision of care to the female reproductive system.
Maternity	Responsible for the provision of care to mothers.
Medical diagnostic imaging/radiology	Responsible for creating medical images of the human body.
Neonatal	Responsible for the provision of care to newborn children.
Neurology	Responsible for the provision of care of the nervous system.
Obstetrics	Responsible for the provision of care for pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum.
Oncology	Responsible for the provision of care to patients who have tumours.
Orthopaedics	Responsible for the provision of care to the skeletal system.
Paediatrics (Paeds)	Responsible for the provision of care to children.
Pathology	Responsible for interpreting and diagnosing biological samples.
Psychiatry	Responsible for the provision of care related to mental, emotional and behavioural disorders.
Renal dialysis	Responsible for the provision of care related to failed kidneys.
Surgical	Responsible for the provision of care following surgery.
Urology	Responsible for the provision of care related to the urinary system.

Additional departments



Abbreviation	Description
#	Fracture or number
Δ	Disease or diagnosis
A&E	Accident and emergency
BP	Blood pressure
Ca	Cancer
CCU	Coronary care unit
CPR	Cardio pulmonary resuscitation
CXR	Chest x-ray
DOB	Date of birth
ECG	Electrocardiograph
HDU	High dependency unit
ICU	Intensive care unit
IV	Intravenous
Mane	In the morning
MRI	Medical resonance imaging
MVA	Motor vehicle accident
NBM	Nil by mouth
NESB	Non-English speaking background
NFR	Not for resuscitation

Abbreviation	Description
NICU	Neonatal intensive care unit
NKA	No known allergies
Nocte	At night
NOK	Next of kin
O2	oxygen
OPT	Outpatient department
OR	Operating room
OT	Operating theatre
Ph & PHx	Past history
RIB	Rest in bed
RTW	Return to ward
STAT	Immediately
Tx	Treatment
Tx	Treatment

Additional abbreviations



Code	Definition	Description
Red	Fire and/or smoke	A code red is indicated by smoke or fire within a health care facility. If you identify a code red, it is important to remove people from immediate danger and activate any alarms. Where possible, close windows and doors (some health care facilities have Emergency doors which will automatically shut). You may have access to fire extinguishers, fire blankets and fire hoses. Only use these if it is safe to do so.
Orange	Evacuation	A code orange indicates that an evacuation is required. If it is safe to evacuate, you would do this by identifying emergency exits and then going to the designated area. It is important to evacuate as many people as possible. The most ambulant people are evacuated first, followed by those who are least able to assist. Always remember to thoroughly check each room. Many hospitals have a process in place which identifies which rooms have been checked and emptied. During this process, never use a lift and once you have exited the building, you should not re-enter until it is safe to do so.
Blue	Medical Emergency	A code blue usually represents a cardiac or respiratory arrest. The person has stopped breathing and needs CPR.
Black	Personal Threat	A code black is usually called when a code grey escalates and the person is issuing a personal threat. Try to remain calm. Do not implement any physical restraint and await help.
Purple	Bomb Threat	A code purple could occur by phone, in person or it may be a suspicious package. If this threat occurs, try to remain calm and talk to the person in a sympathetic manner. If it is a package, do not touch it. Many health care facilities have a bomb threat checklist which staff will follow if presented with this situation.
Grey	Aggressive Behaviour	A code grey is called if someone in the workplace becomes aggressive, violent, abusive or is using threatening behaviour. In this situation, try to remain calm. Listen to the person and provide reassurance, where possible, until help arrives.
Yellow	Internal Emergency	A code yellow indicates internal emergencies. This code enables health facilities to plan, prepare and respond. Examples of internal emergencies include: loss of essential services (such as phones or power), chemical spills and gas leaks. In this instance, safety may be compromised and action required to overcome any problems. There may be changes in how the health care service can deliver care.

Code	Definition	Description
Brown	External Emergency	A code brown indicates external emergencies. This code is called to enable health facilities to plan, prepare and respond – as there may be more demand on current resources. Examples of external emergencies include: a building collapse, flu outbreak and train derailment.
Pink	Labour or Delivery	A code pink indicates an emergency labour or delivery of a baby. Note: This code is only used in some organisations
MET (Medical Emergency Team)	Deteriorating patient	A medical emergency team (MET) call is a hospital-based system that is used by a health professional when a patient is deteriorating and requires rapid response from the health care team and a medical review. Most hospitals have criteria requirement for MET calls. If the patients' results align with these criteria, a MET is called.

Sign colour	Definition	Description
Blue	Mandatory action	Follow the specific action that is outlined.
Green	Positive action	'Go' outlines the safe way.
Red	Prohibition	Stop and don't 'do'.

Shapes on signs	Description
▲ Triangle	Warning
■ Square and rectangle	Emergency and information

Signage	Definition	Description
	Automated external defibrillator (AED)	This sign indicates that an automated external defibrillator (AED) is nearby. An AED is a portable device that diagnoses life-threatening cardiac rhythms and treats them through the delivery of an electric shock.
	Biohazard	This sign warns of waste that contains any infectious material. For example: blood. Note that while sharps are a biohazard, there is a specific biohazard bin that needs to be used.
	Cytotoxic waste	This sign indicates that the waste that contains cytotoxic biomedical waste.
	Emergency phone	This sign indicates where a phone is located. This assists in emergency situations.
	Evacuation	This sign indicates that this is the direction in which people should evacuate in the case of an emergency.
	Fire extinguisher	This sign indicates where a fire extinguisher is located. Remember that different extinguishers are used for different types of fires.



Signage	Definition	Description
	First aid	This sign indicates that first aid assistance is nearby.
	No food or drink	This sign indicates that food and drink are not permitted in the area.
	No mobiles	This sign indicates that mobile phones are not permitted in the area.
	Radiation	This sign warns of the presence of radioactivity. This is often seen in diagnostic imaging/radiology.
	Slippery surface	This sign warns of a potential slips or fall.
	No smoking	This sign indicates that smoking is not permitted in the area.
	Warning	This sign warns of a potential hazard. An example of when this sign may be used is with COVID19 – it is displayed in any area which is deemed as a potential risk.
	Wash hands	This sign indicates that you must wash your hands.
	Wear a mask	This sign indicates that a mask must be worn in that area.