

Oxford

**CONCISE MEDICAL
DICTIONARY**

Sixth Edition
Editor Elizabeth A. Martin

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About This Dictionary

The sixth edition of this dictionary provides full coverage of all the important terms and concepts used in medicine today. Written by a distinguished group of practising specialists and medical writers, it is intended primarily for workers in the paramedical fields: pharmacists, physiotherapists, speech therapists, social workers, hospital secretaries, administrators, technicians, and so on. It will also be invaluable for medical students and practising doctors. Each entry contains a basic definition, followed- where appropriate- by a more detailed explanation or description. A feature of the dictionary is that the articles are written in clear and concise English without the use of unnecessary technical jargon. For this reason the book will also be of both interest and value to the general reader who needs a home medical dictionary.

The dictionary defines terms in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and pharmacology, as well as in all major medical and surgical specialties. Its coverage of psychology and psychiatry, public health medicine and dentistry is unusually comprehensive, and this edition includes many new entries covering the latest developments in diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy, endocrinology, paediatrics, and urology, as well as the other medical surgical specialties. Key terms in the developing specialty of advanced life support systems have also been added as new entries. Entries for many new drugs have been included, and drug names have been revised in accordance with the recently implemented EC directive on the use of recommended International Non-Proprietary Names (rINNs); where these differ from names commonly used in Britain, the latter are included both as synonyms for the rINNs and as cross-reference entries (see below).

To avoid cluttering the entry list with derivative words (e.g. adjectival forms of nouns that are defined), these words are listed at the end of the definitions of the words from which they are derived. Hyperlink to other word definition in the word articles indicates that this term has its own entry in the dictionary and that additional information can be found there, as well as provides quick access to the hyperlinked entry. Cross-reference entries simply refer the reader to another entry, indicating either that they are synonyms or abbreviations or that they- together with related terms – are most conveniently explained in one of the dictionary's longer articles. Synonyms and abbreviations are shown in brackets after the defined term.

Appendix

Table 1

Base and supplementary SI units

Physical quantity	Name of Unit	Symbol for Unit
length	metre	m
mass	kilogram	kg
time	second	s
electric current	ampere	A
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K
luminous intensity	candela	cd
amount of substance	mole	mol
*plane angle	radian	rad
*solid angle	steradian	sr

* supplementary units

Table 2

Derived SI units with special names

Physical quantity	Name of Unit	Symbol for Unit
Frequency	hertz	Hz
Energy	joule	J
Force	newton	N
Power	watt	W
Pressure	pascal	Pa
Electric charge	coulomb	C
Electric potential difference	volt	V
Electric resistance	ohm	Ω
Electric conductance	siemens	S
Electric capacitance	farad	F
Magnetic flux	weber	Wb
Inductance	henry	H
Magnetic flux density (Magnetic induction)	tesla	T
Luminous flux	lumen	lm
Illuminance (illumination)	lux	lx
Absorbed dose	gray	Gy
Activity	becquerel	Bq
Dose equivalent	sievert	Sv

Table 3

Decimal multiples and submultiples to be used with SI units

Submultiple	Prefix	Symbol	Multiple	Prefix	Symbol
10^{-1}	Deci-	d	10^1	Deca-	da
10^{-2}	Centi-	c	10^2	Hector-	h
10^{-3}	Milli-	m	10^3	Kilo-	k
10^{-6}	Micro-	μ	10^6	Mega-	M
10^{-9}	Nano-	n	10^9	Giga-	G
10^{-12}	Pico-	p	10^{12}	Tara-	T
10^{-15}	Femto-	f	10^{15}	Pata-	P
10^{-18}	Atto-	a	10^{18}	Exa-	E
10^{-21}	Zepto-	z	10^{21}	Zeta-	Z
10^{-24}	Yocto-	y	10^{24}	Yotta-	Y