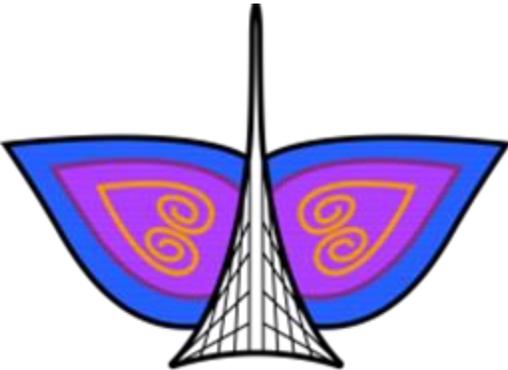


MEDICAL VOCABULARY

MCHH



MILWAUKEE CONSORTIUM
FOR HMONG HEALTH, INC.

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MEDICAL TERMS

Abrasion: A cut or scrape that typically isn't serious.

Abscess: A tender, fluid-filled pocket that forms in tissue, usually due to infection.

Acute: Signifies a condition that begins abruptly and is sometimes severe, but the duration is short.

Aneurysm: A bulge in the wall of an artery that weakens the artery and can lead to rupture.

Atrial fibrillation: An uncoordinated, quivering movement of the heart muscle resulting in an irregular pulse and poor blood flow.

Bradycardia: A slowing of the heart rate—typically less than 60 beats per minute for adults.

Benign: Not cancerous.

Biopsy: A small sample of tissue that's taken for testing.

Cancer: Collection of related diseases where some of the body's cells multiply out of control spreading into surrounding tissues and interfering with normal body function.

Chronic: Signifies a recurring, persistent condition like heart disease.

Contusion: A bruise.

C-section: Shorthand for cesarean section the surgical delivery of a baby through the abdominal wall.

Diagnosis: Identification of a condition, disease or disorder by evaluation of symptoms, tests and other factors.

Dialysis: Procedure to filter blood for patients with kidney failure.

Edema: Swelling caused by fluid accumulation.

Endoscope: A long flexible tube with its own special lighting and camera used to look into the body. There are many specific kinds of endoscopes.

Epidermis: The outer layer of the skin.

Epidural: An injection of a local anesthetic to the lumbar level of the spine often used to relieve pain during labor.

Fracture: Broken bone or cartilage.

Hypertension: High blood pressure.

Hypotension: Abnormally low blood pressure.

Inpatient: A patient who requires hospitalization.

Intravenous (IV): Indicates medication or fluid that's delivered by vein.

Intubation: Insertion of an endotracheal (placed within the trachea) tube to assist patient breathing.

Malignant: Indicates the presence of cancerous cells.

Myocardial infarction: When an arterial blockage or slow blood flow deprives the heart of blood. Known more commonly as a heart attack.

Outpatient: A patient who receives care without being admitted to a hospital.

Sepsis: A serious condition caused the body's response to severe infection. Occurs when the body's infection-fighting response gets out of balance and can lead to severe issues like organ failure.

Stethoscope: A small instrument used for listening to a patient's breathing and heartbeat.

Tumor: A swelling or mass, often used in relation to cancer.

Ultrasound: A form of diagnostic imaging that uses high-frequency sound waves.

MEDICAL TERMS:

MEDICAL PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

A-, an-: Lack of or without.

Dys-: Abnormal, difficult, or painful.

-ectomy: Surgical removal of something.

-itis: Signifies inflammation.

-lysis: Decomposition, destruction, or breaking down.

-ology: The study of a particular concentration.

-pathy: Disease or disease process.

Poly-: Many.

-plasty: Surgical repair.

Pseudo-: False or deceptive, usually about appearance.

Retro-: Behind or backward.

MEDICAL TERMS:

MEDICAL ROOT WORDS

Abdomin/o: Abdomen

Aden/o: Gland

Anter/o: Front

Arteri/o: Artery

Audi/o: Hearing

Bio: Life

Brachi/o: Arm

Bronch/i, bronch/o: Bronchus

Carcin/o: Cancer

Cardi/o: Heart

Col/o: Colon

Cyt/o: Cell

Derm/a, derm/o, dermat/o: Skin

Dors/i, dors/o: Back or posterior

Encephal/o: Brain

Gastr/o: Stomach

Gynec/o: Female

Hemat/o: Blood

Hist/o, histi/o: Tissue

Intestin/o: Intestine

Lapar/o: Abdomen, loin or flank

Lymph/o: Lymph vessels

My/o: Muscle

Neur/o: Nerve

Ocul/o: Eye

Ophthalm/o: Eyes

Optic/o, opt/o: Seeing, sight

Or/o: Mouth

Oste/o: Related to bone.

Ot/o: Ear

Path/o: Disease

Pharmac/o: Drug

Pulmon/o: Lungs

Sept/o: Infection

Thorac/o: Chest/thorax

Thyr/o: Thyroid gland

Trachel/o: Neck or necklike

Trich/o: Hair or hairlike

Ventr/i, ventr/o: Front of body

Viscer/o: Viscera (internal organs)

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

ABOUT THE BODY

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	Meaning
BP	Blood pressure	A measure of how hard the heart is working
HR	Heart rate	How many times the heart beats in one minute
O₂	Oxygen	Pronounced "oh-too"
O₂ sats	Oxygen saturation	A measure of how much oxygen a person is getting
RBC	Red blood cells	The cells in the blood that carry oxygen
RR	Respiratory rate	How many times a person breathes in one minute
VS	Vital signs	A patient's blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature
WBC	White blood cells	The cells in the blood that fight infection
WNL	Within Normal Limits	Normal for the patient's age and gender (Example: "VS WNL" means "vital signs are normal for this patient")

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS:

MEDICATIONS

HOW TO TAKE MEDICATIONS

Abbreviation:	Means the medication is taken:
PO	By mouth (swallowed)
IM	Intramuscularly (injected into a muscle)
INH	Inhaled (breathed in)
IV	Intravenously (injected into a vein)
PR	"Per rectum" (placed into the rectum)
SC, SQ, Sub-q	"Subcutaneous" (injected under the skin)

Drugs and Medications

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	Notes
APAP	Acetaminophen	Common brand name: Tylenol
ASA	Aspirin	"ASA" is short for A cetylsalicylic a cid (aspirin's original name)
ETOH	Alcohol	Stands for ethanol (drinking alcohol)
MVI	Multivitamin	A set of vitamins in one pill
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug	Pronounced "en-sed"; examples are ibuprofen and aspirin
NTG	Nitroglycerin	Used for heart attacks and other problems; also called "nitro"
OBC	Oral birth control	Birth control taken as a pill (also called OC: oral contraceptive)
OTC	An over-the-counter drug	Can be bought without a doctor's prescription
PCP	Phencyclidine	An illegal drug that causes hallucinations
SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor	A type of antidepressant; examples are Prozac and Paxil

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS:

MEDICAL SPECIALTIES

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	Meaning
ENT	Ears, Nose, and Throat	Treats problems with the ears, nose, and throat
ER	Emergency room	Treats medical emergencies
GI	Gastrointestinal	Treats problems with the gastrointestinal tract
GU	Genitourinary	Treats problems with the genitals or the urinary system
GYN	Gynecology	Treats and prevents problems with a woman's reproductive system
Hem/Onc	Hematology/Oncology	Treats blood disorders and cancer (pronounced "HEEM-onk")
ICU	Intensive Care Unit	A special hospital unit for very sick people
Neuro	Neurology	Involves the nervous system (brain, spinal cord, and nerves) (pronounced "NURR-oh")
OB	Obstetrics	The medical specialty that treats women while they are pregnant and giving birth
OR	Operating room	Part of the hospital where surgery is done
Ortho	Orthopedics	Treats problems with the bones, like broken bones
Pedi	Pediatrics	Pediatric doctors (pediatricians) treat children (pronounced "PEE-dee")

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS:

HEALTH PROBLEMS

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	A Problem With:	Meaning/Notes
A-fib	Atrial fibrillation	Heart	A type of abnormal heartbeat where the heart beats quickly and irregularly
CA	Cancer		A group of diseases caused by abnormal cells growing out of control
CAD	Coronary artery disease	Heart	The arteries that bring blood to the heart get blocked off and cannot bring enough blood to the heart
CHF	Congestive heart failure	Heart	The heart cannot pump enough blood to the body
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Lungs	A group of chronic diseases that make it hard to breathe
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident	Brain	Stroke
DM	Diabetes mellitus	Metabolism	See also diabetes mellitus type 1 (DM1) and diabetes mellitus type 2 (DM2)
DJD	Degenerative Joint Disease	Joints	Arthritis
DVT	Deep vein thrombosis	Blood clotting	A blood clot, usually in a big vein in the leg
HTN	Hypertension	Circulatory system	High blood pressure
IDDM	Insulin-Dependent Diabetes	Metabolism	Diabetes that needs to be treated with insulin (usually type 1 diabetes)
Mets	Metastasis	Cancer	The original cancer has spread to another place in the body
MI	Myocardial infarction	Heart	Heart attack (also called AMI, for "acute myocardial infarction")

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	A Problem With:	Meaning/Notes
NIDDM	Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes	Metabolism	Diabetes that does not need to be treated with insulin (usually type 2 diabetes)
OD	Overdose		Taking too much medication or drugs, either accidentally or on purpose
SOB	Shortness of Breath	Breathing	Having trouble breathing
TIA	Transient ischemic attack	Brain	A small stroke that does not leave any permanent brain damage
V-fib	Ventricular fibrillation	Heart	The heart quivers and twitches, and cannot pump blood to the body
V-tach	Ventricular tachycardia	Heart	The heart beats too fast to pump blood to the body; pronounced "V-tack"

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS:

INFECTIONS

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	Meaning/Notes
C. diff	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection	Bacteria attack the intestines; many antibiotics will not kill <i>C. diff</i> (pronounced "SEE-diff")
HCV	Hepatitis C virus	A chronic infection of the liver
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus	The virus that causes AIDS
HPV	Human papillomavirus	A virus that can cause cancer
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	A bacterial infection that many antibiotics will not kill (pronounced "MURR-suh")
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease	An infection of a woman's reproductive system
STI	Sexually transmitted infection	Used to be called "STD" (sexually transmitted disease)
TB	Tuberculosis	An infection of the lungs
URI	Upper respiratory infection	An infection of the upper respiratory tract; examples are the common cold and sinus infections
UTI	Urinary tract infection	An infection of the bladder or kidneys

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS:

TESTS AND TREATMENTS

Abbreviation:	Stands For:	Meaning
CABG	Coronary artery bypass graft	Surgery to treat blocked arteries that bring blood to the heart; pronounced "cabbage"
CBC	Complete Blood Count	A basic blood test that counts the number of blood cells in a person's blood
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	Emergency treatment done when a person's heart or breathing stops
CT	Computed tomography scan	Uses X-rays to make a 3-D picture of the inside of the body; also called a "CAT scan"
ECG; EKG	Electrocardiogram	Test of the heart's electrical activity
Echo	Echocardiogram	Test that uses sound waves to make a picture of the heart and whether it is working normally
EEG	Electroencephalogram	Test of the brain's electrical activity
LFTs	Liver function tests	Tests of how well the liver is working (usually blood tests)
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging	Uses a very strong magnet to make a 3-D picture of the inside of the body
XRT	X-ray Therapy	Usually means radiation therapy for cancer

CITATIONS

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_abbreviations

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<https://www.dummies.com/careers/medical-careers/medical-terminology/medical-terminology-for-dummies-cheat-sheet/>

FURTHER RESOURCES

https://mfpweb.nursing.uic.edu/education/assessment/Common_Medical_Terminology.pdf

http://www.delmarlearning.com/companions/content/1401852467/student_resources/TermAbbrev.pdf

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