

Understanding Medical Terminology and Jargon

Module 6

Task



Medical terminology and jargon can prove to be the ultimate bane to any medical secretary. This is why this sixth module should prove to be invaluable as you attempt to break down those codes and learn what some of the most important terminology stands for.



We recommend that you allocate at least 30 minutes to this worksheet.



At the end of the worksheet is a convenient answers/feedback and advice section to allow you to see how well you have done.

Activity #1



10 minutes

With this first activity, look at the codes below and write their full meaning alongside.

1. Carcin 2. Nocr 3. Sept 4. Path 5. Pneum 6. ECG 7. FBC 8. WBC 9. LFT 10. TIBC

Activity #2

 5 minutes

In the module you studied a number of commonly used suffixes, try to explain the 5 examples below.

1. ITIS 2. AEMIA 3. ECTOMY 4. OMA 5. OSIS

Activity #3

 15 minutes

In this final activity, for you to be able to really find out how well you did on this module, try your best to concisely summarise everything that was mentioned in this part of the course.



Answers/feedback and advice section

Activity #1

1. Cancer; 2. Death; 3. Infection; 4. Disease; 5. Lungs; 6. Electrocardiogram; 7. Full blood count; 8. White blood count; 9. Liver function test; 10. Total Iron Binding Capacity.

Activity #2

The 5 suffixes were as follows: 1. Inflammation; 2. A condition of the blood; 3. Removal or elimination; 4. Tumour; 5. Disease or a condition.

Activity #3

Advice and Feedback

The best way to gauge how well you have done with your summary is to compare it with the one that came at the end of this module: Medical terminology refers to the technical terms in the field of medicine. A common set of medical terms helps standardise communication across practitioners and also helps improve documentation and processes. It is extremely important for non-clinical staff to gain a working knowledge of medical terms because this will help them improve efficiency and speed. Administrative staff members are often entrusted with the responsibility of managing and creating medical records, billing and generating repeat prescriptions for patients. All these tasks require a basic understanding of medical words and their meaning. Fortunately, it is not difficult to gain familiarity with medical jargon. Medical words may often sound complex on the surface, but they can be broken into root words, prefixes and suffixes. The root words are usually derived from Greek and Latin. Mistakes in comprehension of medical terminology may result in errors in prescriptions and documentation that may further lead to serious consequences.



SUMMARY

As you have definitely started to get to grips with medical jargon and terminology now, decide for yourself if you would benefit from one more read through of the material in the module before you progress to the next.

