CDIL HEALTH SCIENCES PROFESSIONAL TEXTBOOK SERIES

VOLUME 4D-1

The CDIL Master Medical Language Reference

A-H

A Rx Δ Q BP

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PLATINUM REVISION MASTER
PUBLICATION AUDIT IN PROGRESS

C. Douglas Institute of Learning
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CDIL HEALTH SCIENCES
PROFESSIONAL TEXTBOOK SERIES

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MASTERING THE LANGUAGE OF HEALTHCARE

THE CDIL MASTER MEDICAL LANGUAGE REFERENCE

A–H

Medical Terms and Word Elements A–H

Dictionary • Encyclopedia • Thesaurus • Pronunciation • Word Families • Clinical Context

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The CDIL Master Medical Language Reference A-H

PLATINUM COMPLETION CANDIDATE

This coordinated reference edition preserves the controlled medical-language entries and adds a final learning-resource section for retrieval, word construction, clinical translation, contrast recognition, documentation, assessment, and answer guidance.

Pronunciation is included only when verified in the controlled source. Learners should not infer pronunciation from spelling alone; institutional or specialty usage should be checked when uncertainty matters.

Medical terminology supports communication but does not independently establish a diagnosis, treatment plan, scope of practice, or legal authority. Meaning must remain anchored to context, source, certainty, laterality, timing, and professional responsibility.

Prepared for final CDIL freeze approval as part of the coordinated 4D reference set.

PLATINUM REFERENCE STANDARD

Recognize -> Decode -> Contextualize -> Distinguish -> Translate

Document -> Verify -> Retrieve -> Reuse

Accuracy before speed. Context before assumption.

A

129 entries

-algia

pain — arthralgia

5-alpha-reductase inhibitor

drug class that blocks conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone; used in conditions such as benign prostatic hyperplasia and androgenic hair loss.

a-, an-

without, absence of — apnea, avascular

ab-

away from — abduction

abdomen

region of the trunk between thorax and pelvis.

abdominal pain

pain or discomfort located in the abdomen; a symptom with many possible gastrointestinal, urinary, reproductive, vascular, metabolic, or other causes.

abdominal ultrasound

ultrasound examination used to evaluate abdominal organs and structures.

ABDUCTION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. movement away from the body midline.

Clinical use. “The report refers to the abduction in describing the anatomic location.”

Clinical caution. Anatomical terminology identifies structure or location; clinical meaning depends on the full sentence and context.

Memory association. Memory association: AB = away; move the limb away from the midline.

abnormal bleeding

bleeding that differs from expected amount, timing, site, or pattern and may require clinical evaluation.

abnormal uterine bleeding

uterine bleeding that differs from expected menstrual frequency, regularity, duration, or volume and requires evaluation of possible causes.

abrasion

superficial scraping injury.

abruption

premature separation of a structure; in obstetrics, placental abruption means premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall.

abscess

localized collection of pus within tissue, usually associated with infection and inflammation.

ACE inhibitor

angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; drug class that reduces formation of angiotensin II and is used in conditions such as hypertension and heart failure.

acous/o

hearing/sound

acromegaly

disorder caused by excess growth hormone after epiphyseal closure, producing enlargement of hands, feet, facial features, and internal organs.

ACTH

Adrenocorticotropic hormone: a pituitary hormone that stimulates cortisol production by the adrenal cortex. Read the initials A-C-T-H. Interpret testing with the applicable clinical and laboratory context. [S07]

ACUTE

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. having a rapid onset or short course.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term acute in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. severe

acute care

healthcare focused on short-term severe illness or injury.

acute kidney injury

sudden decline in kidney function over hours to days, identified by clinical criteria involving creatinine and/or urine output.

acute respiratory distress syndrome

severe acute inflammatory lung injury causing impaired oxygenation and noncardiogenic pulmonary edema.

ad-

toward — adduction

adduction

movement toward the body midline.

aden/o

gland

adren/o, adrenal/o

adrenal

relating to the adrenal glands located above the kidneys.

adrenal

relating to the adrenal glands located above the kidneys.

adrenal insufficiency

condition in which the adrenal cortex does not produce adequate amounts of cortisol, with or without deficiency of other adrenal hormones.

ADVERSE EFFECT

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. undesired harmful effect associated with a treatment or medication.

Clinical use. "The clinical record uses the term adverse effect in context."

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. side effect

afebrile

without fever.

age-related macular degeneration

degenerative disease of the macula that can impair central vision, usually in older adults.

agitation

state of increased motor activity, restlessness, or emotional distress that may have medical, neurologic, psychiatric, medication-related, or environmental causes.

AIDS

spoken as a word

allerg/o

allergy

allergen testing

testing used to evaluate sensitization to suspected allergens, commonly through skin testing or measurement of specific antibodies.

allergic rhinitis

inflammation of the nasal mucosa caused by an allergic response, commonly producing sneezing, itching, congestion, and rhinorrhea.

ALLERGY

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. immune-mediated hypersensitivity; often used in records to denote reported medication/other hypersensitivity.

Clinical use. "The clinical record uses the term allergy in context."

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. intolerance

alopecia

partial or complete hair loss from areas where hair normally grows; causes include genetic, autoimmune, hormonal, inflammatory, medication-related, and other processes.

alpha blocker

drug class that blocks alpha-adrenergic receptors; used in conditions such as hypertension or benign prostatic hyperplasia depending on the agent.

altered mental status

broad clinical term describing a change from baseline in awareness, cognition, behavior, attention, or level of consciousness.

alveol/o

alveolus

Alzheimer disease

progressive neurodegenerative disorder and common cause of dementia, characterized by decline in memory and other cognitive functions.

ambulatory

able to walk; also relating to outpatient care.

amenorrhea

absence of menstrual periods beyond the expected interval for age or reproductive status.

amni/o

amnion/amniotic fluid

amniotomy

intentional rupture of the amniotic membranes, typically performed during labor for selected clinical indications.

amylase/lipase

digestive enzymes measured in blood; lipase is commonly used in evaluation of suspected pancreatic injury or inflammation.

ANA testing

antinuclear antibody testing used as part of the evaluation for certain autoimmune disorders; a positive result is not diagnostic by itself.

analgesic

agent used to relieve pain.

anaphylaxis

severe systemic hypersensitivity reaction that can be life-threatening.

andr/o

male

anechoic

no internal echoes; often appears dark.

ANEMIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. condition involving reduced oxygen-carrying capacity of blood, commonly associated with low hemoglobin.

Word anatomy. an- = without/absence + -emia = blood condition

Clinical use. “The clinician documented anemia after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

aneurysm

localized abnormal dilation or bulging of a blood vessel or cardiac wall caused by weakening of the wall.

angi/o

vessel

angina

a clinical syndrome of chest discomfort related to myocardial ischemia in appropriate contexts

angioedema

rapid swelling of deeper skin or mucosal tissues, often involving the face, lips, tongue, or airway and caused by allergic or bradykinin-mediated mechanisms.

angiography

imaging of vessels using a contrast-based technique

angioplasty

procedure to repair/widen a blood vessel, commonly using a balloon and sometimes a stent.

angiotensin receptor blocker

drug class that blocks angiotensin II receptors and is used in conditions such as hypertension, heart failure, and kidney protection in selected patients.

anhedonia

reduced ability to experience pleasure or interest in activities that were previously enjoyable.

ante-

before — antepartum

Prefix/Suffix

antenatal corticosteroid in selected cases

corticosteroid therapy given before anticipated preterm birth in selected pregnancies to accelerate fetal organ, especially lung, maturation.

ANTERIOR

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. toward the front of the body.

Clinical use. “The report refers to the anterior in describing the anatomic location.”

Clinical caution. Anatomical terminology identifies structure or location; clinical meaning depends on the full sentence and context.

anti-

against — anticoagulant

anti-inflammatory eye drop

ophthalmic medication used to reduce ocular inflammation; the specific drug may be a corticosteroid or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agent.

antibacterial agent

substance or medication that kills bacteria or inhibits their growth.

antibiotic

agent used to treat infections caused by susceptible bacteria; term use varies by class.

antibiotic eye drop

ophthalmic antimicrobial preparation used to treat or prevent selected bacterial eye infections.

antibody

immunoglobulin produced in response to antigen.

ANTICOAGULANT

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. agent that reduces blood coagulation.

Clinical use. “Anticoagulant was included in the treatment plan.”

Clinical caution. The treatment name does not by itself identify the indication, dose, route, response, or appropriateness for a specific patient.

Do not confuse with. antiplatelet

antidepressant

medication used primarily to treat depressive disorders and also several anxiety, pain, and other conditions depending on the drug class.

antidiarrheal
: medication used to reduce diarrhea or related symptoms; choice depends on cause and patient context.

antiemetic
: agent used to prevent or control nausea and vomiting.

antiemetic/supportive medication
: medication used to prevent or treat nausea and vomiting or otherwise support symptom control during illness or treatment.

antifungal
: medication used to treat fungal infections.

antigen
: substance recognized by the immune system.

antigen testing
: testing designed to detect specific antigens from an organism or other target in a patient specimen.

antigen/o
: antigen

antihistamine
: drug that blocks histamine receptors and is commonly used to treat allergic symptoms; effects vary by drug and receptor type.

antihypertensive
: agent used to lower elevated blood pressure.

antimicrobial
: agent that kills or inhibits microorganisms, including antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic agents.

antimicrobial prophylaxis
: use of an antimicrobial agent to prevent infection in a defined high-risk situation rather than to treat an established infection.

antiparasitic
: medication used to treat infection caused by parasites.

antiplatelet agent
: medication that reduces platelet activation or aggregation and thereby decreases formation of platelet-rich clots.

antipsychotic
: medication used to treat psychotic symptoms and selected mood, behavioral, or other psychiatric conditions.

antipyretic
: agent used to reduce fever.

antiretroviral therapy
: combination drug treatment that suppresses replication of HIV and is used for long-term management of HIV infection.

antiseizure medication

medication used to prevent or reduce seizures; some agents are also used for other neurologic or psychiatric indications.

antithyroid medication

drug that reduces thyroid hormone production or release and is used to treat selected forms of hyperthyroidism.

antiviral

medication that inhibits replication of a virus or otherwise treats a viral infection.

anuria

absence or extremely low production of urine in clinical usage, although exact definitions may depend on context

anxiety

not automatically an anxiety disorder

anxiolytic

medication used to reduce anxiety symptoms.

aphasia

acquired impairment of language production, comprehension, reading, or writing caused by brain dysfunction.

apheresis

procedure in which blood is removed, a selected component is separated and removed or collected, and the remaining blood is returned to the patient or donor.

APNEA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. absence of breathing.

Clinical use. “Apnea was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

appendectomy

surgical removal of the appendix.

appendicitis

inflammation of the appendix.

aPTT

activated partial thromboplastin time; laboratory test used to assess portions of the intrinsic and common coagulation pathways and to monitor selected anticoagulant therapies.

ARRHYTHMIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. abnormal cardiac rhythm.

Clinical use. “The clinician documented arrhythmia after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

arteri/o

artery

arterial

relating to an artery.

arterial blood gas

blood test, usually from an artery, measuring pH, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and related acid-base variables.

ARTERY

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. blood vessel carrying blood away from the heart.

Clinical use. “The report refers to the artery in describing the anatomic location.”

Clinical caution. Anatomical terminology identifies structure or location; clinical meaning depends on the full sentence and context.

Memory association. Memory association: A = Away. Arteries carry blood away from the heart. This is a memory aid, not the word's etymology.

arthr/o

joint

arthralgia

pain in a joint without necessarily implying joint inflammation.

arthritis

inflammation of one or more joints.

arthrocentesis

puncture of a joint space, usually to remove synovial fluid for diagnosis or treatment.

arthropathy

joint disease.

arthroplasty

surgical reconstruction or replacement of a joint.

arthroscopy

endoscopic examination/intervention within a joint.

aseptic

designed to prevent contamination by harmful microorganisms.

ASPIRATION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. drawing in/removal by suction or entry of material into the airway, depending on context.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term aspiration in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

assessment

systematic collection and evaluation of information.

asthma

chronic inflammatory airway disorder characterized by variable airflow obstruction, bronchial hyperresponsiveness, and episodes of wheeze, cough, or dyspnea.

astigmatism

refractive error caused by unequal curvature or optical power of the cornea or lens, producing blurred or distorted vision.

ataxia

impaired coordination of voluntary movement, which may affect gait, limbs, speech, or eye movements depending on cause.

ataxic

showing impaired coordination of voluntary movement or gait; the term describes a finding and does not by itself identify the cause.

ather/o

fatty plaque

atherosclerosis

chronic arterial disease characterized by lipid-rich plaque formation within artery walls, causing narrowing, stiffness, and risk of thrombosis.

audi/o

hearing

audiometry

measurement of hearing sensitivity across frequencies and sound intensities.

aur/o, auricul/o

ear/auricle

aural fullness

sensation of pressure, blockage, or fullness in the ear.

auscultation

listening to internal body sounds, typically with a stethoscope.

Visual guide A13 · p57

auscultatory

relating to auscultation.

auto-

self

autoimmune

relating to an immune response directed against the body own cells, tissues, or molecules.

autoimmune disease

a condition in which the immune system attacks the body's own tissues

Disorder | Lymphatic/Immune | See also: immun/o, immunosuppressant, immunodeficiency

Reference clinic: ACTH, abbreviations and biological relationships

Applied teaching • V4D1-N01

Expand the name before explaining the relationship

Adrenocorticotropic hormone is abbreviated ACTH. It is produced by the pituitary and stimulates the adrenal cortex to produce cortisol. The name, source, target and effect answer four different questions. An entry that says only “pituitary in origin but stimulates the adrenal cortex” has left the reader without the expanded name and without the specific relationship to cortisol. The corrected entry supports recognition and understanding. [S07]

For a beginner, the difficult point is often the difference between the organ that releases a hormone and the organ that responds to it. A referral mentioning an ACTH test is not simply another name for measuring the adrenal gland. The result is one observation within a physiological and clinical question. It cannot be interpreted solely by matching the letters to an organ. The local laboratory method, associated measurements and the responsible clinician’s question remain relevant.

A practical exercise uses four cards labelled “name,” “source,” “target” and “effect.” Place ACTH, pituitary, adrenal cortex and cortisol production in the corresponding positions. Then remove the cards and ask the learner to describe the relationship aloud without replacing any of the four categories with another. This original teaching exercise reveals whether the learner has memorized a phrase or understood its structure; it is not a diagnostic test.

An initialism is not a small anatomical word

Some abbreviated names are communicated by their individual letters. The spelling ACTH should remain visible when the name is introduced. A computer-generated sound pattern must not be treated as authoritative merely because it uses phonetic symbols. This revision withdraws the legacy automated transcriptions pending independent phonetic review. That does not establish that every transcription was wrong; it establishes that an unverified field should not be presented as verified teaching.

A learner can write the full name followed by the abbreviation and confirm unfamiliar pronunciation using an authoritative audio or professional source. Different accents need not imply different clinical concepts. The safety requirement is that the listener can identify the intended term and that an unfamiliar sound is not allowed to conceal an unfamiliar meaning.

The same letters may answer different questions

When an abbreviation appears in a record, the reader should consider document type, specialty and surrounding sentence. A local abbreviation list can help, but it does not authorize guessing in a high-consequence situation. Medication shorthand deserves particular caution; ISMP maintains a list of error-prone forms. [S06]

Consider the fictional note, “Check result before transfer.” The note is incomplete even before an abbreviation is added: which result, whose result, which transfer and who is responsible? Expanding an abbreviation may solve one problem without solving the others. Language safety requires reconstruction of the intended message, not merely substitution of long words for short ones.

Reference field	What it establishes	What it does not establish
Expanded name	The term represented by the letters	A single interpretation of every result
Biological relationship	Source, target and relevant effect	That source and target organs are interchangeable
Pronunciation aid	A verified way to communicate the term	Accuracy merely from phonetic-looking symbols
Clinical caution	Limits on interpretation	An independent diagnosis or authorization to act

Table V4D1-N01-T1. Original educational comparison; numerical data are fictional where stated.

Applying the entry to patient language

A patient asks, “Does this mean something is wrong with my adrenal glands?” A learner should not convert the test name into a diagnosis. An educational explanation can say that the test concerns a hormone involved in controlling cortisol and that the responsible clinician interprets the result with other information. The learner should use an explanation appropriate to their role and invite questions rather than promise an outcome.

For mastery, compare “ACTH means adrenal disease” with “ACTH is a hormone involved in regulating cortisol production.” The second identifies the concept without inventing a diagnosis. The first collapses a biological relationship, a measurement and a clinical conclusion into one unsupported phrase. Explain the missing reasoning steps before attempting to explain a numerical result.

B

44 entries

bacteremia

presence of bacteria in the bloodstream.

bacteri/o

bacteria

bacterial

relating to bacteria.

bacterial infection

infection caused by bacteria invading and multiplying in body tissues or fluids with a host response.

balan/o

glans penis

basal cell carcinoma

common malignant skin tumor arising from basal-type epidermal cells; usually grows locally and rarely metastasizes.

BENIGN

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. not malignant; in tumors, generally not cancerous.

Patient language. not cancerous

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term benign in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. harmless

benign neoplasm

abnormal new growth of tissue that is nonmalignant and does not invade or metastasize like cancer, although it may still cause clinical problems.

benign paroxysmal positional vertigo

separate concepts

benign prostatic hyperplasia

nonmalignant enlargement/hyperplasia, not prostate carcinoma

beta blocker

drug class that blocks beta-adrenergic receptors and is used for conditions such as hypertension, arrhythmias, angina, heart failure, and others depending on the agent.

bi-

two, both — bilateral

bilateral

involving both sides.

bilirubin

pigment produced from heme breakdown and processed by the liver.

biochemistry

study of chemical processes in living systems.

biologic therapy

treatment using biologically derived or targeted agents, such as monoclonal antibodies or other immune-modifying therapies, to alter specific disease pathways.

biophysical profile

antenatal assessment combining ultrasound observations with fetal heart-rate testing to evaluate fetal well-being.

BIOPSY

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. removal or sampling of tissue/cells for examination.

Patient language. removing a small tissue or cell sample for examination

Clinical use. “Biopsy was included in the diagnostic or procedural plan.”

Clinical caution. The name of a test or procedure does not by itself state the result, technique, or clinical outcome.

Do not confuse with. excision

bipolar disorder

mood disorder characterized by episodes of mania or hypomania and usually episodes of depression.

bisphosphonate

drug class that reduces bone resorption and is used in osteoporosis and selected other bone or metabolic conditions.

bleeding

a descriptive term used increasingly in modern care

blephar/o

eyelid

blood cultures

microbiologic cultures of blood used to detect organisms present in the bloodstream.

blood glucose

concentration of glucose in the blood, measured for screening, diagnosis, and monitoring of diabetes and other metabolic conditions.

blood pressure

pressure exerted by circulating blood on arterial walls.

blood pressure measurement

determination of arterial blood pressure, usually reported as systolic and diastolic pressures.

blood transfusion

administration of donated blood or a blood component to a patient.

blood urea nitrogen

laboratory measurement of nitrogen in blood derived from urea; used with other data in assessment of kidney function and hydration status.

blurred vision

a symptom, not a diagnosis

bone marrow aspiration

procedure using a needle to remove liquid bone marrow for examination.

bone marrow biopsy

procedure removing a small core of bone and marrow for histologic examination.

bone scan

nuclear medicine imaging study that evaluates bone metabolism and can detect areas of abnormal bone activity.

brady-

slow — bradycardia

BRADYCARDIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. abnormally slow heart rate.

Word anatomy. brady- = slow + cardi/o = heart

Patient language. heart rate slower than expected

Clinical use. “The clinician documented bradycardia after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

bradypnea

abnormally slow breathing rate.

bronch/o

bronchus/airway

bronchiol/o

bronchiole

bronchiolitis

inflammation of the bronchioles, commonly due to viral infection in infants and young children but also used in other small-airway disorders.

bronchitis

inflammation of the bronchi.

bronchodilator

agent that widens the bronchi/airways.

bronchoscopy

visual examination of the bronchi using an endoscope.

buccal

relating to the cheek; medication route between gum and cheek.

burs/o

bursa

bursitis

inflammation of a bursa, often causing localized pain and tenderness near a joint.

C

134 entries

-centesis

puncture to remove fluid.

-cyte

cell — leukocyte

-cytosis

increase/condition involving cells — leukocytosis

calc/o

calcium

calcium

mineral and electrolyte important for bone structure, muscle contraction, nerve function, and coagulation; measured in blood in several clinical contexts.

canalith repositioning maneuver

series of head and body movements used to treat benign paroxysmal positional vertigo by repositioning displaced inner-ear particles.

capn/o

carbon dioxide

carcin/o

cancer/carcinoma

carcinoma

malignant tumor arising from epithelial cells.

carcinoma in situ

malignant cells that have not invaded beyond the epithelial boundary in the way invasive carcinoma has

cardi/o

heart

cardiac

relating to the heart.

cardiac biomarkers

blood markers associated with myocardial injury or stress, such as cardiac troponin; interpretation requires clinical context.

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. procedure in which catheters are advanced through blood vessels to the heart for diagnostic measurement, imaging, or intervention.

Clinical use. “Cardiac catheterization was included in the diagnostic or procedural plan.”

Clinical caution. The name of a test or procedure does not by itself state the result, technique, or clinical outcome.

cardiogenic

originating from the heart.

cardiologist

physician specializing in cardiovascular disease.

cardiology

medical specialty concerned with the heart and cardiovascular system.

CARDIOMEGALY

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. enlargement of the heart.

Word anatomy. cardi/o = heart + -megaly = enlargement

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term cardiomegaly in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

cardiomyopathy

disease of heart muscle that can impair cardiac structure, contraction, relaxation, or electrical stability.

cardiopulmonary

relating to the heart and lungs.

CARDIOVASCULAR

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. relating to the heart and blood vessels.

Clinical use. “The report refers to the cardiovascular in describing the anatomic location.”

Clinical caution. Anatomical terminology identifies structure or location; clinical meaning depends on the full sentence and context.

cardioversion

procedure that restores a more organized cardiac rhythm, usually using synchronized electrical energy or medication depending on context.

casting

application of a rigid or semirigid support around an injured body part to immobilize and protect it during healing.

cataract

clouding of the eye's natural lens

Visual guide W02 · p56

cataract extraction

surgical removal of a clouded natural lens of the eye, usually followed by placement of an intraocular lens.

catheter

flexible tube inserted into a body passage, vessel, or cavity.

catheterization

insertion or use of a catheter.

CD4 count

measurement of CD4-positive T lymphocytes, used especially in monitoring immune function in people with HIV.

CELLULITIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. a deeper bacterial infection of dermis and subcutaneous tissue

Clinical use. “The clinician documented cellulitis after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

central-line removal when indicated

removal of a central venous catheter when it is no longer needed or when complications, infection, or other indications warrant removal.

cephal/o

head

cephalic

relating to the head.

cerebell/o

cerebellum

cerebr/o

cerebrum

cerebral

relating to the cerebrum/brain.

cerumen impaction

accumulation of earwax that obstructs the ear canal and may cause hearing loss, discomfort, fullness, or other symptoms.

cerumen removal

procedure to remove impacted or excess earwax from the external ear canal.

cervic/o

neck; cervix in gynecologic contexts

cervical

relating to the neck or cervix depending on context.

cervical cancer

malignant neoplasm arising from the cervix, most commonly associated with persistent infection by high-risk human papillomavirus types.

cervical cytology/Pap test

screening test in which cervical cells are collected and examined for precancerous or malignant cellular changes.

cervicitis

inflammation of the cervix, which may have infectious or noninfectious causes.

cesarean birth

surgical delivery of a fetus through incisions in the maternal abdomen and uterus.

change in bowel/bladder habits

new or altered pattern of defecation or urination, such as frequency, consistency, urgency, retention, or incontinence.

chem/o

chemical

chemotherapy infusion

administration of antineoplastic medication by intravenous infusion.

chest pain

pain or discomfort perceived in the chest; a symptom with cardiac, pulmonary, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal, and other possible causes.

chest pressure

sensation of squeezing, heaviness, tightness, or pressure in the chest; a symptom requiring clinical context.

chest radiograph

concerning for right lower-lobe pneumonia

chest-tube insertion

placement of a tube into the pleural space to drain air, blood, fluid, or other material and help re-expand the lung.

chief complaint

primary reason a patient seeks care, often stated in the patient’s own words.

chills

subjective sensation of cold often accompanied by shivering; may occur with fever or other conditions.

cholecyst/o

gallbladder

cholecystectomy

surgical removal of the gallbladder.

cholecystitis

inflammation of the gallbladder, commonly caused by obstruction of the cystic duct by a gallstone.

cholelithiasis

presence of gallstones within the gallbladder or biliary tract.

chondr/o

cartilage

CHRONIC

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. persisting over a long period.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term chronic in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. untreatable

chronic kidney disease

persistent abnormalities of kidney structure or function lasting at least several months and having health implications.

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

chronic lung disease characterized by persistent airflow limitation, most commonly including emphysema and chronic bronchitis patterns.

circumcision

surgical removal of part or all of the foreskin covering the glans penis.

circumcision where applicable

circumcision performed when clinically, culturally, religiously, or personally appropriate and authorized.

cirrhosis

an established whole-word clinical term and cannot be safely reconstructed by simplistic suffix rules

claudication

pain, cramping, or fatigue in a limb brought on by activity and relieved by rest, often caused by inadequate arterial blood flow.

closed reduction

manipulation of a fracture or dislocation back toward normal alignment without surgically opening the site.

coagul/o

coagulation

coagulopathy

disorder of blood coagulation that impairs normal clot formation or regulation and may cause bleeding or thrombosis.

cochle/o

cochlea

cochlear

relating to the cochlea of the inner ear, the organ primarily responsible for hearing transduction.

cochlear implantation

surgical placement of an electronic hearing device that directly stimulates the auditory nerve in selected people with severe hearing loss.

cognit/o

knowing/thinking

cognitive behavioral therapy

structured psychotherapy that helps patients identify and modify unhelpful patterns of thought and behavior.

cognitive screening

brief standardized assessment used to identify possible cognitive impairment requiring further evaluation.

col/o, colon/o

colon

cold intolerance

unusual sensitivity to cold or difficulty tolerating cold temperatures.

colectomy

surgical removal of part or all of the colon.

COLONIZATION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. presence/growth of microorganisms without tissue invasion or disease in the usual sense.

Clinical use. “The clinician documented colonization after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

Do not confuse with. infection

colonoscopy

endoscopic examination of the colon.

colostomy
surgically created opening of the colon to the abdominal surface.

colp/o
vagina

colposcopic biopsy
biopsy of cervical or related tissue performed during colposcopic examination.

colposcopy
magnified visual examination of the cervix, vagina, and vulva using a colposcope, often after abnormal cervical screening.

combined hormonal contraceptive
contraceptive containing estrogen and a progestin, available in forms such as pills, patches, or vaginal rings.

community-based treatment
care delivered in community settings rather than exclusively in hospitals or specialized institutions.

complete blood count
common blood test measuring major blood-cell components, including red blood cells, hemoglobin, hematocrit, white blood cells, and platelets; often reported with red-cell indices and sometimes a differential.

compressible
important in venous assessment.

computed tomography
cross-sectional imaging technique using X-ray data and computer reconstruction.

conductive hearing loss
hearing loss caused by impaired transmission of sound through the external or middle ear.

confusion
disturbance in thinking, awareness, orientation, or understanding; should be described more specifically when possible.

conjunctivitis
inflammation of the conjunctiva, commonly causing redness and irritation and having infectious, allergic, or other causes.

constipation
infrequent, difficult, or incomplete passage of stool, often with hard stool or straining.

contamination
presence/introduction of unwanted microorganisms or material.

continuous glucose monitoring
use of a sensor to measure interstitial glucose repeatedly over time and display trends and alerts.

contra-

against, opposite — contraindication, contralateral

contractions

rhythmic tightening of uterine muscle during labor or other uterine activity; meaning depends on obstetric context.

CONTRAINDICATION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. condition or factor that weighs against use of a treatment or procedure.

Clinical use. “Contraindication was included in the diagnostic or procedural plan.”

Clinical caution. The name of a test or procedure does not by itself state the result, technique, or clinical outcome.

contusion

bruise caused by blunt trauma.

corne/o

cornea

coronary artery bypass grafting

cardiac surgery that creates alternate routes for blood flow around obstructed coronary arteries using graft vessels.

coronary artery disease

disease of the coronary arteries, most commonly due to atherosclerosis that narrows or obstructs blood flow to heart muscle.

cortic/o

cortex

corticosteroid

steroid medication with anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive or hormone-replacement effects depending on the drug and indication.

corticosteroid replacement

administration of glucocorticoid, and sometimes mineralocorticoid, to replace deficient adrenal hormone activity.

cortisol

glucocorticoid hormone produced by the adrenal cortex, important in metabolism, stress response, and immune regulation.

cost/o

rib

cough

forceful expiratory reflex used to clear the airways; may be dry or productive and can have many causes.

crani/o

skull

craniotomy

surgical opening of the skull by temporarily removing a bone flap to access intracranial structures.

creatinine

waste product commonly measured as part of kidney-function assessment.

crepitus

grating, crackling, or popping sensation or sound produced by movement of tissues, joints, bone fragments, or gas in soft tissue depending on context.

crisis intervention

short-term, focused support aimed at stabilizing a person during an acute psychological or behavioral crisis.

critical

serious, potentially life-threatening, or requiring urgent attention depending on context.

critical value

laboratory result requiring urgent notification/action according to policy.

crossmatch

blood-bank compatibility testing that evaluates donor red blood cells against recipient plasma before transfusion.

cryotherapy

treatment using very low temperature to destroy, remove, or reduce abnormal tissue or inflammation depending on context.

CT

computed tomography; cross-sectional imaging that uses X-rays and computer processing to create detailed images of internal structures.

CT abdomen

computed tomography examination of the abdomen.

CT chest

computed tomography examination of the thorax/chest.

CT head

computed tomography examination of the head, commonly used to evaluate brain, skull, sinuses, and related structures.

CT urinary tract

computed tomography examination tailored to evaluate kidneys, ureters, bladder, or urinary tract depending on protocol.

CT/PET/MRI

group of cross-sectional or functional imaging modalities: computed tomography, positron-emission tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging.

culture
laboratory method used to grow and identify microorganisms in appropriate specimens.

Cushing syndrome
glucocorticoid-excess syndrome

cutane/o
skin

cutaneous
relating to skin.

cyan/o
blue

CYANOSIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. bluish discoloration of skin/mucosa associated with altered oxygenation in certain contexts.

Patient language. bluish or grayish discoloration associated with abnormal oxygenation or circulation

Clinical use. “Cyanosis was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

cyanotic
bluish discoloration associated with deoxygenated hemoglobin; interpretation depends on context.

cyst/o
urinary bladder; cyst/sac in some contexts

cystitis
inflammation of the urinary bladder.

cystoscopy
visual examination of the bladder.

cyt/o
cell

cytology
study/examination of cells.

cytotoxic chemotherapy
anticancer drug treatment that kills or damages rapidly dividing cells and may also affect normal rapidly dividing tissues.

D

62 entries

de-

down, away, removal, reduction — dehydration, decontamination

debridement

removal of devitalized, contaminated, or unwanted tissue/material from a wound or site to promote healing or control infection

decreased fetal movement

maternal perception that fetal movements are reduced compared with the fetus usual pattern; requires obstetric evaluation according to context.

deep brain stimulation

neurosurgical treatment using implanted electrodes to modulate activity in specific brain regions for selected neurologic or psychiatric conditions.

deep vein thrombosis

blood clot within a deep vein, most often in the lower extremity, with risk of embolization to the lungs.

defibrillation

delivery of unsynchronized electrical energy to the heart to terminate certain life-threatening shockable arrhythmias.

deformity

abnormal shape, alignment, or structure of a body part; may be congenital, acquired, or traumatic.

delirium

acute, fluctuating disturbance of attention and cognition caused by an underlying medical, medication-related, toxic, or other physiologic process.

delta check

comparison with previous result to identify a significant change, depending on laboratory practice.

delusion

fixed false belief held despite clear contradictory evidence and not explained solely by the person cultural or religious context.

depressed mood

not automatically major depressive disorder

derm/o, dermat/o

skin

dermatitis

inflammation of skin.

dermatology

specialty concerned with skin.

dermoscopy

noninvasive examination of skin lesions using a magnifying device with specialized illumination.

desensitization/immunotherapy

controlled exposure or immune-modifying treatment intended to reduce hypersensitivity to a specific allergen or drug in selected circumstances.

DIABETES MELLITUS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. a disease diagnosis

Clinical use. “The clinician documented diabetes mellitus after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

diabetic ketoacidosis

acute metabolic complication of diabetes characterized by hyperglycemia, ketone production, and metabolic acidosis.

diabetic retinopathy

retinal microvascular damage caused by diabetes that can impair vision.

DIAGNOSIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. identification of a disease or condition.

Clinical use. “The clinician documented diagnosis after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

Do not confuse with. risk factor

diagnostic

relating to identification of disease or condition.

dialysis

process that removes waste and excess fluid when kidneys cannot adequately do so.

diaphoresis

profuse or excessive sweating.

diaphoretic

sweating profusely.

diarrhea

frequent passage of loose or watery stool, often with increased stool volume or urgency.

diastolic

relating to ventricular relaxation; lower value in blood pressure.

differential

relative or absolute white-cell populations.

differential diagnosis

list/process of considering possible diagnoses that could explain a presentation.

digital rectal examination

physical examination in which a gloved lubricated finger is inserted into the rectum to assess rectal, prostate, or adjacent structures.

dilation and curettage

procedure involving dilation of the cervix and removal of tissue from the uterine cavity by suction and/or curettage.

diplopia

double vision

DISCHARGE

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. high-risk periods

Clinical use. “Discharge was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

disease-modifying antirheumatic drug

medication that alters the course of inflammatory rheumatic disease rather than providing only symptom relief.

disequilibrium

sense of imbalance or unsteadiness without the spinning sensation characteristic of vertigo.

dislocation

displacement of bones at a joint.

disseminated intravascular coagulation

serious systemic coagulation disorder with widespread clot formation and consumption of platelets and clotting factors, causing both thrombosis and bleeding.

distal

farther from a point of attachment or reference.

diuretic

medication that increases renal excretion of sodium and water and thereby increases urine production.

diverticulitis

inflammation, usually with microperforation or infection, involving one or more diverticula of the colon.

Dix-Hallpike maneuver in appropriate settings

positional test used to provoke characteristic vertigo and eye movements in evaluation of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo.

dizziness

a starting complaint

documentation

recording of healthcare information.

dopaminergic therapy

treatment that increases dopamine activity or mimics dopamine effects, used especially in Parkinson disease and selected other conditions.

Doppler flow

blood-flow information.

dorsal

relating to the back/posterior surface in human anatomy.

dosage

dose amount and schedule/regimen.

dose

quantity of medication administered at one time or over a defined interval.

drainage

removal of fluid or pus

dressing change

removal and replacement of a wound or device dressing using the technique and materials appropriate to the site.

duoden/o

duodenum

DXA/DEXA

dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry; imaging test used primarily to measure bone mineral density.

dys-

difficult, painful, abnormal, impaired — dysphagia, dysuria

Dysarthria

difficulty producing clear speech because of impaired motor control of the speech muscles.

dysmenorrhea

painful menstruation, commonly involving cramping pelvic pain before or during menses.

dyspareunia

persistent or recurrent genital or pelvic pain associated with sexual intercourse or penetration.

dyspepsia

upper abdominal/indigestion-type discomfort

DYSPHAGIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. difficulty swallowing.

Word anatomy. dys- = difficult/abnormal/painful + -phagia = eating/swallowing

Patient language. difficulty swallowing

Clinical use. “Dysphagia was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

Do not confuse with. dysphasia

Dysphasia

impairment of language function; usage varies and *aphasia* terminology is common in many systems.

Dysphonia

impaired voice quality or production.

DYSPNEA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. difficult or uncomfortable breathing; shortness of breath.

Word anatomy. dys- = difficult/abnormal/painful + -pnea = breathing

Patient language. shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Clinical use. “Dyspnea was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

Do not confuse with. tachypnea

dyspnea on exertion

shortness of breath that occurs or worsens during physical activity.

DYSURIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. painful or difficult urination.

Word anatomy. dys- = difficult/abnormal/painful + ur/o = urine/urinary tract + -uria = urine condition

Patient language. pain or burning with urination

Clinical use. “Dysuria was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

E

62 entries

-ectomy

surgical removal — nephrectomy

-emia

blood condition — hyperglycemia

easy bruising

tendency to develop bruises with minor or unrecognized trauma, which may reflect skin, platelet, coagulation, medication, or other factors.

ecchymosis

larger area of skin discoloration caused by bleeding beneath the skin; commonly called a bruise.

ECG

electrocardiogram/electrocardiography depending on context.

echocardiogram

ultrasound examination of the heart used to assess cardiac structure, motion, valves, chamber size, blood flow, and function.

eclampsia

occurrence of generalized seizures in a person with preeclampsia when another neurologic cause is not identified.

ecto-

outside — ectopic

ectopic pregnancy

implantation outside uterine cavity

EDEMA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. abnormal accumulation of fluid in tissues causing swelling.

Patient language. swelling caused by extra fluid in tissues

Clinical use. “Edema was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

Do not confuse with. effusion

edematous

showing edema.

effacement

thinning and shortening of the cervix during labor, often expressed as a percentage.

eGFR

estimated glomerular filtration rate; calculated estimate of kidney filtration function derived from serum creatinine and demographic/clinical variables.

electrocardiogram

recording of the heart's electrical activity.

electroconvulsive therapy

psychiatric treatment in which controlled electrical stimulation under anesthesia induces a therapeutic seizure for selected severe mental health conditions.

electroencephalogram

recording of electrical activity of the brain.

electrolyte

mineral ion in body fluids important for physiologic function.

electrolyte replacement

administration of an electrolyte such as potassium, magnesium, calcium, or phosphate to correct a documented deficiency.

electromyography

diagnostic recording of electrical activity in skeletal muscle, usually performed with needle electrodes and often paired with nerve conduction studies.

embolism

obstruction of a blood vessel by material that has traveled through the circulation, such as a thrombus, fat, air, or other substance.

embry/o

embryo

emesis

vomiting

emollient

topical preparation that softens, moisturizes, and protects dry or irritated skin.

encephal/o

brain

encephalitis

inflammation of the brain.

endo-

within, inner — endocardium

endocardial

relating to the inner lining of the heart.

endocarditis

inflammation/infection involving the endocardium.

endocrin/o

endocrine

endocrine

relating to glands/hormones secreted into blood.

endocrine stimulation/suppression tests

dynamic hormonal tests that assess endocrine gland function by measuring response to a stimulating or suppressing agent.

endocrinology

specialty concerned with hormones and endocrine glands.

endometri/o

endometrium

endometrial biopsy

sampling of tissue from the uterine endometrium for pathologic examination.

endometrial cancer

malignant neoplasm arising from the lining of the uterus.

endometriosis

condition in which endometrium-like tissue exists outside the uterine cavity and can cause pain, inflammation, adhesions, or infertility.

endoscopy

visual examination of an internal structure using an endoscope.

enter/o

intestine, often small intestine

enzyme

protein or molecule that catalyzes biochemical reactions.

epi-

upon, on, above — epidermis, epicardium

Prefix/Suffix

epididym/o

epididymis

epididymitis

inflammation, often infectious, of the epididymis.

epilepsy

a disorder characterized by enduring predisposition to recurrent unprovoked seizures

epinephrine

catecholamine medication and endogenous hormone that stimulates alpha- and beta-adrenergic receptors; used in emergencies such as anaphylaxis and cardiac arrest.

epinephrine in selected emergencies

use of epinephrine according to emergency protocols for conditions such as anaphylaxis or cardiac arrest.

episiotomy in selected contexts

surgical incision of the perineum to enlarge the vaginal opening during selected births; not routinely required.

ERCP

endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; endoscopic and fluoroscopic procedure used to diagnose and treat selected biliary and pancreatic duct disorders.

erectile dysfunction

persistent difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual activity.

ERYTHEMA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. redness of skin or mucous membrane.

Clinical use. “Erythema was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

Do not confuse with. ecchymosis

erythematous

reddened.

erythr/o

red

erythrocyte

mature red blood cell that transports oxygen and carbon dioxide using hemoglobin.

erythropoiesis-stimulating agent

medication that stimulates red blood cell production, used in selected forms of anemia such as those associated with chronic kidney disease or chemotherapy.

esophag/o

esophagus

esthesi/o

sensation

ETIOLOGY

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. cause or origin of a disease or condition.

Clinical use. “The clinician documented etiology after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

eu-

normal, good — eupnea

excision

cutting out or removing tissue

expired

no longer active by system/time.

extension

movement that generally increases angle at a joint.

extra-

outside, beyond — extracellular

eye pain

pain or discomfort perceived in or around the eye; a symptom with ocular, neurologic, sinus, traumatic, and other possible causes.

F

28 entries

factor replacement

administration of a deficient clotting factor or factor concentrate, commonly used in inherited bleeding disorders such as hemophilia.

false negative

test result indicating a condition is absent when it is present.

false positive

test result indicating a condition is present when it is not.

fasci/o

fascia

fatigue

subjective feeling of tiredness, low energy, or reduced capacity for activity that can have many medical, psychological, or situational causes.

febrile

having fever.

fecal occult blood testing

test used to detect blood in stool that is not visible to the naked eye, commonly used in gastrointestinal evaluation or colorectal cancer screening.

feeding-tube placement

insertion of a tube into the stomach or intestine to provide nutrition, hydration, or medication when oral intake is inadequate or unsafe.

ferr/o

iron

ferritin

intracellular iron-storage protein measured in blood as part of evaluation of iron stores; levels are also influenced by inflammation and other conditions.

fertility medication

medication used to stimulate ovulation, modify reproductive hormones, or otherwise support fertility treatment.

fet/o

fetus

fetal heart-rate monitoring

assessment of fetal heart rate over time, often during pregnancy or labor, to evaluate fetal status.

fever

elevation of body temperature above the expected range, usually due to a regulated increase in the hypothalamic temperature set point.

fine-needle aspiration

procedure using a thin needle to collect cells or fluid from a mass, organ, or lesion for diagnostic examination.

flank pain

pain felt in the side of the torso between the ribs and pelvis, often associated with renal, musculoskeletal, or other causes.

flashes

brief visual sensations of light, often described as flashes or photopsias; can occur with retinal traction, migraine, or other ocular/neurologic conditions.

flexion

movement that generally decreases angle at a joint.

floaters

small moving spots, threads, or shapes perceived in the visual field, commonly caused by opacities in the vitreous body.

flow cytometry

laboratory technique that analyzes physical and molecular characteristics of individual cells or particles as they pass through a laser-based detector.

folate

water-soluble B vitamin required for DNA synthesis and red blood cell production; deficiency can cause megaloblastic anemia and affect fetal neural development.

folliculitis

inflammation or infection of one or more hair follicles, often producing small erythematous papules or pustules.

formulation

physical form and composition in which a medication is supplied.

FRACTURE

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. break in bone.

Patient language. broken bone

Clinical use. “The clinician documented fracture after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

free T4

laboratory measurement of unbound thyroxine in blood, used with TSH and other data to assess thyroid function.

frequency
: urinating often and does not necessarily mean increased total volume

fungal
: relating to fungi.

fungal infection
: infection caused by a fungus, ranging from superficial skin disease to invasive systemic infection.

G

28 entries

-gen, -genic

producing, originating from — cardiogenic

-gram

record/image — electrocardiogram

-graphy

process of recording/imaging — angiography

gait abnormality

deviation from normal walking pattern caused by neurologic, musculoskeletal, balance, pain, weakness, or other conditions.

gastr/o

stomach

gastritis

inflammation of the stomach.

gastroenteritis

an inflammatory illness of the stomach and intestines, often associated with symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea, and it can arise from multiple causes

gastroenterology

specialty concerned with the digestive system.

gastroesophageal reflux disease

chronic condition in which reflux of gastric contents into the esophagus causes troublesome symptoms and/or complications.

gastrointestinal

relating to stomach and intestines.

generalized anxiety disorder

mental health disorder characterized by excessive, difficult-to-control anxiety and worry occurring across multiple areas of life over an extended period.

generic name

nonproprietary name of a medicine.

gestational diabetes

glucose intolerance first recognized during pregnancy that does not clearly represent preexisting diabetes.

glaucoma

a group of optic neuropathies often associated with intraocular-pressure risk

glomerul/o

glomerulus

tuft of capillaries in a nephron where plasma filtration begins in the kidney.

glomerulonephritis

inflammatory disease affecting the kidney glomeruli and potentially causing hematuria, proteinuria, impaired renal function, edema, or hypertension.

glomerulus

tuft of capillaries in a nephron where plasma filtration begins in the kidney.

glucocorticoid antagonist in selected disorders

medication that blocks glucocorticoid receptor effects and may be used in selected endocrine disorders such as hypercortisolism.

glucose

a simple sugar and major energy source measured commonly in blood.

glucose screening/testing

measurement of glucose for screening, diagnosis, or monitoring of diabetes and other glucose disorders.

glyc/o, gluc/o

sugar/glucose

glycosuria

glucose in the urine.

goiter

enlargement of the thyroid gland

Gram stain

laboratory staining method that classifies bacteria by cell-wall staining characteristics and provides information about organism shape and arrangement.

gravid/o

pregnancy

group B streptococcus testing

screening or diagnostic testing for colonization or infection with group B Streptococcus, particularly relevant in pregnancy and neonatal care.

growth factor

biologically active substance that stimulates cell growth, differentiation, or production; therapeutic growth factors may support blood cell recovery or tissue processes.

gynec/o

woman/female in traditional word construction

H

76 entries

hallucination

sensory perception occurring without an external stimulus, such as hearing a voice when no one is speaking.

handoff

transfer of information and responsibility between caregivers.

HbA1c

a blood test reflecting average glucose exposure over preceding months

headache

pain or discomfort in the head or upper neck, with primary and secondary causes.

healthcare-associated infection

infection acquired in connection with healthcare delivery that was not present or incubating at the start of care according to applicable definitions.

hearing loss

partial or complete reduction in hearing ability; may be conductive, sensorineural, mixed, unilateral, or bilateral.

hearing screening

brief testing intended to identify people who may have hearing impairment and require diagnostic evaluation.

heart failure

the heart is not pumping or filling as effectively as the body needs

heat intolerance

unusual difficulty tolerating warm environments, sometimes associated with endocrine, neurologic, medication-related, or autonomic causes.

heavy menstrual bleeding

a descriptive term used increasingly in modern care

helminth/o

helminth/worm

hem/o, hemat/o

blood

hemat/o, hem/o

blood

HEMATEMESIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. vomiting of blood, usually originating from the upper gastrointestinal tract.

Patient language. vomiting blood

Clinical use. “Hematemesis was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

Do not confuse with. hemoptysis

hematochezia

passage of fresh red blood per rectum.

hematocrit

proportion of blood volume occupied by red blood cells.

hematology

study/specialty of blood and blood-forming tissues.

hematoma

localized collection of blood outside blood vessels.

hematopoiesis

formation and development of blood cells, primarily in bone marrow after birth.

hematospermia

presence of blood in semen.

HEMATURIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. blood in the urine.

Word anatomy. hemat/o = blood + -uria = urine condition

Patient language. blood in the urine

Clinical use. “Hematuria was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

hemi-

half — hemiplegia

Prefix/Suffix

hemodialysis

renal replacement therapy that circulates blood through an external dialyzer to remove waste products and excess fluid and help correct electrolyte and acid-base abnormalities.

hemoglobin

oxygen-carrying protein in red blood cells; a low result is laboratory evidence, while *anemia* is a clinical/hematologic condition defined by applicable criteria.

hemolysis

rupture of red blood cells; may affect specimen quality or reflect a clinical process depending on context.

hemophilia

inherited bleeding disorder caused by deficiency or dysfunction of a clotting factor, most commonly factor VIII or IX.

HEMOPTYSIS

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. coughing up blood from the respiratory tract.

Patient language. coughing up blood

Clinical use. “Hemoptysis was documented during the patient assessment.”

Clinical caution. This term describes a symptom or finding; by itself it does not establish the cause.

Do not confuse with. hematemesis

HEMORRHAGE

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. significant bleeding.

Word anatomy. hem/o = blood + -rrhage = excessive bleeding/discharge

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term hemorrhage in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

hemorrhagic

relating to bleeding/hemorrhage.

hemorrhagic stroke

stroke caused by bleeding into or around the brain due to rupture of a blood vessel.

hemostasis

stoppage/control of bleeding.

hepat/o

liver

hepatic

relating to the liver.

hepatitis

inflammation of the liver.

hepatology

specialty/study of liver disease.

hepatomegaly

enlargement of the liver.

hepatotoxic

toxic or damaging to the liver.

herniated disc

condition in which material from an intervertebral disc protrudes through the outer disc structure and may compress or irritate nearby nerves.

hidr/o

sweat

histology

study/examination of tissues.

histopathology

microscopic examination of tissue to study disease-related structural and cellular changes.

history of present illness

description of the development and characteristics of the current problem.

HIV antigen/antibody testing

laboratory testing that detects HIV p24 antigen and antibodies to HIV and is commonly used for screening and diagnosis.

HIV infection

infection with human immunodeficiency virus, which attacks immune cells and can progress to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome if untreated.

Holter monitoring

continuous ambulatory electrocardiographic recording, usually over 24 hours or longer, used to detect intermittent rhythm abnormalities.

hormon/o

hormone

hormonal therapy

treatment that adds, blocks, or modifies hormone activity to treat endocrine, reproductive, oncologic, or other conditions.

hormonal therapy in selected cancers

cancer treatment that blocks or alters hormones that stimulate growth of hormone-sensitive tumors such as some breast or prostate cancers.

HPV testing

laboratory testing for high-risk human papillomavirus types associated with cervical and other cancers, commonly used in cervical cancer screening strategies.

hydrocele

collection of serous fluid around a testis within the tunica vaginalis or along the spermatic cord.

hydronephrosis

dilation of the renal collecting system caused by impaired drainage of urine.

hyper-

excessive, above normal — hypertension

hyperechoic

more echoes.

hyperglycemia

abnormally elevated blood glucose.

hyperkalemia

abnormally elevated blood potassium.

hyperopia

refractive error in which distant objects may be clearer than near objects because light focuses behind the retina when accommodation is relaxed.

hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state

acute severe complication of diabetes characterized by profound hyperglycemia and hyperosmolarity, usually with significant dehydration and minimal or absent ketoacidosis.

hyperparathyroidism

condition in which one or more parathyroid glands produce excessive parathyroid hormone, affecting calcium and bone metabolism.

hypersomnia

excessive sleepiness or prolonged sleep that interferes with normal functioning and may have multiple causes.

HYPERTENSION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. abnormally elevated blood pressure.

Patient language. persistently high blood pressure

Clinical use. “The clinician documented hypertension after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

hyperthermia

abnormally elevated body temperature due to failed heat regulation or external heat.

hyperthyroidism

condition caused by excessive thyroid hormone production or activity, resulting in accelerated metabolic and systemic effects.

hypo-

deficient, below normal — hypoglycemia

hypoechoic

fewer echoes than surrounding tissue.

HYPOGLYCEMIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. abnormally low blood glucose.

Word anatomy. hypo- = below/deficient + -emia = blood condition

Patient language. low blood glucose

Clinical use. “The clinician documented hypoglycemia after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

hypokalemia

abnormally low blood potassium.

hypoparathyroidism

condition in which parathyroid hormone production is inadequate, often leading to low calcium and high phosphate levels.

HYPOTENSION

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. abnormally low blood pressure.

Patient language. blood pressure lower than expected

Clinical use. “The clinician documented hypotension after evaluation.”

Clinical caution. Diagnosis and severity depend on the applicable clinical criteria and patient context.

hypothermia

abnormally low core body temperature.

hypothyroidism

condition caused by inadequate thyroid hormone production or effect, resulting in slowed metabolic and systemic functions.

HYPOXIA

MASTER ENTRY |

Definition. inadequate oxygen at tissue level.

Clinical use. “The clinical record uses the term hypoxia in context.”

Clinical caution. Interpret the term within its source, clinical context, and level of certainty.

Do not confuse with. hypoxemia

hypoxic

relating to or affected by hypoxia.

hyster/o

uterus

hyster/o, uter/o

uterus

hysterectomy

surgical removal of the uterus; the exact procedure may also involve the cervix and/or adjacent reproductive structures depending on type.

hysteroscopy

endoscopic examination of the uterine cavity using a hysteroscope inserted through the cervix.

Evidence for the new teaching sections

These sources support the specifically cited additions, not every inherited statement. Unattributed cases, numerical datasets and comparisons in the new sections are original educational constructions. Current practice requires the approved local procedure, manufacturer instructions and appropriate professional authorization.

[S06] ISMP / ECRI. Error-Prone Abbreviations. https://home.ecri.org/blogs/ismp-resources/list-of-error-prone-abbreviations Accessed 2026-09-09. Abbreviation hazards; retain local policy.

[S07] National Library of Medicine. Adrenocorticotropic Hormone (ACTH). https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/adrenocorticotropic-hormone-acth/ Accessed 2026-09-09. ACTH, pituitary and cortisol relationship.

VOLUME 4D-1 / VISUAL LEARNING ATLAS

See the relationships. Explain the reasoning.

Master Medical Language Reference A–H

Use these plates alongside the main text. Start by describing what the visual actually shows, then read the explanation, answer the question and compare your reasoning with the model answer. The diagrams support learning; they do not replace supervised skills practice, device instructions or a clinical protocol.

The existing main-text pagination is retained. Page references in this atlas use the PDF page count from the cover as page 1. Each linked entry opens the plate; a related-reading link returns to the main text. Open the PDF bookmarks panel for chapter and atlas navigation.

PLATE CONTENTS

W01 Build a meaning, then verify the whole term	**55**
W02 Describe direction from the patient’s position	**56**
A13 A hormone pathway includes feedback	**57**
H05 A percentage needs the total count	**58**

All cases and numerical examples in the new plates are fictional. Independently drawn diagrams are identified as educational schematics; they are not diagnostic microscopy or clinical tracing atlases. Inherited photographs retain their source attribution.

VOLUME 4D-1 / LEARNING PLATE W01

Build a meaning, then verify the whole term

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



Hyperglycaemia: an elevated blood glucose state; not its cause.

Word parts provide a route into an unfamiliar term. In this example, the pieces point toward a blood condition involving increased glucose. That analysis helps the learner remember the term, but it does not identify why the glucose is high, how it was measured or which clinical decision is appropriate. A whole-term definition and the patient context remain necessary.

Medical language is not a perfect construction kit. Some terms have historical forms, conventional meanings or components that do not map neatly onto a novice’s first guess. Use the diagram as a hypothesis-building tool: propose a meaning, verify it with an appropriate reference, then explain it in ordinary language. Spelling variants such as hyperglycemia and hyperglycaemia should not be treated as different diseases.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING Does recognising the word hyperglycaemia establish that the patient has a particular type of diabetes?

Reasoned answer. No. The word describes an elevated glucose state. Diagnosis and cause require the appropriate clinical history, measurement context and diagnostic framework.

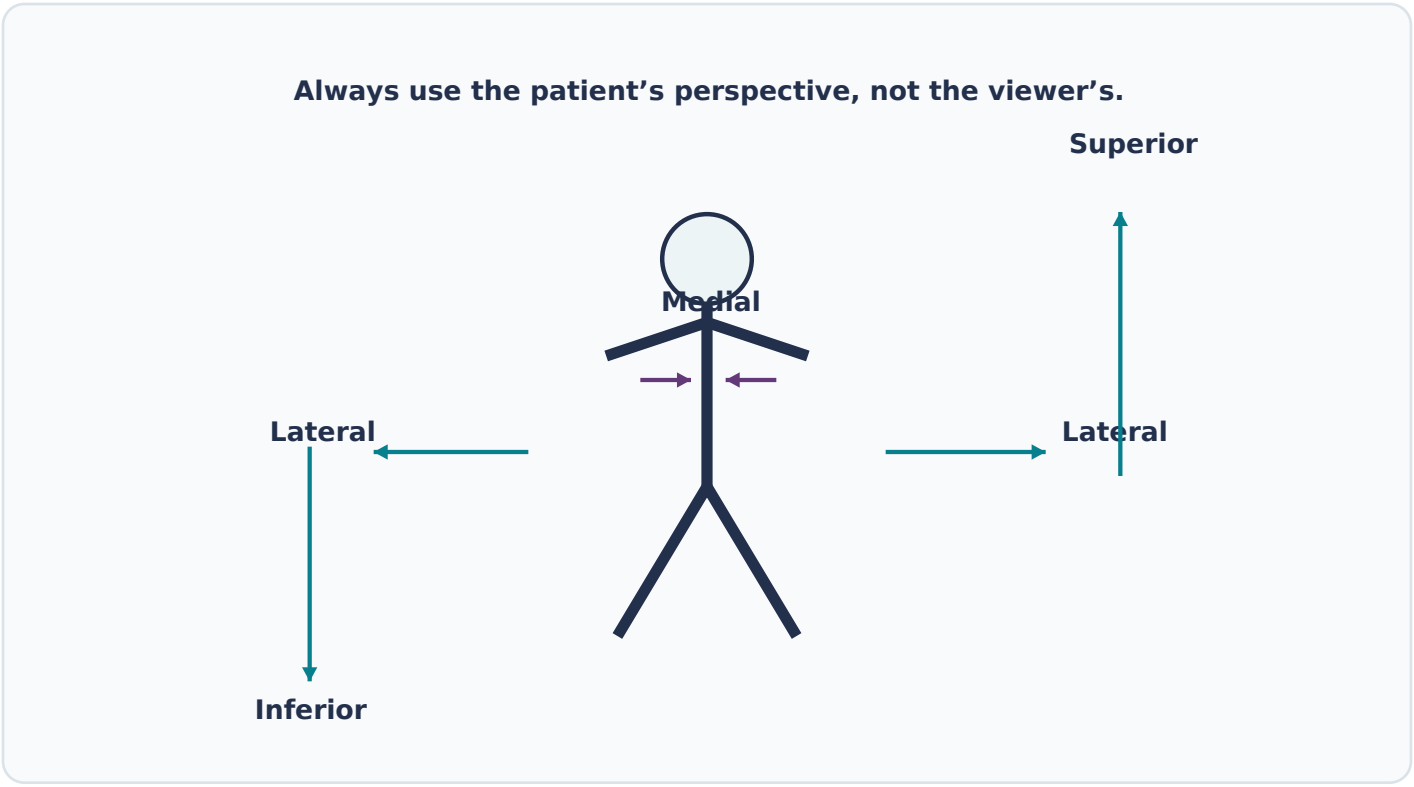
Sources: WORDS; PARTS; LAB. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

Related main-text reading: PDF page 36. Use the linked page number in the atlas index.

VOLUME 4D-1 / LEARNING PLATE W02

Describe direction from the patient’s position

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



Anatomical direction describes a relationship, not the viewer’s left or right. In the standard anatomical position, medial means nearer the midline and lateral means farther from it. Superior and inferior describe positions toward the head and toward the feet. Always identify the structure used as the reference point.

A drawing can create an orientation trap when the observer faces the patient. The patient’s right appears on the observer’s left in a frontal view. Laterality therefore belongs in the words as well as the image. Learners should practise tracing a location from a written description to a diagram and back, explicitly stating whether they are using the patient’s orientation.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING The patient is facing you. Is an item on the left side of your view necessarily on the patient’s left?

Reasoned answer. No. The visual positions are reversed in a face-to-face view. State laterality from the patient’s perspective and confirm the relevant site rather than inferring it from the viewer’s side.

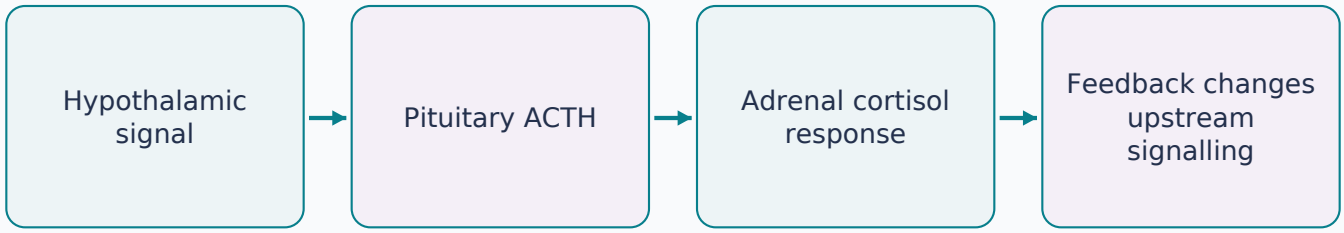
Sources: ANAT; WORDS. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

Related main-text reading: PDF page 22. Use the linked page number in the atlas index.

VOLUME 4D-1 / LEARNING PLATE A13

A hormone pathway includes feedback

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON



A simplified HPA-axis relationship; testing depends on time, method and clinical question.

The hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal relationship illustrates a chain of signals with feedback. The pituitary hormone ACTH stimulates the adrenal cortex, while cortisol participates in feedback affecting upstream signalling. A learner should be able to identify which substance is a signal and which tissue responds to it.

Interpreting one hormone concentration without the timing and related results can be misleading. A response to a stimulation or suppression test is a different question from an isolated baseline measurement. The diagram does not provide diagnostic thresholds or a testing protocol. It is a reference aid for keeping the biological relationships distinct when reading unfamiliar endocrine terminology.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING Why should ACTH and cortisol not be treated as two interchangeable names for the same substance?

Reasoned answer. They are different hormones at different positions in the pathway. Their relationship helps frame a clinical question, but their names, sources and effects remain distinct.

Sources: ANAT; LAB. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

Related main-text reading: PDF page 14. Use the linked page number in the atlas index.

VOLUME 4D-1 / LEARNING PLATE H05

A percentage needs the total count

ORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL DIAGRAM / COMPARISON

Measure	Fictional sample A	Fictional sample B
Total WBC	2.0 × 10⁹/L	10.0 × 10⁹/L
Neutrophil fraction	60%	60%
Absolute neutrophils	1.2 × 10⁹/L	6.0 × 10⁹/L

Equal percentages do not require equal absolute quantities.

A differential percentage describes a share of the white-cell population counted. To obtain an absolute quantity from that share, the total count is also required. In the fictional comparison, 60% of 2.0 × 10⁹/L is 1.2 × 10⁹/L, while 60% of 10.0 × 10⁹/L is 6.0 × 10⁹/L. The percentages match, but the absolute quantities differ fivefold.

This is a denominator lesson rather than a clinical reference-range exercise. The significance of either result depends on the person, method and applicable interval. Manual differentials also sample a limited number of cells, so the precision of the percentage depends partly on the sample and method. Report the kind of quantity accurately.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING What information is missing when a report fragment states only “neutrophils 60%”?

Reasoned answer. The total white-cell count and the broader reporting context are missing. Without the total, the absolute neutrophil quantity cannot be derived from that percentage alone.

Sources: DIFF; CBC. See the source notes in this atlas. Schematic / illustrative; not a patient image or a validated clinical protocol.

VOLUME 4D-1 / SOURCE NOTES AND PROVENANCE

Sources for the visual learning plates

These entries support the specified new plates. They do not certify every inherited statement, illustration or practice in the main text. Source organisations have not endorsed this book. New vector drawings are original CDIL educational designs, not copied agency or publisher artwork. Publication and clinical decisions must use the applicable full standards and current authorised procedures.

[ANAT] OpenStax / Rice University. Anatomy and Physiology: organization, cells, tissues and systems.
https://openstax.org/books/anatomy-and-physiology-2e/pages/1-introduction
Reference for established science. New diagrams are independently drawn CDIL schematics; no OpenStax artwork copied.

[CBC] US National Library of Medicine. Complete Blood Count (CBC).
https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/complete-blood-count-cbc/
CBC components; all example values are fictional, not reference intervals.

[DIFF] US National Library of Medicine. Blood Differential.
https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/blood-differential/
White-cell categories and absolute-versus-relative quantities.

[LAB] US National Library of Medicine. How to Understand Your Lab Results.
https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/how-to-understand-your-lab-results/
Reference intervals, test context and interpretation limits.

[PARTS] US National Library of Medicine. Word Parts and What They Mean.
https://medlineplus.gov/appendixa.html
Medical roots, prefixes and suffixes; original worked examples.

[WORDS] US National Library of Medicine. Understanding Medical Words; Word Parts and What They Mean.
https://medlineplus.gov/medwords/medicalwords.html
Word analysis supports, but does not replace, verification of whole-term meaning.

VOLUME 4D-1 / VISUAL ATLAS INDEX

Visual atlas index and reading links

This index covers the added learning plates. It is not a replacement for a complete, evidence-audited subject index of the inherited textbook. All numbers refer to PDF pages.

absolute count 58
ACTH 57
adrenal 57
anatomical position 56
cortisol 57
denominator 58
endocrine feedback 57
hyperglycaemia 55
hyperglycemia 55
inferior 56
lateral 56
laterality 56
medial 56
neutrophil percentage 58
pituitary 57
prefix 55
relative count 58
suffix 55
superior 56
word root 55

RELATED MAIN-TEXT READING

W01 Build a meaning, then verify the whole term 36
W02 Describe direction from the patient’s position 22
A13 A hormone pathway includes feedback 14

SUBJECT INDEX

Find the teaching

Page numbers are PDF page positions, counting the front cover as page 1. Select a number to open that page. **f** identifies a visual-atlas page. Entries select useful teaching locations rather than every mention.

Headwords point directly to their entries; additional subjects locate the explanatory teaching and visual atlas.

5

5-alpha-reductase inhibitor 4

A

A-, an- 4
Ab- 4
Abbreviation 14
Abdomen 4
Abdominal pain 4
Abdominal ultrasound 4
Abduction 4
Abnormal 4, 8, 12, 16, 34
Abnormal bleeding 4
Abnormal uterine bleeding 4
Abrasion 4
Abruption 5
Abscess 5
ACE inhibitor 5
Acous/o 5
Acromegaly 5
ACTH 5
ACUTE 5
Acute care 5
Acute kidney injury 5
Acute respiratory distress syndrome 5
Ad- 5
Adduction 5
Aden/o 6
Adren/o, adrenal/o 6
Adrenal 6
Adrenal insufficiency 6
Adverse effect 6
Afebrile 6
Age-related macular degeneration 6
Agitation 6
AIDS 6
-algia 4
Allerg/o 6
Allergen testing 6
Allergic rhinitis 6
Allergy 7
Alopecia 7
Alpha blocker 7
Altered mental status 7
Alveol/o 7
Alzheimer disease 7
Ambulatory 7
Amenorrhea 7
Amni/o 7
Amniotomy 7
Amylase/lipase 7
ANA testing 7
Analgesic 7
Anaphylaxis 8
Anatomical position 56f
Andr/o 8
Anechoic 8
Anemia 8
Aneurysm 8
Angi/o 8
Angina 8
Angioedema 8
Angiography 8
Angioplasty 8
Angiotensin receptor blocker 8
Anhedonia 8
Ante- 8
Antenatal corticosteroid in selected cases 9
Anterior 9
Anti- 9
Anti-inflammatory eye drop 9
Antibacterial agent 9
Antibiotic 9
Antibiotic eye drop 9

Antibody 9
Anticoagulant 9
Antidepressant 9
Antidiarrheal 10
Antiemetic 10
Antiemetic/supportive medication 10
Antifungal 10
Antigen 10
Antigen testing 10
Antigen/o 10
Antihistamine 10
Antihypertensive 10
Antimicrobial 10
Antimicrobial prophylaxis 10
Antiparasitic 10
Antiplatelet agent 10
Antipsychotic 10
Antipyretic 10
Antiretroviral therapy 10
Antiseizure medication 11
Antithyroid medication 11
Antiviral 11
Anuria 11
Anxiety 11
Anxiolytic 11
Aphasia 11
Apheresis 11
APNEA 11
Appendectomy 11
Appendicitis 11
APTT 11
Arrhythmia 11
Arteri/o 12
Arterial 12
Arterial blood gas 12
Artery 12
Arthr/o 12
Arthralgia 12
Arthritis 12
Arthrocentesis 12
Arthropathy 12
Arthroplasty 12
Arthroscopy 12
Aseptic 13
Aspiration 13
Assessment 13
Asthma 13
Astigmatism 13
Ataxia 13
Ataxic 13
Ather/o 13
Atherosclerosis 13
Audi/o 13
Audiometry 13
Aur/o, auricul/o 13
Aural fullness 13
Auscultation 14
Auscultatory 14
Authorization 15, 53
Auto- 14
Autoimmune 14
Autoimmune disease 14

B

Bacteremia 16
Bacteri/o 16
Bacterial 16
Bacterial infection 16
Balan/o 16
Basal cell carcinoma 16
Benign 16
Benign neoplasm 16
Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo 16
Benign prostatic hyperplasia 16
Beta blocker 16
Bi- 16
Bilateral 17
Bilirubin 17
Biochemistry 17
Biologic therapy 17
Biophysical profile 17
Biopsy 17
Bipolar disorder 17
Bisphosphonate 17

Bleeding 17
Blephar/o 17
Blood cultures 17
Blood glucose 17
Blood pressure 18
Blood pressure measurement 18
Blood transfusion 18
Blood urea nitrogen 18
Blurred vision 18
Bone marrow aspiration 18
Bone marrow biopsy 18
Bone scan 18
Brady- 18
Bradycardia 18
Bradypnea 18
Bronch/o 18
Bronchiol/o 18
Bronchiolitis 19
Bronchitis 19
Bronchodilator 19
Bronchoscopy 19
Buccal 19
Burs/o 19
Bursitis 19

C

Calc/o 20
Calcium 20
Canalith repositioning maneuver 20
Capn/o 20
Carcin/o 20
Carcinoma 20
Carcinoma in situ 20
Cardi/o 20
Cardiac 20
Cardiac biomarkers 20
Cardiac catheterization 20
Cardiogenic 21
Cardiologist 21
Cardiology 21
Cardiomegaly 21
Cardiomyopathy 21
Cardiopulmonary 21
Cardiovascular 21
Cardioversion 21
Casting 21
Cataract 21
Cataract extraction 22
Catheter 22
Catheterization 22
CD4 count 22
Cellulitis 22
-centesis 20
Central-line removal when indicated 22
Cephal/o 22
Cephalic 22
Cerebell/o 22
Cerebr/o 22
Cerebral 22
Certainty 5, 7, 13, 16, 21
Cerumen impaction 22
Cerumen removal 22
Cervic/o 23
Cervical 23
Cervical cancer 23
Cervical cytology/Pap test 23
Cervicitis 23
Cesarean birth 23
Change in bowel/bladder habits 23
Chem/o 23
Chemotherapy infusion 23
Chest pain 23
Chest pressure 23
Chest radiograph 23
Chest-tube insertion 23
Chief complaint 23
Chills 23
Cholecyst/o 24
Cholecystectomy 24
Cholecystitis 24
Cholelithiasis 24
Chondr/o 24
Chronic 24
Chronic kidney disease 24

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease 24
Circumcision 24
Circumcision where applicable 24
Cirrhosis 24
Claudication 24
Clinical meaning 4, 9, 12, 21
Closed reduction 24
Coagul/o 25
Coagulopathy 25
Cochle/o 25
Cochlear 25
Cochlear implantation 25
Cognit/o 25
Cognitive behavioral therapy 25
Cognitive screening 25
Col/o, colon/o 25
Cold intolerance 25
Colectomy 25
Colonization 25
Colonoscopy 25
Colostomy 26
Colp/o 26
Colposcopic biopsy 26
Colposcopy 26
Combined hormonal contraceptive 26
Community-based treatment 26
Complete blood count 26
Compressible 26
Computed tomography 26
Conductive hearing loss 26
Confusion 26
Conjunctivitis 26
Constipation 26
Contamination 26
Context 5, 21, 51, 55f, 58f
Continuous glucose monitoring 26
Contra- 27
Contractions 27
Contraindication 27
Contralateral 27
Contusion 27
Corne/o 27
Coronary artery bypass grafting 27
Coronary artery disease 27
Cortic/o 27
Corticosteroid 27
Corticosteroid replacement 27
Cortisol 27
Cost/o 27
Cough 27
Crani/o 27
Craniotomy 28
Creatinine 28
Crepitus 28
Crisis intervention 28
Critical 28
Critical value 28
Crossmatch 28
Cryotherapy 28
CT 28
CT abdomen 28
CT chest 28
CT head 28
CT urinary tract 28
Ct/pet/mri 28
Culture 29
Cushing syndrome 29
Cutane/o 29
Cutaneous 29
Cyan/o 29
Cyanosis 29
Cyanotic 29
Cyst/o 29
Cystitis 29
Cystoscopy 29
Cyt/o 29
-cyte 20
Cytology 29
-cytosis 20
Cytotoxic chemotherapy 29

D

De- 30
Debridement 30

Decreased fetal movement 30
Deep 30
Deep brain stimulation 30
Deep vein thrombosis 30
Defibrillation 30
Definition 9, 21, 34, 51, 55f
Deformity 30
Delirium 30
Delta check 30
Delusion 30
Depressed mood 30
Derm/o, dermat/o 30
Dermatitis 30
Dermatology 30
Dermoscopy 31
Desensitization/immunotherapy 31
Diabetes mellitus 31
Diabetic ketoacidosis 31
Diabetic retinopathy 31
Diagnosis 31
Diagnostic 31
Dialysis 31
Diaphoresis 31
Diaphoretic 31
Diarrhea 31
Diastolic 32
Differential 32
Differential diagnosis 32
Digital rectal examination 32
Dilation and curettage 32
Diplopia 32
Direction 54, 56f
Discharge 32
Disease 15, 21, 24, 31, 55f
Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug 32
Disequilibrium 32
Dislocation 32
Disseminated intravascular coagulation 32
Distal 32
Diuretic 32
Diverticulitis 33
Dix-Hallpike maneuver in appropriate settings 33
Dizziness 33
Documentation 33
Dopaminergic therapy 33
Doppler flow 33
Dorsal 33
Dosage 33
Dose 33
Drainage 33
Dressing change 33
Duoden/o 33
Dxa/dexa 33
Dys- 33
Dysarthria 33
Dysmenorrhea 34
Dyspareunia 34
Dyspepsia 34
Dysphagia 34
Dysphasia 34
Dysphonia 34
Dyspnea 34
Dyspnea on exertion 34
Dysuria 34

E

Easy bruising 36
Ecchymosis 36
ECG 36
Echocardiogram 36
Eclampsia 36
Ecto- 36
-ectomy 36
Ectopic pregnancy 36
EDEMA 36
Edematous 36
Effacement 36
EGFR 37
Electrocardiogram 37
Electroconvulsive therapy 37
Electroencephalogram 37
Electrolyte 37
Electrolyte replacement 37
Electromyography 37

Embolism 37
Embry/o 37
Emesis 37
-emia 36
Emollient 37
Encephal/o 37
Encephalitis 37
Endo- 37
Endocardial 38
Endocarditis 38
Endocrin/o 38
Endocrine 38
Endocrine stimulation/suppression tests 38
Endocrinology 38
Endometri/o 38
Endometrial biopsy 38
Endometrial cancer 38
Endometriosis 38
Endoscopy 38
Enter/o 38
Enzyme 38
Epi- 38
Epididym/o 38
Epididymitis 39
Epilepsy 39
Epinephrine 39
Epinephrine in selected emergencies 39
Episiotomy in selected contexts 39
ERCP 39
Erectile dysfunction 39
Error 14, 50
Erythema 39
Erythematous 39
Erythr/o 39
Erythrocyte 39
Erythropoiesis-stimulating agent 39
Esophag/o 39
Esthesi/o 40
Etiology 40
Eu- 40
Evidence 30, 47, 53
Excision 40
Expired 40
Extension 40
Extra- 40
Eye pain 40

F

Factor replacement 41
False negative 41
False positive 41
Fasci/o 41
Fatigue 41
Febrile 41
Fecal occult blood testing 41
Feedback 54, 57f
Feeding-tube placement 41
Ferr/o 41
Ferritin 41
Fertility medication 41
Fet/o 41
Fetal heart-rate monitoring 41
Fever 42
Fine-needle aspiration 42
Flank pain 42
Flashes 42
Flexion 42
Floaters 42
Flow cytometry 42
Folate 42
Folliculitis 42
Formulation 42
Fracture 42
Free T4 42
Frequency 43
Fungal 43
Fungal infection 43

G

Gait abnormality 44
Gastr/o 44
Gastritis 44
Gastroenteritis 44
Gastroenterology 44

Gastroesophageal reflux disease 44
Gastrointestinal 44
-gen, -genic 44
Generalized anxiety disorder 44
Generic name 44
Gestational diabetes 44
Glaucoma 44
Glomerul/o 45
Glomerulonephritis 45
Glomerulus 45
Glucocorticoid antagonist in selected disorders 45
Glucose 45
Glucose screening/testing 45
Glyc/o, gluc/o 45
Glycosuria 45
Goiter 45
-gram 44
Gram stain 45
-graphy 44
Gravid/o 45
Group B streptococcus testing 45
Growth factor 45
Gynec/o 45

H

Hallucination 46
Handoff 46
HbA1c 46
Headache 46
Healthcare-associated infection 46
Hearing loss 46
Hearing screening 46
Heart failure 46
Heat intolerance 46
Heavy menstrual bleeding 46
Helminth/o 46
Hem/o, hemat/o 46
Hemat/o, hem/o 46
Hematemesis 46
Hematochezia 47
Hematocrit 47
Hematology 47
Hematoma 47
Hematopoiesis 47
Hematospermia 47
Hematuria 47
Hemi- 47
Hemodialysis 47
Hemoglobin 47
Hemolysis 48
Hemophilia 48
Hemoptysis 48
Hemorrhage 48
Hemorrhagic 48
Hemorrhagic stroke 48
Hemostasis 48
Hepat/o 48
Hepatic 48
Hepatitis 48
Hepatology 48
Hepatomegaly 49
Hepatotoxic 49
Herniated disc 49
Hidr/o 49
Histology 49
Histopathology 49
History of present illness 49
HIV antigen/antibody testing 49
HIV infection 49
Holter monitoring 49
Hormon/o 49
Hormonal therapy 49
Hormonal therapy in selected cancers 49
HPV testing 49
Hydrocele 50
Hydronephrosis 50
Hyper- 50
Hyperechoic 50
Hyperglycemia 50
Hyperkalemia 50
Hyperopia 50
Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state 50
Hyperparathyroidism 50
Hypersomnia 50

Hypertension 50
Hyperthermia 50
Hyperthyroidism 50
Hypo- 51
Hypoechoic 51
Hypoglycemia 51
Hypokalemia 51
Hypoparathyroidism 51
Hypotension 51
Hypothermia 51
Hypothyroidism 51
Hypoxia 51
Hypoxic 52
Hyster/o 52
Hyster/o, uter/o 52
Hysterectomy 52
Hysteroscopy 52

I

Identification 31
Immune 7, 10, 14, 17, 22
Inferior 56f
Interpretation 15, 20, 29

L

Lateral 56f
Laterality 56f
Leukocytosis 20
Lymphatic 14

M

Malignant 16, 20, 23, 38
Medial 56f
Medical language 54
Mental health 37, 44
Musculoskeletal 23, 42, 44

N

Normal 24, 29, 44, 50

O

Ophthalmic 9
Osteoporosis 17

P

Patient language 15, 17, 34, 47, 51
Positive 7, 22, 41
Prefix 9, 38, 47
Procedure 18, 21, 27, 53, 59
Pronunciation 14

R

Reported 7, 18, 26
Reproductive 4, 7, 41, 49, 52
Respiratory 5, 48

S

Screening 17, 23, 25, 45, 49
Sensitivity 13, 25
Spelling 14, 55f
Stress 20, 27
Suffix 9, 24, 38, 47
Superficial 4, 43
Superior 56f
Suspected 6
Symptom 10, 23, 32, 34, 44
Syndrome 5, 8, 29, 49

T

Terminology 4, 9, 12, 21, 57f
Thyroid 11, 42, 45, 50

U

Urinary 4, 28, 34

W

Word construction 45

VOLUME 4D-1

Platinum Reference Learning Laboratory

The CDIL Master Medical Language Reference A-H

Purpose

This final learning section converts the reference volume from a lookup tool into an active clinical-language laboratory. Use it to decode unfamiliar terms, distinguish look-alike words, translate technical language without distorting meaning, document safely, and retrieve terms efficiently.

Core rule: preserve what the source actually says. Do not promote possibility to certainty, do not drop laterality or timing, and do not use terminology knowledge as a substitute for clinical authority.

Visual Learning Map 1 - Building a Medical Term

PREFIX	ROOT / COMBINING FORM	SUFFIX	MEANING CHECK
changes direction, amount, time, or state	names body structure or core idea	describes condition, procedure, process, or state	read left to right; check context

TERM	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3	SAFE PLAIN-LANGUAGE RECONSTRUCTION
hypoglycemia	hypo-	glyc	-emia	low blood glucose condition
bradycardia	brady-	cardi	-ia	slow heart-rate condition
dermatitis	dermat	-itis		inflammation involving skin
endoscopy	endo-	scop	-y	visual examination within a body space

Visual Learning Map 2 - From Source Language to Safe Communication

1. SOURCE	What exactly was written or said?
2. DECODE	What do the word parts and full term mean?
3. CONTEXT	What body system, document type, timing and certainty apply?
4. CONTRAST	Is there a look-alike or opposite term that could be confused?
5. TRANSLATE	How can the meaning be explained without adding or removing information?
6. DOCUMENT	Use the verified term, preserve uncertainty, and cite/attribute when required.

The most common language error is not failure to know a definition. It is loss of context: dropping a qualifier, changing certainty, confusing a symptom with a diagnosis, or reusing an abbreviation without verification.

High-Risk Look-Alike and Contrast Terms

TERM A	TERM B	DISTINCTION TO PRESERVE
abduction	adduction	movement away from versus toward the body midline
afferent	efferent	toward a central structure versus away from it
anterior	posterior	front versus back orientation
artery	vein	vessel carrying blood away from versus toward the heart
benign	malignant	noncancerous behavior versus cancerous invasive potential
bradycardia	tachycardia	slow versus fast heart rate
dysphagia	dysphasia	swallowing difficulty versus language impairment
edema	erythema	swelling from fluid versus redness
extension	flexion	increasing versus decreasing joint angle
hypoglycemia	hyperglycemia	low versus high blood glucose

A-H Term Retrieval and Context Practice

Use these entries as retrieval drills. Cover the definition, explain the term aloud, then uncover the definition and compare. The source page is included so the learner can return to the full entry.

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
-algia	pain — arthralgia 5-alpha-reductase inhibitor	4
abruption	premature separation of a structure; in obstetrics, placental abruption means premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wa	5
adrenal	relating to the adrenal glands located above the kidneys.	6
alveolus	Alzheimer disease progressive neurodegenerative disorder and common cause of dementia, characterized by decline in memory and c	7
aneurysm	localized abnormal dilation or bulging of a blood vessel or cardiac wall caused by weakening of the wall.	8
anti-inflammatory eye drop	ophthalmic medication used to reduce ocular inflammation; the specific drug may be a corticosteroid or nonsteroidal anti- inflammatory	9
antigen	substance recognized by the immune system.	10
antiretroviral therapy	combination drug treatment that suppresses replication of HIV and is used for long-term management of HIV infection.	11
appendicitis	inflammation of the appendix.	11
aseptic	designed to prevent contamination by harmful microorganisms.	13
auscultation	listening to internal body sounds, typically with a stethoscope.	14
bacteremia	presence of bacteria in the bloodstream.	16

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
bilateral	involving both sides.	17
blood pressure	pressure exerted by circulating blood on arterial walls.	18
bronchiolitis	inflammation of the bronchioles, commonly due to viral infection in infants and young children but also used in other small- airway diso	19
canalith repositioning maneuver	series of head and body movements used to treat benign paroxysmal positional vertigo by repositioning displaced inner-ear particles.	20
cardiopulmonary	relating to the heart and lungs.	21
cerebral	relating to the cerebrum/brain.	22
chemical	chemotherapy infusion administration of antineoplastic medication by intravenous infusion.	23
Do not confuse with. untreatable	chronic kidney disease persistent abnormalities of kidney structure or function lasting at least several months and having health implica	24
knowing/thinking	cognitive behavioral therapy structured psychotherapy that helps patients identify and modify unhelpful patterns of thought and behavio	25
complete blood count	common blood test measuring major blood-cell components, including red blood cells, hemoglobin, hematocrit, white blood cells, and p	26
contractions	rhythmic tightening of uterine muscle during labor or other uterine activity; meaning depends on obstetric context.	27
crepitus	grating, crackling, or popping sensation or sound produced by movement of tissues, joints, bone fragments, or gas in soft tissue depen	28

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
culture	laboratory method used to grow and identify microorganisms in appropriate specimens.	29
debridement	removal of devitalized, contaminated, or unwanted tissue/material from a wound or site to promote healing and control infection decreas	30
dermatitis	inflammation of skin.	30
diarrhea	frequent passage of loose or watery stool, often with increased stool volume or urgency.	31
disseminated intravascular coagulation	serious systemic coagulation disorder with widespread clot formation and consumption of platelets and clotting factors, causing both th	32
dosage	dose amount and schedule/regimen.	33
Dysphonia	impaired voice quality or production.	34
edematous	showing edema.	36
emollient	topical preparation that softens, moisturizes, and protects dry or irritated skin.	37
endometriosis	condition in which endometrium-like tissue exists outside the uterine cavity and can cause pain, inflammation, adhesions, or infertility.	38
erectile dysfunction	persistent difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual activity.	39
false negative	test result indicating a condition is absent when it is present.	41

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
fine-needle aspiration	procedure using a thin needle to collect cells or fluid from a mass, organ, or lesion for diagnostic examination	42
frequency	urinating often and does not necessarily mean increased total volume fungal	43
gastrointestinal	relating to stomach and intestines.	44
glycosuria	glucose in the urine.	45
healthcare-associated infection	infection acquired in connection with healthcare delivery that was not present or incubating at the start of care according to applicable	46
hematology	study/specialty of blood and blood-forming tissues.	47
hemorrhagic stroke	stroke caused by bleeding into or around the brain due to rupture of a blood vessel.	48
history of present illness	description of the development and characteristics of the current problem.	49
hyperechoic	more echoes.	50
hypoechoic	fewer echoes than surrounding tissue.	51
Master Medical Language Reference Atlas	Use these plates alongside the main text. Start by describing what the visual actually shows, then read the explanation, answer the qu	54
signalling	A simplified HPA-axis relationship; testing depends on time, method and clinical question.	57

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
Visual atlas index and reading links	This index covers the added learning plates. It is not a replacement for a complete, evidence-audited subject index of the inherited text	60
Abduction 4	Abnormal 4, 8, 12, 16, 34 Abnormal bleeding 4	61
Afebrile 6	Age-related macular degeneration 6 Agitation 6	61
Analgesic 7	Anaphylaxis 8 Anatomical position 56f	61
Antibiotic 9	Antibiotic eye drop 9	61
Antipyretic 10	Antiretroviral therapy 10 Antiseizure medication 11	62
Arthrocentesis 12	Arthropathy 12 Arthroplasty 12	62
Auto- 14	Autoimmune 14 Autoimmune disease 14	62
Bipolar disorder 17	Bisphosphonate 17	62
Bronchiolitis 19	Bronchitis 19 Bronchodilator 19	63
Cardiomegaly 21	Cardiomyopathy 21 Cardiopulmonary 21	63
Cerumen impaction 22	Cerumen removal 22 Cervic/o 23	63

TERM	CORE MEANING / CONTEXT	SOURCE
Cholelithiasis 24	Chondr/o 24 Chronic 24	63
Col/o, colon/o 25	Cold intolerance 25 Colectomy 25	64
Continuous glucose monitoring 26	Contra- 27 Contractions 27	64
Critical 28	Critical value 28 Crossmatch 28	64
-cyte 20	Cytology 29 -cytosis 20	64
Dermoscopy 31	Desensitization/immunotherapy 31 Diabetes mellitus 31	65
Disease-modifying antirheumatic drug 32	Disequilibrium 32 Dislocation 32	65
Dysarthria 33	Dysmenorrhea 34 Dyspareunia 34	65
Electrocardiogram 37	Electroconvulsive therapy 37 Electroencephalogram 37	65
Endocrinology 38	Endometri/o 38 Endometrial biopsy 38	66
Erythr/o 39	Erythrocyte 39 Erythropoiesis-stimulating agent 39	66
Feeding-tube placement 41	Ferr/o 41 Ferritin 41	66

Clinical Translation Laboratory

For each scenario, write a response that preserves meaning, uncertainty, identity, timing and professional boundaries.

Case 1. Referral note. The note contains a familiar term, an unfamiliar modifier, and an abbreviation. Decode the word parts, preserve the modifier, verify the abbreviation locally, and rewrite the meaning in plain language without adding a diagnosis.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 2. Laboratory result. A term in the report names a measurement rather than a disease. State exactly what was measured, distinguish the result from a diagnosis, and identify what contextual information would be needed before interpretation.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 3. Imaging report. The report contains a location term and a probability modifier. Translate both. Do not convert possibility into certainty and do not erase laterality or anatomical level.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 4. Medication record. A drug-class term appears beside a route and frequency. Separate the medication class from the administration instructions. Verify unfamiliar abbreviations before reuse.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 5. Handover. Two professionals use different words for the same concept. Identify the shared meaning, preserve any clinically important distinction, and choose a patient-friendly explanation.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 6. Patient portal message. The patient asks what a technical term means. Explain it in ordinary language, identify what the term does not establish by itself, and advise the learner to defer diagnosis or treatment decisions to the responsible clinician.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 7. Operative note. A procedure suffix indicates what was done. Decode the suffix, identify the body structure from the root, and distinguish the procedure from the underlying indication.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 8. Emergency documentation. A term is time-sensitive and easily confused with a similar term. Confirm spelling and meaning before documenting. Record observed findings separately from interpretation.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 9. Specimen label. The written term is correct but the patient identifier is inconsistent. Explain why terminology accuracy does not compensate for identification failure and state the safe next action.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Case 10. Cross-jurisdiction record. A spelling variant or abbreviation differs from local usage. Preserve the original meaning, avoid silently changing clinically significant content, and document the verified local equivalent when needed.

Mastery prompts: (a) What must be preserved? (b) What must be verified? (c) What could be misunderstood? (d) What would a patient-friendly explanation sound like?

Platinum Question Bank

Questions assess retrieval, distinction, translation and safe documentation. Answers follow the bank.

1. Define **-algia** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
2. A learner encounters **abruption** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
3. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **adrenal** without changing the source meaning.
4. Define **alveolus** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
5. A learner encounters **aneurysm** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
6. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **anti-inflammatory eye drop** without changing the source meaning.
7. Define **antigen** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
8. A learner encounters **antiretroviral therapy** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
9. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **appendicitis** without changing the source meaning.
10. Define **aseptic** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
11. A learner encounters **auscultation** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
12. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **bacteremia** without changing the source meaning.
13. Define **bilateral** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
14. A learner encounters **blood pressure** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
15. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **bronchiolitis** without changing the source meaning.

16. Define **canalith repositioning maneuver** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
17. A learner encounters **cardiopulmonary** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
18. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **cerebral** without changing the source meaning.
19. Define **chemical** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
20. A learner encounters **Do not confuse with. untreatable** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
21. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **knowing/thinking** without changing the source meaning.
22. Define **complete blood count** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
23. A learner encounters **contractions** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
24. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **crepitus** without changing the source meaning.
25. Define **culture** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
26. A learner encounters **debridement** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
27. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **dermatitis** without changing the source meaning.
28. Define **diarrhea** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
29. A learner encounters **disseminated intravascular coagulation** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
30. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **dosage** without changing the source meaning.

31. Define **Dysphonia** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
32. A learner encounters **edematous** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
33. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **emollient** without changing the source meaning.
34. Define **endometriosis** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
35. A learner encounters **erectile dysfunction** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
36. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **false negative** without changing the source meaning.
37. Define **fine-needle aspiration** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
38. A learner encounters **frequency** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
39. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **gastrointestinal** without changing the source meaning.
40. Define **glycosuria** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
41. A learner encounters **healthcare-associated infection** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
42. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **hematology** without changing the source meaning.
43. Define **hemorrhagic stroke** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
44. A learner encounters **history of present illness** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
45. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **hyperechoic** without changing the source meaning.

46. Define **hypoechoic** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
47. A learner encounters **Master Medical Language Reference A–H** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
48. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **signalling** without changing the source meaning.
49. Define **Visual atlas index and reading links** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
50. A learner encounters **Abduction 4** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
51. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Afebrile 6** without changing the source meaning.
52. Define **Analgesic 7** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
53. A learner encounters **Antibiotic 9** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
54. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Antipyretic 10** without changing the source meaning.
55. Define **Arthrocentesis 12** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
56. A learner encounters **Auto- 14** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
57. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Bipolar disorder 17** without changing the source meaning.
58. Define **Bronchiolitis 19** in your own words and state one context detail you would preserve when using it clinically.
59. A learner encounters **Cardiomegaly 21** in a report. What does the term mean, and what does the term *not* establish by itself?
60. Write a patient-friendly explanation of **Cerumen impaction 22** without changing the source meaning.

Model Answer Guidance

1. -algia: pain — arthralgia 5-alpha-reductase inhibitor A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

2. abruption: premature separation of a structure; in obstetrics, placental abruption means premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

3. adrenal: relating to the adrenal glands located above the kidneys. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

4. alveolus: Alzheimer disease progressive neurodegenerative disorder and common cause of dementia, characterized by decline in memory and other A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

5. aneurysm: localized abnormal dilation or bulging of a blood vessel or cardiac wall caused by weakening of the wall. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

6. anti-inflammatory eye drop: ophthalmic medication used to reduce ocular inflammation; the specific drug may be a corticosteroid or nonsteroidal anti- inflammatory agent. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

7. antigen: substance recognized by the immune system. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

8. antiretroviral therapy: combination drug treatment that suppresses replication of HIV and is used for long-term management of HIV infection. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

9. appendicitis: inflammation of the appendix. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

10. aseptic: designed to prevent contamination by harmful microorganisms. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

11. auscultation: listening to internal body sounds, typically with a stethoscope. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

12. bacteremia: presence of bacteria in the bloodstream. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

13. bilateral: involving both sides. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

14. blood pressure: pressure exerted by circulating blood on arterial walls. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

15. bronchiolitis: inflammation of the bronchioles, commonly due to viral infection in infants and young children but also used in other small- airway disorders. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

16. canalith repositioning maneuver: series of head and body movements used to treat benign paroxysmal positional vertigo by repositioning displaced inner-ear particles. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

17. cardiopulmonary: relating to the heart and lungs. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

18. cerebral: relating to the cerebrum/brain. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

19. chemical: chemotherapy infusion administration of antineoplastic medication by intravenous infusion. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

20. Do not confuse with. untreatable: chronic kidney disease persistent abnormalities of kidney structure or function lasting at least several months and having health implications. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

21. knowing/thinking: cognitive behavioral therapy structured psychotherapy that helps patients identify and modify unhelpful patterns of thought and behavior. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

22. complete blood count: common blood test measuring major blood-cell components, including red blood cells, hemoglobin, hematocrit, white blood cells, and platelets; often reported with red-cell indices and sometimes a differential. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

23. contractions: rhythmic tightening of uterine muscle during labor or other uterine activity; meaning depends on obstetric context. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

24. crepitus: grating, crackling, or popping sensation or sound produced by movement of tissues, joints, bone fragments, or gas in soft tissue depending on context. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

25. culture: laboratory method used to grow and identify microorganisms in appropriate specimens. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

26. debridement: removal of devitalized, contaminated, or unwanted tissue/material from a wound or site to promote healing or control infection decreased fetal movement The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

27. dermatitis: inflammation of skin. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

28. diarrhea: frequent passage of loose or watery stool, often with increased stool volume or urgency. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

29. disseminated intravascular coagulation: serious systemic coagulation disorder with widespread clot formation and consumption of platelets and clotting factors, causing both thrombosis and bleeding. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

30. dosage: dose amount and schedule/regimen. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

31. Dysphonia: impaired voice quality or production. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

32. edematous: showing edema. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

33. emollient: topical preparation that softens, moisturizes, and protects dry or irritated skin. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

34. endometriosis: condition in which endometrium-like tissue exists outside the uterine cavity and can cause pain, inflammation, adhesions, or infertility. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

35. erectile dysfunction: persistent difficulty achieving or maintaining an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual activity. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

36. false negative: test result indicating a condition is absent when it is present. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

37. fine-needle aspiration: procedure using a thin needle to collect cells or fluid from a mass, organ, or lesion for diagnostic examination. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

38. frequency: urinating often and does not necessarily mean increased total volume fungal The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

39. gastrointestinal: relating to stomach and intestines. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

40. glycosuria: glucose in the urine. A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

41. healthcare-associated infection: infection acquired in connection with healthcare delivery that was not present or incubating at the start of care according to applicable definitions. The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

42. hematology: study/specialty of blood and blood-forming tissues. Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

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51. Afebrile 6: Age-related macular degeneration 6 Agitation 6 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

52. Analgesic 7: Anaphylaxis 8 Anatomical position 56f A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

53. Antibiotic 9: Antibiotic eye drop 9 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

54. Antipyretic 10: Antiretroviral therapy 10 Antiseizure medication 11 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

55. Arthrocentesis 12: Arthropathy 12 Arthroplasty 12 A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

56. Auto- 14: Autoimmune 14 Autoimmune disease 14 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

57. Bipolar disorder 17: Bisphosphonate 17 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

58. Bronchiolitis 19: Bronchitis 19 Bronchodilator 19 A strong answer also preserves the relevant document context, timing, certainty, body system, or laterality rather than treating the definition as a diagnosis.

59. Cardiomegaly 21: Cardiomyopathy 21 Cardiopulmonary 21 The term communicates this meaning but does not independently establish diagnosis, severity, treatment, causation, or scope of practice unless the source explicitly does so.

60. Cerumen impaction 22: Cerumen removal 22 Cervic/o 23 Patient-friendly language should use ordinary words, keep the same level of certainty, and avoid introducing conclusions that are absent from the source.

Pronunciation, Spelling and Verification Standard

Do not invent pronunciation. If the controlled entry does not provide a verified pronunciation, consult an approved clinical dictionary, institutional resource, or qualified instructor.

Accept legitimate variants. Pronunciation and spelling may vary by region and profession. Preserve the meaning and use the local authorized convention when documentation requires standardization.

Read abbreviations cautiously. An abbreviation can have more than one meaning. Verify it from the source context and local policy before expanding or reusing it.

Separate what was observed from what was inferred. Terminology accuracy strengthens documentation only when the underlying clinical statement is itself accurate and within scope.

Reference Retrieval Checklist

1. Confirm spelling before searching.
2. Search the full term, then search the root/combining form if needed.
3. Check nearby look-alike entries.
4. Read the whole definition, not only the first phrase.
5. Return to the original document and confirm that the definition fits the sentence.
6. Preserve certainty words such as possible, suspected, likely, confirmed, ruled out, history of, and resolved.
7. Verify pronunciation separately when it matters for spoken communication.
8. Use Volume 4D-4 for cross-reference, thesaurus, plain-language and association retrieval.

Completion Index - Learning Resources

RESOURCE	WHERE TO FIND IT
Word construction and morphology	Visual Learning Map 1
Meaning preservation	Visual Learning Map 2
Look-alike/contrast terms	High-Risk Contrast Table
Term retrieval practice	A-H Term Retrieval
Clinical translation	Clinical Translation Laboratory
Question bank	Platinum Question Bank
Answer guidance	Model Answer Guidance
Pronunciation and verification	Pronunciation, Spelling and Verification Standard
Cross-volume retrieval	Reference Retrieval Checklist

End of coordinated Platinum completion resources for this reference volume.