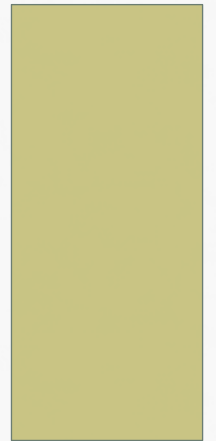


# INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH CAREERS

CHAPTER 4  
MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY



# MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

## VERY IMPORTANT

- **Language used by health care workers**
- **Includes specialized terms, abbreviations, and symbols**
- **Precise terms prevent confusion and error**
- **Do not use when communicating with patients**
  - **First determine their level of understanding**

# MEDICAL TERMS BUILT FROM “WORD PARTS”

- **Root**
  - Refers to structure and function of the body
- **Combining Form**
  - Root plus vowel
- **Combining Vowel**
  - Links root to next element
  - Usually “o,” but can be “a,” “e,” “i,” or “u”
- **Suffix**
  - Attaches to end of roots and combining forms
- **Prefix**
  - Attaches to beginning of roots and combining forms

# DECIPHERING MEDICAL TERMS

- **Start from right and work left**
  - **Identify meaning of the suffix**
  - **Identify meaning of the prefix (if there is one)**
  - **Identify meaning of the root**
  
- **“Last, First, then Middle”**

# EXAMPLE 1

- Cardiology
  - Suffix “-ology” means “study of”
  - Root “cardi” means “heart”
  - Prefix – none in this word
  - Meaning
    - Study of the heart

## EXAMPLE 2

- Polyarthritis
  - Suffix “-itis” mean “inflammation”
  - Root “arthr” means “joint”
  - Prefix “poly” means “many, much”
  - Meaning
    - Inflammation of many joints

# BREAK IT DOWN, THEN PUT IT TOGETHER

- **Pericarditis**

- itis – suffix meaning Inflammation of
  - (notice, no combining vowel because suffix started with a vowel)
- Peri – prefix meaning around
- Card – root meaning heart
- **Inflammation around the heart**

(inflammation of a membrane around the heart)

# SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

- Accuracy is critical
- Some words sound the same but they are spelled differently
- One letter can completely change the meaning
- Memorize pronunciation and plural form guides (p 94)



# MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

- Many are common, others vary
  - Several are also used in mathematics
- Use only those listed on the facility's approved list
- If not on facility's approved list, it cannot be used
- Some are easily confused, therefore on a **Do Not Use** list (p96)
- (note one was deleted from your word list)

# STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!

- Use study habits to build upon your learning style
  - **Visual**-make flash cards
  - **Auditory**-quiz your classmates
  - **Kinesthetic**-draw images
- Learn to use a *Medical Dictionary*
- Key to success: Study & Practice

# WRAP UP

- Use Study Ware CD
- Fill in the Word List
- Complete Workbook pages