

# Chapter 25

## Medical Terminology

# Medical Terminology (1 of 4)

- Knowing medical terminology is important in your work.
- Medical terms are made up of parts or *word elements*.
- Common abbreviations are used throughout the health care system.
- There could be legal ramifications if incorrect terms are used because charts are legal documents.

# Medical Terminology (2 of 4)

- Prefixes

- Placed at the beginning of a word and change the meaning of the word
- Are combined with other words
- Never used alone

# Medical Terminology (3 of 4)

- Roots
  - Contain the basic meaning of the word
  - Are combined with another root or suffixes, usually by an “o,” called a *combining vowel*

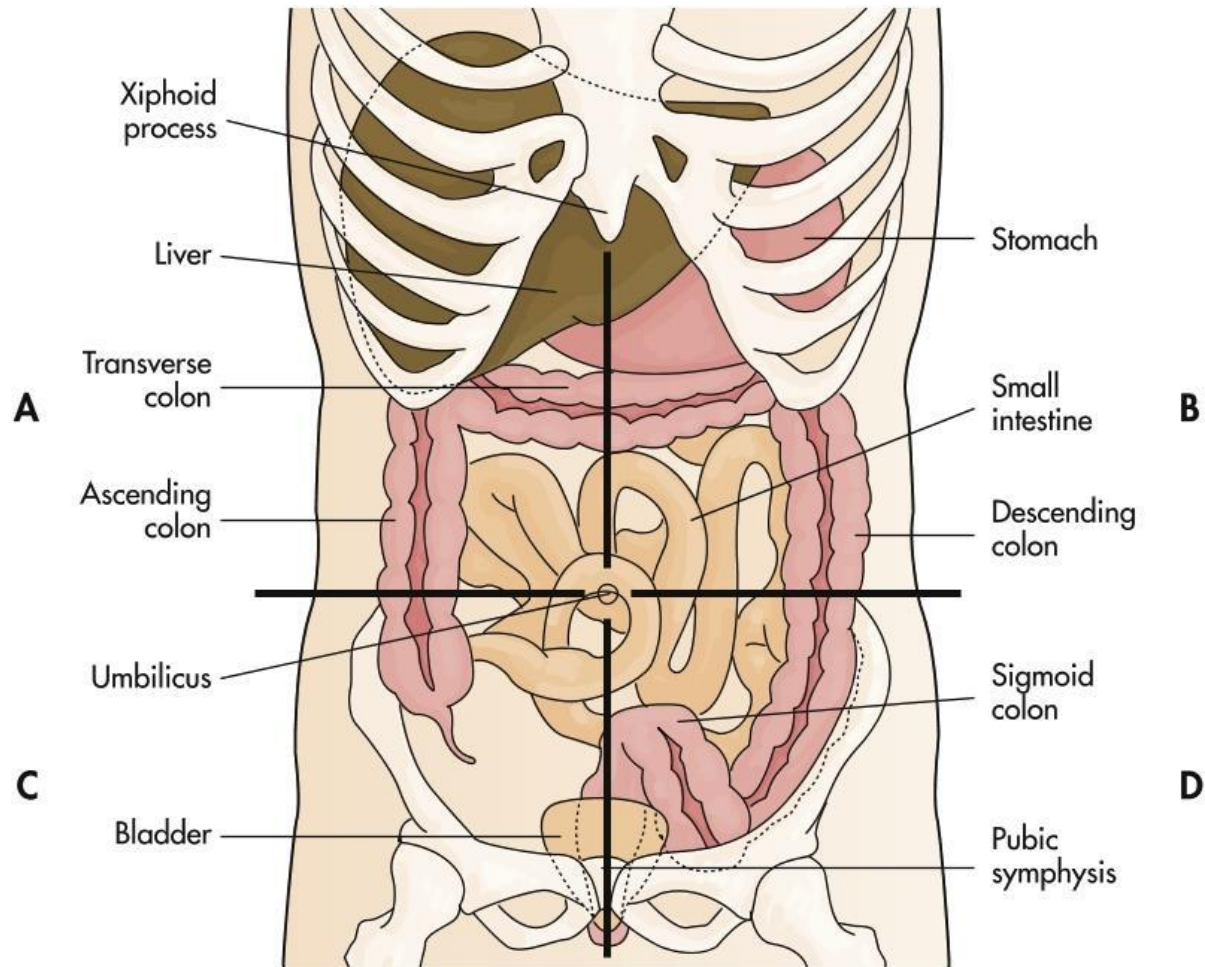
# Medical Terminology (4 of 4)

- Suffixes
  - Placed at the end of a root to change the meaning of the word
  - Never used alone
- When translating medical terms, begin with the prefix, e.g.,:
  - Nephro (kidney) itis (inflammation) = nephritis

# Abdominal Regions (1 of 2)

- The abdomen is divided into the following regions to help describe the location of body structures, pain, or discomfort:
  - Right upper quadrant (RUQ)
  - Left upper quadrant (LUQ)
  - Right lower quadrant (RLQ)
  - Left lower quadrant (LLQ)

# Abdominal Regions (2 of 2)



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# Directional Terms

- Note the direction of the body part when the person is standing and facing forward:
  - Anterior (ventral)—located at or toward the front of the body
  - Distal—the part farthest from the centre or from the point of attachment
  - Lateral—side of the body or part
  - Medial—near the midline
  - Posterior (dorsal) —at the back of the body
  - Proximal—nearest to the trunk of the body or point of origin



# Abbreviations

- Shortened forms of words or phrases
- Must be official (recognized)—should never be made up
- They save time and space.
- Each employer has a list of accepted abbreviations.
- Common abbreviations are used daily in all health care facilities.
- If you do not understand the term or phrase, communication does not occur.