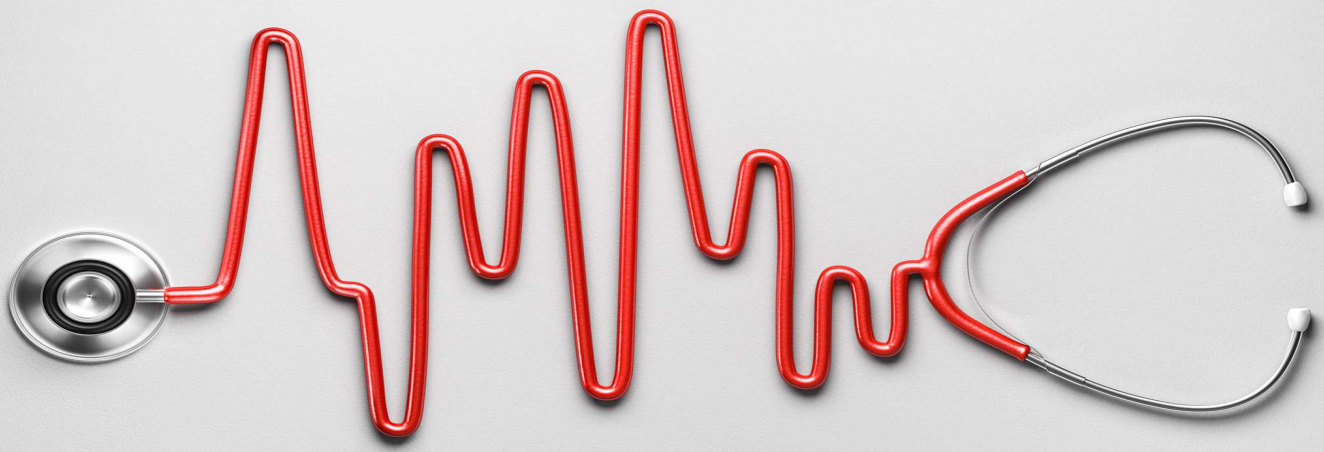




Lesson Plan 1: Medical Terminology

Decoding Medical Terms Using Word Parts

Subject: Medical Terminology / Health Science

Grade Level: 10–12

Delivery Format: Synchronous—virtual

Lesson Duration: 60 minutes

Instructional Approach: Direct instruction, guided practice, collaborative learning, and formative assessment

Lesson Overview

Students learn how medical terms are constructed from prefixes, word roots, combining vowels, and suffixes. They apply a structured process to decode unfamiliar medical terms and determine their meanings.

Essential Question

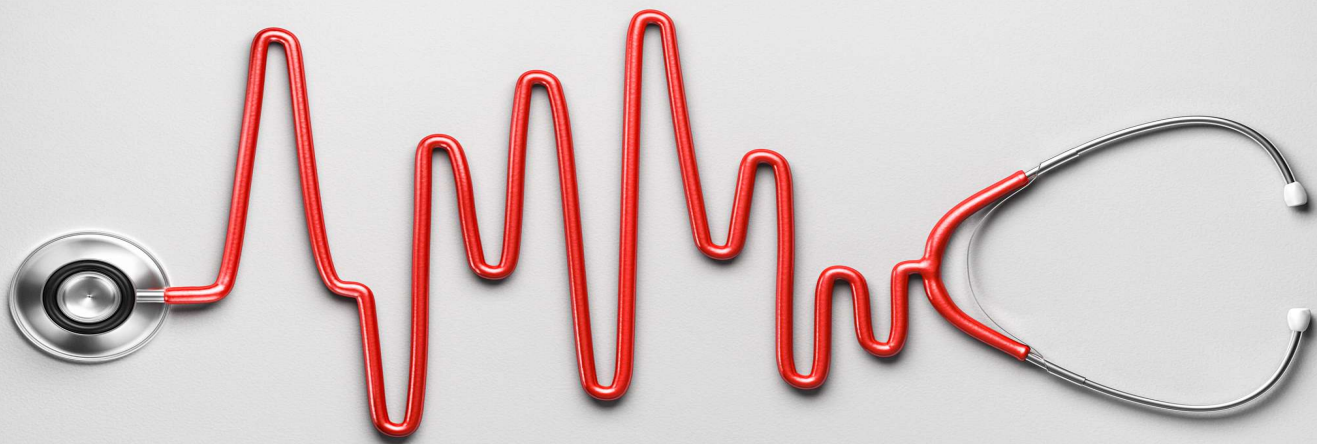
How can healthcare professionals determine the meaning of an unfamiliar medical term?

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the prefix, word root, combining vowel, and suffix in a medical term.
- Explain the function of each medical word part.
- Decode unfamiliar medical terms using a step-by-step process.
- Construct medically accurate terms from definitions.
- Achieve at least 80% accuracy on the lesson exit assessment.

Standards Alignment



The lesson supports secondary Health Science and Career and Technical Education competencies related to:

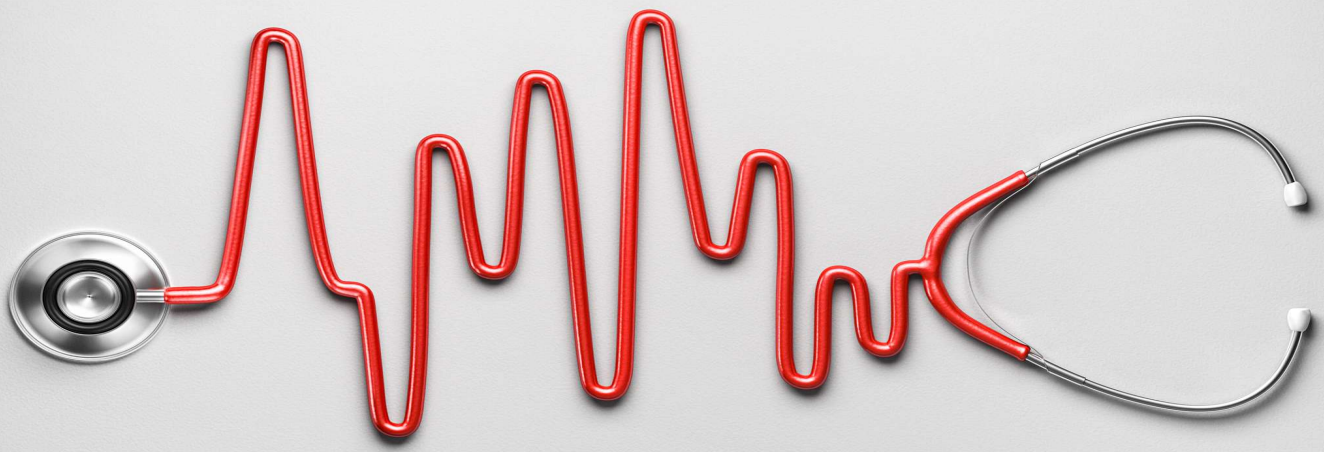
- Using appropriate medical terminology.
- Interpreting abbreviations, symbols, and healthcare vocabulary.
- Communicating accurately in healthcare settings.
- Applying academic knowledge to health science contexts.
- Demonstrating attention to accuracy and patient safety.

Materials and Technology

- Presentation slides
- Medical terminology word-part chart
- Digital or printed student worksheet
- Virtual whiteboard or classroom board
- Polling tool or student-response cards
- Breakout rooms for virtual instruction
- Exit ticket
- Optional digital flashcards

Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Prefix	A word part placed at the beginning of a term
Word root	The core word part that contains the primary meaning
Combining vowel	A vowel, usually “o,” that connects word parts
Combining form	A word root combined with a combining vowel
Suffix	A word part placed at the end of a term
Decode	To determine the meaning of a medical term
Construct	To build a medical term from word parts



Prior Knowledge

Students should have a basic understanding of body systems and common anatomical structures. No previous formal study of medical terminology is required.

Lesson Sequence

1. Opening and Engagement — 5 minutes

Display the following term:

Gastroenteritis

Ask students:

- Have you seen this word before?
- What do you think it means?
- What clues within the word might help determine its meaning?

*Students submit responses verbally, through chat, or using a digital poll.

Explain that healthcare professionals do not memorize every medical term. Instead, they learn how to break terms into meaningful parts.

2. Introduce the Medical-Term Formula — 10 minutes

Present the basic structure:

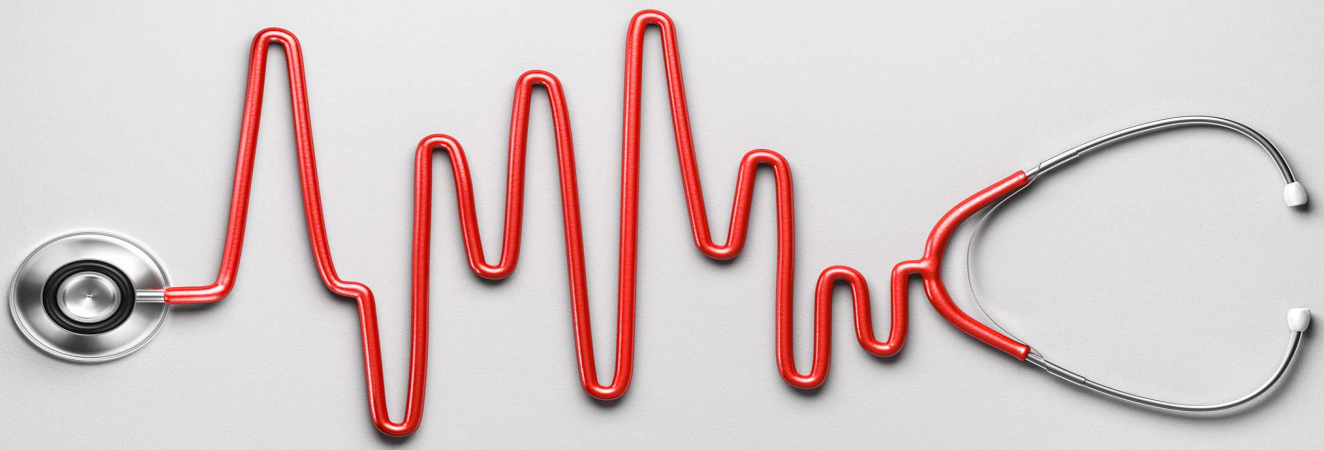
- Prefix + word root + suffix

Explain that not every medical term contains all three components.

Use the example:

Tachycardia

- tachy- = fast
- cardi = heart



- -ia = condition
- Meaning: a condition involving an abnormally rapid heartbeat

Review the purpose of each word part:

- The suffix usually indicates a condition, procedure, disease, or specialty.
- The word root identifies the body part or central concept.
- The prefix modifies the meaning by identifying location, time, number, or status.
- A combining vowel connects word parts and improves pronunciation.

3. Teacher Modeling — 10 minutes

Model the recommended decoding process.

Step 1: Identify and define the suffix

Step 2: Identify and define the prefix

Step 3: Identify the word root or combining form

Step 4: Combine the meanings into a clear definition

Model the process with the following terms:

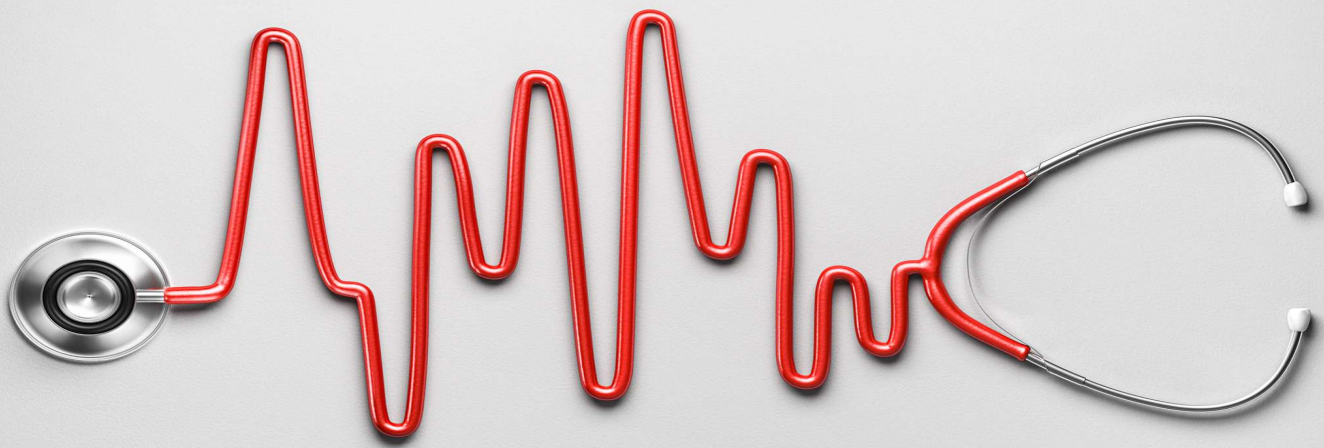
Hypoglycemia

- -emia = blood condition
- hypo- = below normal
- glyc = sugar or glucose
- Meaning: a condition of below-normal glucose in the blood

Arthroscopy

- -scopy = visual examination
- arthr/o = joint
- Meaning: visual examination of a joint

Nephrectomy



- -ectomy = surgical removal
- nephr = kidney
- Meaning: surgical removal of a kidney

Emphasize that students should define the suffix first, even though it appears at the end of the word.

4. Guided Practice — 10 minutes

Work through the following terms as a class:

- Bradycardia
- Dermatitis
- Neurology
- Hematology
- Intravenous

Ask students to identify each word part before defining the complete term.

Suggested answers:

Medical Term	Word Parts	Meaning
Bradycardia	brady + cardi + ia	Condition involving a slow heart rate
Dermatitis	dermat + itis	Inflammation of the skin
Neurology	neur + o + logy	Study of the nervous system
Hematology	hemat + o + logy	Study of blood
Intravenous	intra + ven + ous	Pertaining to within a vein

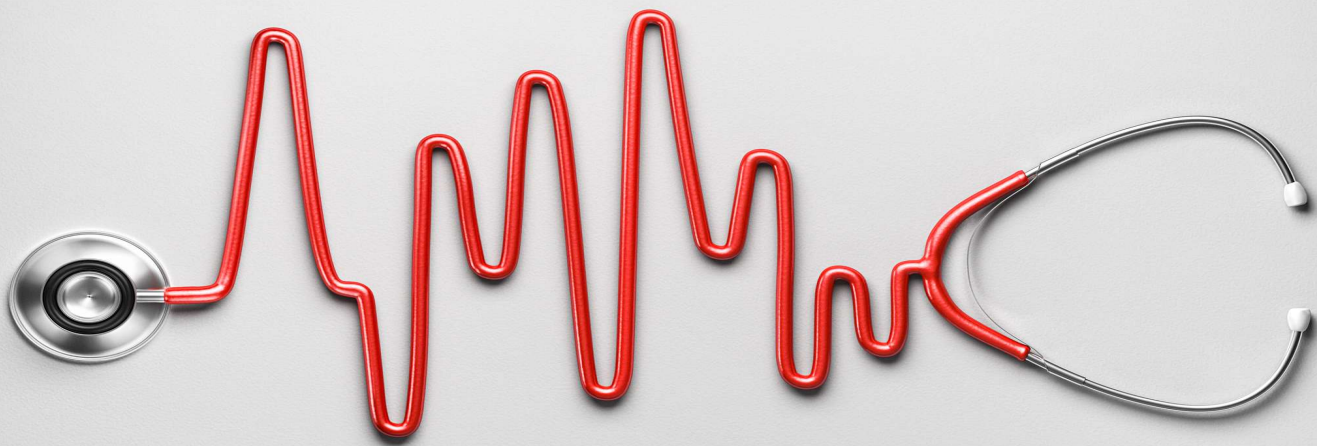
Correct misunderstandings immediately and reinforce accurate pronunciation.

5. Collaborative Application — 15 minutes

Place students in pairs or groups of three. In a virtual classroom, use breakout rooms.

Assign each group four medical terms:

- Cardiomegaly
- Hyperglycemia



- Osteoarthritis
- Rhinoplasty
- Hepatitis
- Subcutaneous
- Gastrectomy
- Electrocardiogram

Each group must:

- Divide each term into word parts.
- Define each word part.
- Write the complete meaning.
- Select one term to explain to the class.
- Use the term correctly in a healthcare-related sentence.

Example:

The patient's electrocardiogram was reviewed to evaluate the electrical activity of the heart.

During group work, circulate among students, answer questions, and provide corrective feedback.

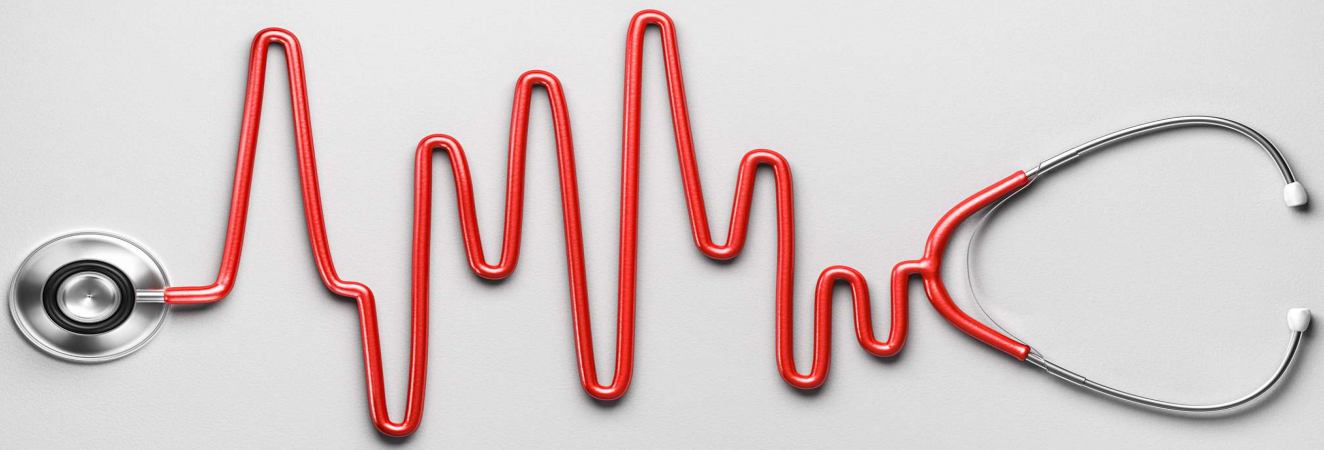
6. Independent Practice — 5 minutes

Students independently construct the appropriate medical term for each definition:

- Inflammation of the liver
- Surgical removal of the stomach
- Study of the nervous system
- Condition of an enlarged heart
- Pertaining to under the skin

Answers:

- Hepatitis



- Gastrectomy
- Neurology
- Cardiomegaly
- Subcutaneous

7. Closure and Exit Ticket — 5 minutes

Students complete a five-question exit ticket:

- What is the primary purpose of a word root?
- Which word part should generally be defined first?
- Break hypotension into its word parts.
- What does -itis mean?
- Decode nephrology.

Suggested answers:

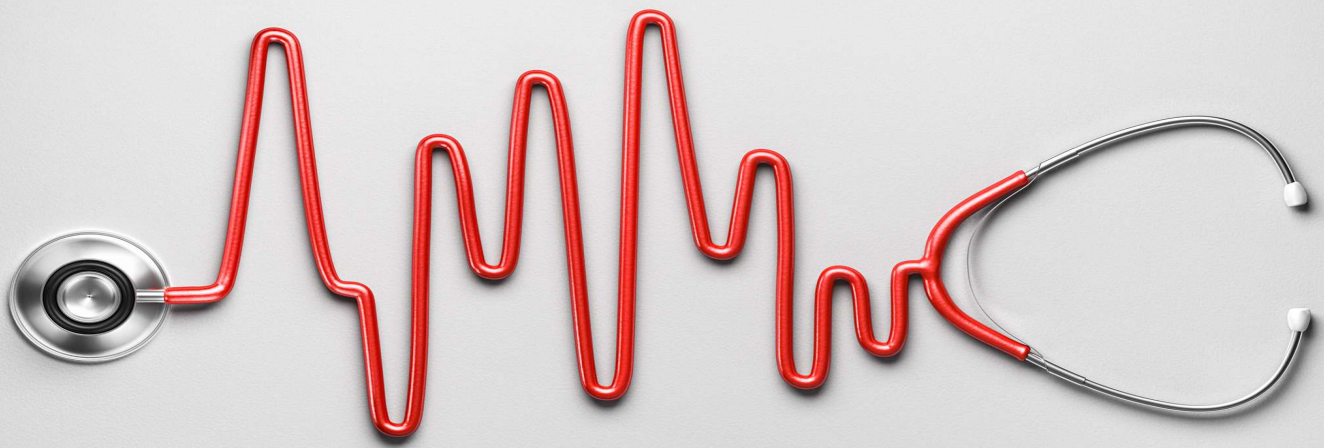
- It provides the central meaning or identifies the body part.
- The suffix.
- hypo + tens + ion
- Inflammation.
- Study of the kidneys.

Students complete the five-question exit ticket and must earn at least 80% accuracy.

Differentiation and IEP Support

Students may receive:

- A color-coded word-part chart.
- Written and verbal directions.
- Extended processing time.
- Reduced numbers of practice terms.
- Audio pronunciation support.
- Closed-captioned instruction.



- Guided notes with partially completed examples.
- Vocabulary cards containing images and definitions.
- Opportunities to respond through speech, chat, or writing.
- Strategic pairing with a supportive peer.
- Private teacher check-ins.
- Repeated or rephrased instructions.
- Advanced-Learner Extension

Students create three original medical terms using approved word parts and explain whether each term is commonly used in healthcare.

Homework or Extension Activity

Students create a digital or paper “medical terminology patient chart” containing ten medical terms from the lesson. For each term, they must include:

- The complete term
- The word parts
- The definition
- A healthcare-related sentence
- An illustration or symbol