

School: Medical Management
Course: Medical Management
Faculty: Kim Malisa, Director of Managed Care, Strategic Comp

Summary

The "Medical Terminology" course, taught by Kim Malisa of Strategic Comp, is designed to provide students with an understanding of basic medical terms and concepts commonly found in workers' compensation claims. This knowledge is crucial for effectively managing these claims, as medical terminology describes the human body's components, processes, and conditions, offering precise language for communication among healthcare providers, claims managers, and other professionals.

The course begins with a focus on the grammar components of medical terminology, including prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Prefixes like "bi-" (meaning two) and "hemi-" (meaning half) help modify the root words to convey specific meanings. For example, "bilateral" refers to both sides, as in "bilateral knees," while "hemiplegia" refers to paralysis on one side of the body, often resulting from severe injuries like brain or spinal cord damage. Understanding these prefixes is essential for interpreting medical conditions in workers' compensation cases. Roots such as "chondr-" (cartilage) and "neur-" (nerve) provide the core meaning of medical terms, with suffixes like "-algia" (pain) and "-ectomy" (removal) adding further detail. For instance, "myalgia" means muscle pain, a common complaint in workers' compensation injuries.

Abbreviations and acronyms are also covered in this course, as they are frequently used in medical documentation. Common abbreviations include "ADL" (activities of daily living), "PT" (physical therapy), and "DX" (diagnosis). Acronyms like "ED" (Emergency Department) and "CT" (Computed Tomography) are crucial for understanding diagnostic reports and treatment plans. Recognizing these terms allows for more accurate interpretation of medical reports and facilitates better decision-making in workers' compensation cases.

The course then delves into common medical terms and phrases, including conditions and injuries relevant to workers' compensation. Terms like "strain" (stretch or overuse of a muscle) and "sprain" (injury to a ligament) are explained, along with diagnostic tools like MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and treatment options such as physical therapy. Understanding these terms is vital for assessing the nature and extent of work-related injuries and planning appropriate interventions.

Three body systems frequently impacted by workers' compensation claims are discussed: the musculoskeletal, nervous, and integumentary systems. The

musculoskeletal system includes bones, joints, and ligaments, commonly affected by strains, fractures, and crushing injuries. The nervous system involves the brain and spinal cord, with injuries such as traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord damage affecting overall body functions. The integumentary system, which includes the skin, can be affected by contusions, lacerations, burns, and other injuries.

The course also addresses medical documentation, highlighting the importance of SOAP notes (Subjective findings, Objective findings, Assessment, and Plan) in recording patient information. Diagnostic reports, such as X-rays and MRIs, provide essential data for determining the extent of injuries, while physical therapy and operative reports document treatment progress and surgical details.

Finally, the course covers medical invoices and billing, explaining the use of codes like ICD-10 (diagnosis codes), CPT (procedure codes), HCPC (durable medical equipment codes), and NDC (prescription codes). These codes are essential for processing medical claims, ensuring accurate billing, and identifying the treatments and services provided.

In summary, the "Medical Terminology" course equips students with a foundational understanding of medical language, enabling them to effectively interpret medical reports, communicate with healthcare providers, and manage workers' compensation claims more efficiently.

Learning Objectives

1. Interpret and understand the grammar components of medical terminology, including prefixes, roots, and suffixes.
2. Identify and describe body systems commonly affected by workers' compensation injuries and illnesses.
3. Recognize and comprehend medical terms related to common work-related injuries and conditions.
4. Understand the components of medical reports and diagnostic testing relevant to workers' compensation claims.
5. Identify red flags within medical reports and understand the basics of medical invoices, including codes used for billing and diagnoses.

Primary Takeaways

1. Medical terminology consists of prefixes, roots, and suffixes that help describe the human body and its conditions, essential for understanding workers' compensation claims.

2. Common injuries and conditions in workers' compensation often involve the musculoskeletal, nervous, and integumentary systems, each with specific terms and diagnostic criteria.
3. Medical documentation, including SOAP notes, diagnostic reports, and operative notes, provides crucial information for managing workers' compensation claims and formulating return-to-work plans.
4. Diagnostic and procedural codes, such as ICD-10, CPT, HCPC, and NDC codes, are used in medical billing and provide specific information about diagnoses, procedures, and treatments.
5. Understanding common medical terms, abbreviations, and acronyms used in medical reports is vital for accurately interpreting injury details, treatment plans, and patient progress in workers' compensation cases.

Course Outline

- 1) Introduction to Medical Terminology
 - a) Definition and importance of medical terminology in workers' compensation
 - b) Learning objectives and course overview
- 2) Grammar Components of Medical Terminology
 - a) Prefixes in medical terms
 - i) Examples: "bi-" (two), "brady-" (slow), "hemi-" (half)
 - b) Root words and their meanings
 - i) Examples: "chondr-" (cartilage), "neur-" (nerve), "oste-" (bone)
 - c) Suffixes in medical terminology
 - i) Examples: "-algia" (pain), "-ectomy" (removal), "-plasty" (surgical repair)
- 3) Abbreviations and Acronyms
 - a) Common abbreviations in medical terminology
 - i) Examples: ADL (activities of daily living), PT (physical therapy), DX (diagnosis)
 - b) Common acronyms used in medical reports
 - i) Examples: ED (Emergency Department), CT (Computed Tomography), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)
- 4) Common Medical Terms and Phrases
 - a) Terms describing conditions and procedures
 - i) Examples: Strain, sprain, contusion, laceration, MRI
 - b) Directional terms and their significance
 - i) Examples: Anterior, posterior, proximal, distal

- 5) Body Systems Commonly Affected by Workers' Compensation Claims
 - a) Musculoskeletal system
 - i) Injuries: strains, sprains, fractures, amputations
 - b) Nervous system
 - i) Injuries: traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury
 - c) Integumentary system
 - i) Injuries: contusion, laceration, burn, crushing injury

- 6) Medical Documentation
 - a) Types of medical records in workers' compensation
 - i) SOAP notes: subjective findings, objective findings, assessment, plan
 - ii) Diagnostic testing reports: impression, diagnosis, outcome
 - iii) Physical therapy notes and operative reports

- 7) Diagnostic Reports and Medical Invoices
 - a) Overview of diagnostic reports
 - i) Types of tests: X-ray, CT scan, MRI, EMG/NCV
 - b) Medical invoices and billing codes
 - i) HCFA and UB forms
 - ii) ICD-10 diagnosis codes, CPT procedure codes, HCPC codes, NDC codes

- 8) Conclusion
 - a) Summary of key concepts
 - b) Importance of understanding medical terminology for effective management of workers' compensation claims

NOTE: Artificial Intelligence was used in the creation of this document.