

MEDICAL ENGLISH FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS – BASIC LANGUAGE REVIEW

VOCABULARY

A patient record

surname
first name
MR number
address
postcode
date of birth
gender
occupation
known allergies
habits
medication

Things to give a patient

a bandage
a cast
a cream
drops
medicine
a pill
a prescription
stitches
syrup

At a hospital

to be ill
to be injured
a visitor
to treat a patient
treatment
an operation
medicine
to stay in hospital

People at a hospital

doctor
inpatient
nurse
outpatient
paediatrician
patient
receptionist
specialist
surgeon

Parts of the body

ankle
arm
back
chest
abdomen
chin
ear
elbow
eye
finger
foot
hand
head
hip
knee
leg
mouth
neck
nose
shoulder
skin
throat
toe
tongue
wrist

Symptoms

I have a
temperature/fever.
I feel **sick.**
I have a **headache.**
I have a **pain** in my chest.
I have **diarrhoea.**
I have a **cough.**

Abbreviations

EHR	electronic health record
EMR	electronic medical record
Hx	history
H&P	history and physical
ID labels	identification labels
MAR	medication administration record
NKA	no known allergies
NKFA	no known food allergies
NKMA	no known medication allergies
CC	chief complaint
PMH	past medical history
FH	family history

Internal body parts

lung
liver
spine
heart
pulse
muscle
nerve
bone
blood

In the examination room

a couch
crutches
a doctor's surgery
an injection
a nurse
a robe
a sample
scales
a stethoscope
a syringe
an ultrasound
a wheelchair
an X-ray

Aches and pains

I **hurt** my elbow.
I have a **headache.**
My back **aches.**
My left knee **hurts.**
My right ankle is **sore.**
I have a **pain** in my stomach.
I have a **sore** throat.
I have a **pain** in my hip

GRAMMAR

Verbs

Affirmative

I **am** / I'm a biologist.

I **am** / I'm taking antibiotics.

She is / **She's** allergic to penicillin

I **smoke**.

He **smokes**.

Negative

I **am not** / I'm not allergic to anything.

I **am** / I'm not taking antibiotics.

She is not / **She's not** / **She isn't** allergic to gluten.

I **do not** / **don't** smoke.

He **does not** / **doesn't** smoke.

Questions

We use *do* with *I*, *you*, *we* and *they*. We use *does* with *he* or *she*.

Do you have a temperature?

Do you have any other symptoms?

Does your leg hurt?

Does your son have any allergies?

Frequency

once = one time *twice* = two times

Take the medicine **twice a day**, after meals.

Take this medicine **three times a day** for seven days.

Take an aspirin **every** six hours.

need to/have to + verb

We can use *need to* and *have to* + a verb to talk about things that are necessary or obligatory.

You **need to** go to the outpatients department of the hospital.

You **don't need to** get a taxi. You can walk.

You **have to** go to the hospital.

You **don't have to** pay. The treatment is free.

Past, present and future

Our daughter hurt her finger when she **was playing** in the park. (past)

We **would like** to see a paediatrician. (now)

You **will** be able to see a paediatrician at the hospital. (future)

There is no future form of *can*. To talk about future ability we use *will be able to*.

You **can** see the doctor now. (now)

You **will be able to** see the doctor tomorrow. (future)

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Asking for information

What's your name?

How do you spell that, please?

How old are you?

How can I help you?

Do you have a temperature?

Do you have any other symptoms?

How long have you felt like this?

Completing a medical record

Name: What is your last name?

Date of birth: What's your date of birth?

Address: And your address?

Postcode: What's your postcode?

Phone number: Do you have a phone number?

Occupation: What do you do?

Allergies: Do you have any allergies?

Medication: Are you taking any kind of medication at the moment?

Smoker: Do you smoke?

Exercise: Do you do any regular exercise?

Saying dates

Thursday, 21 December = "Thursday, the **twenty-first** of December"

Giving a patient instructions

Take the blood pressure. "Take off your jacket. Roll up your sleeve, please."

Take the pulse. "First, I am going to take your pulse."

Check ears, nose and throat. "Open your mouth, please. Put out your tongue."

Check the neck. "Turn your head to the right and to the left. Now, touch your shoulder with your chin."

Do a lung examination. "Can you sit on the couch, please? Lift up your shirt. Breathe in. Breathe out."

Do an abdominal examination. "Lie down, please."

Look at the spine. "Bend forward and touch your toes."

Giving a patient advice

Drink lots of water.

Don't go to work.

Rest for a few days.

Don't eat heavy meals.

Come and see me again if you don't feel better in a few days.

Take some paracetamol for your temperature.

Take this medicine three times a day.

Telling people where to go

You need to go to the outpatients department of the hospital.

There aren't any paediatricians in this centre.

You have to go to the hospital.

You will be able to see a paediatrician there.

You need to go up this street and turn right and then left.

Glossary:

ago (adv): in the past

cotton (n): a soft white material for cleaning your skin

degree (n): an official qualification from a university

discard (v): to throw away, to put in the rubbish

discharge (n): liquid that comes from an infected part of the body

get (v): to become, to start to be

ill (adj): sick, not well, with an illness or disease

injured (adj): hurt or physically harmed as the result of an accident

itchy (adj): feeling in your skin that makes you want to rub or scratch

prevent (v): to stop a thing from happening

sign (n): an indication, something that you can see

swell (v): to become larger and rounder, inflated

warm (adj): not hot or cold, the same temperature as your skin