

## Medical Terminology Prefixes, Suffixes, and Root Words

\*This information will help to familiarize you with terms that may be used throughout the course, as well as your time as a pharmacy technician. This list is not exhaustive.\*

### Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
<b>a-, an-</b>	without, not, no	atypical
<b>ante-</b>	before	antepartum
<b>anti-</b>	against	antibiotic
<b>auto-</b>	self	autonomic
<b>bi-</b>	two	bilateral
<b>bio-</b>	life	biology
<b>brady-</b>	slow	bradycardia
<b>circum-</b>	around	circumference
<b>cirrh-</b>	orange-yellow	cirrhosis
<b>contra-</b>	against	contraindicated
<b>cyan-</b>	blue	cyanosis
<b>dia-</b>	completely	dialysis
<b>dys-</b>	bad, painful, abnormal	dysphagia
<b>endo-</b>	within, inner	endoscopy
<b>epi-</b>	above	epigastric
<b>eryth-</b>	red	erythrocyte
<b>eu-</b>	good, normal	euthermic
<b>extra-</b>	outside	extracellular
<b>hemi-</b>	half	hemiplegic
<b>hyper-</b>	over, above	hypertension
<b>hypo-</b>	below, under	hypotension
<b>immun-</b>	pertaining to immunity	immunology
<b>inter-</b>	between, among	intercellular
<b>intra-</b>	within, inside	intracellular
<b>iso-</b>	equal	isotonic
<b>leuk-</b>	white	leukocyte
<b>macro-</b>	large	macrophage
<b>mal-</b>	poor	malnutrition
<b>melan-</b>	black	melanoma
<b>micro-</b>	small	microscopic
<b>pan-</b>	all	pancytopenia

<b>per-</b>	through	percutaneous
<b>peri-</b>	around	pericardium
<b>poly-</b>	many, excessive	polydipsia
<b>post-</b>	after	postpartum
<b>pre-</b>	before	preoperative
<b>quadri-</b>	four	quadriplegic
<b>sub-</b>	below, under	subtherapeutic
<b>sym-, syn-</b>	together	symbiotic

### Root Words

Root Word	Meaning	Example
<b>acous/o</b>	hearing	acoustic
<b>aden/o</b>	gland	adenocarcinoma
<b>adip/o</b>	fat	adipose
<b>alb</b>	white	albino
<b>ambul/o</b>	walk	ambulatory
<b>andr/o</b>	male	androgen
<b>angi/o</b>	vessel	angioedema
<b>arthr/o</b>	joint	arthralgia
<b>bucc/o</b>	cheek	buccal
<b>carcin/o</b>	cancer	carcinoma
<b>cardi</b>	heart	cardiovascular
<b>cereb</b>	brain	cerebrum
<b>chem/o</b>	chemistry	chemotherapy
<b>cyan</b>	blue	cyanosis
<b>cyst/o</b>	bladder	cystitis
<b>cyt/o</b>	cell	cytoplasm
<b>derm/a</b>	skin	dermatology
<b>duoden/o</b>	duodenum, first part of small intestine	duodenal
<b>enter/o</b>	intestine	enterohepatic
<b>erythr/o</b>	red	erythrocyte
<b>esophag/o</b>	esophagus	esophageal
<b>fibr/o</b>	fiber	fibromyalgia
<b>gastr/o</b>	stomach	gastrointestinal

<b>gluc/o</b>	sugar	glucose
<b>glyc/o</b>	sugar	glycemic
<b>gynec/o</b>	woman	gynecology
<b>hemat/o</b>	blood	hematology
<b>hem/o</b>	blood	hemophilia
<b>hepat/o</b>	liver	hepatitis
<b>hist/o</b>	body tissues	histology
<b>hyster/o</b>	uterus	hysterectomy
<b>lact/o</b>	milk	lactation
<b>lapar/o</b>	abdomen	laparoscopic
<b>leuk/o</b>	white	leukocyte
<b>lipid</b>	fat	hyperlipidemia
<b>lymph/o</b>	lymph	lymphadenopathy
<b>mamm/o</b>	breast tissue	mammogram
<b>melan/o</b>	dark, black	melanin
<b>myel/o</b>	muscle	myeloma
<b>my/o</b>	muscle	myocardia
<b>nas/o</b>	nose	nasal
<b>necr/o</b>	dead	necrosis
<b>nephr/o</b>	kidney	nephrotic
<b>neur/o</b>	nerve	neurology
<b>ocul/o</b>	eye	ocular
<b>ophthalm/o</b>	eye	ophthalmic
<b>oste/o</b>	bone	osteoporosis
<b>ot/o</b>	ear	ototoxicity
<b>ox, oxy</b>	oxygen	hypoxic
<b>pancreat/o</b>	pancreas	pancreatic
<b>pelv/o</b>	pelvis	pelvic
<b>phleb/o</b>	vein	phlebotomy
<b>pneum/o</b>	lungs	pneumonia
<b>prostat/o</b>	prostate	prostatic
<b>psych/o</b>	mind	antipsychotic
<b>pulm/o</b>	lungs	pulmonology
<b>ren/o</b>	kidney	renal
<b>retin/o</b>	retina	retinal
<b>rhin/o</b>	nose	rhinoplasty
<b>thromb/o</b>	blood clot	thrombosis
<b>tox/o</b>	poisonous	cytotoxic
<b>urethr/o</b>	urethra	urethral
<b>ven/o</b>	vein	venous
<b>vas, vascul/o</b>	blood vessel	vasculature

<b>vesic, vesicul/o</b>	vesicle, bladder	vesicular
<b>uter/o</b>	uterus	uterine
<b>proct/o</b>	rectum	proctology

### Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
<b>-ac</b>	pertaining to	cardiac
<b>-al</b>	pertaining to	surgical
<b>-algia</b>	pain	arthralgia
<b>-ar, -ary</b>	pertaining to	coronary
<b>-ase</b>	enzyme	lactase
<b>-logy</b>	study of	biology
<b>-dipsia</b>	thirst	polydipsia
<b>-graphy, -graph</b>	instrument for recording	radiograph
<b>-gram</b>	record	electrocardiogram
<b>-genic</b>	producing	hallucinogenic
<b>-pathy</b>	disease	homeopathy
<b>-itis</b>	inflammation of	tonsillitis
<b>-osis</b>	condition	osteoporosis
<b>-rrhage</b>	excessive flow	hemorrhage
<b>-oid</b>	resembling, like	hemorrhoid
<b>-ectomy</b>	surgical removal	tonsillectomy
<b>-stasis</b>	control	hemostasis
<b>-logist</b>	specialist	pathologist
<b>-scopy</b>	viewing of	endoscopy
<b>-rrhea</b>	flowing discharge	diarrhea
<b>-scope</b>	instrument	otoscope
<b>-sclerosis</b>	hardening	atherosclerosis
<b>-spasm</b>	twitching, involuntary contraction	bronchospasm
<b>-oma</b>	tumor	carcinoma
<b>-cyte</b>	cell	osteocyte
<b>-ic</b>	pertaining to	nephrotic
<b>-emia</b>	blood condition	anemia
<b>-plasty</b>	surgical repair	rhinoplasty

<b>-uria</b>	urine	hematuria
<b>-iatry</b>	treatment	podiatry
<b>-lepsy</b>	seizure	epilepsy
<b>-lysis</b>	breaking down	hemolysis
<b>-lytic</b>	destroy	osteolytic
<b>-megaly</b>	enlarged	splenomegaly
<b>-meter</b>	measuring instrument	thermometer
<b>-penia</b>	decreased number	neutropenia
<b>-phagia</b>	eating, swallowing	dysphagia
<b>-philia</b>	attraction to	hemophilia
<b>-phobia</b>	fear of	arachnophobia
<b>-plegia</b>	paralysis, stroke	paraplegia
<b>-stenosis</b>	narrowing	arteriostenosis
<b>-stomy</b>	artificial opening	colostomy
<b>-toxic</b>	poison	cytotoxic
<b>-trophy</b>	nourishment, development	atrophy
<b>-ule, -ula</b>	small	papule