

# Rutgers Medical Terminology Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## 1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## 2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 3. Learn from the Explanations

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## 4. Track Your Progress

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## 5. Simulate the Real Exam

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## 6. Repeat and Review

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

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## **Questions**

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- 1. The term "lord/o" indicates a spinal condition characterized by what?**
  - A. bent backward**
  - B. sideways**
  - C. lateral movement**
  - D. twisted**
- 2. What does the suffix "-ic" generally indicate in medical terminology?**
  - A. Pertaining to**
  - B. Action**
  - C. Specialty of**
  - D. State of**
- 3. What does "alges/o" refer to in medical terminology?**
  - A. Sensation of touch**
  - B. Sense of pain**
  - C. Absence of pain**
  - D. Pressure sensation**
- 4. What meaning is associated with the prefix "hetero-"?** 
  - A. Excessive**
  - B. Same**
  - C. Different**
  - D. Below**
- 5. In medical terminology, "core/o" is associated with which of the following?**
  - A. Colon**
  - B. Pupil**
  - C. Vagina**
  - D. Body**

**6. What does the combining form "estr/o" specifically signify?**

- A. Fetus**
- B. Red**
- C. Female**
- D. Fibrous band**

**7. What is the meaning of the root 'myel/o' when referring specifically to tissues?**

- A. Nervous tissue**
- B. Spinal cord and brain**
- C. Bone marrow and spinal cord**
- D. Heart tissue**

**8. What does "-cele" suggest in a medical context?**

- A. Pertaining to a rupture**
- B. Fluid accumulation**
- C. Protrusion**
- D. Condition of pain**

**9. The root "clon/o" indicates what kind of muscle activity?**

- A. Continuous contraction**
- B. Rapid contracting and relaxing**
- C. Rhythmic contraction**
- D. Sustained contraction**

**10. What does '-ptosis' signify in medical terminology?**

- A. Spitting**
- B. Drooping**
- C. Pertaining to a meal**
- D. Excessive flow**

## **Answers**

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. The term "lord/o" indicates a spinal condition characterized by what?**

- A. bent backward**
- B. sideways**
- C. lateral movement**
- D. twisted**

The term "lord/o" comes from the Greek word "lordosis," which specifically refers to a condition where there is an abnormal increase in the curvature of the lumbar region of the spine, resulting in a bending backward or inward of the spine. This curvature is typically associated with an exaggerated arch in the lower back, making the spine appear arched when viewed from the side. In contrast, the other options refer to different types of spinal conditions. The sideways curvature pertains to scoliosis, while lateral movement and twisted conditions are related to other types of abnormal spinal alignments. Thus, "lord/o" is distinctly linked to the idea of bending backward, capturing the essence of lordosis within spinal terminology.

**2. What does the suffix "-ic" generally indicate in medical terminology?**

- A. Pertaining to**
- B. Action**
- C. Specialty of**
- D. State of**

The suffix "-ic" in medical terminology usually indicates "pertaining to." It is commonly used in various medical terms to describe a relationship or characteristic of a specific condition, organ, or system. For instance, when combined with the root word "gastr-" (relating to the stomach), it forms "gastric," which means pertaining to the stomach. Understanding this suffix is essential for interpreting medical language, as it helps clarify the context of the terms in relation to the anatomy or conditions they describe. This understanding is foundational for anyone studying or working in the medical field, as it forms the basis for many other complex terms.

**3. What does "alges/o" refer to in medical terminology?**

- A. Sensation of touch**
- B. Sense of pain**
- C. Absence of pain**
- D. Pressure sensation**

The term "alges/o" in medical terminology specifically refers to the sense of pain. This root word is derived from the Greek word "algos," which means pain. In medical contexts, it is commonly used in terms like "analgesic," which refers to medications that relieve pain. Understanding this root is crucial in the field of medicine, as it forms the basis of various compound words that pertain to pain sensation and management. The other terms presented do not relate to pain; for example, sensation of touch involves different terminology and mechanisms. Absence of pain has a distinct term, commonly referred to as "analgesia," while pressure sensation would relate to a different sensory pathway altogether and thereby does not connect to the concept encompassed by "alges/o".

#### 4. What meaning is associated with the prefix "hetero-"?

- A. Excessive
- B. Same
- C. Different**
- D. Below

The prefix "hetero-" comes from the Greek word "heteros," which means "other" or "different." It is commonly used in medical and scientific terminology to indicate something that is not uniform or identical. For example, in the term "heterogeneous," which refers to a mixture that is composed of different components, the prefix clearly highlights that diversity or variation is involved. In the context of the question, "hetero-" signifies a distinction or difference, aligning perfectly with the provided meaning of "different." This understanding is crucial for correctly interpreting terms in medical jargon where identifying variations can affect diagnosis, treatment, and understanding of medical conditions. Thus, recognizing that "hetero-" denotes difference is essential for anyone studying medical terminology.

#### 5. In medical terminology, "core/o" is associated with which of the following?

- A. Colon
- B. Pupil**
- C. Vagina
- D. Body

The term "core/o" is derived from the Greek word "korē," which means pupil. In medical terminology, "core/o" specifically refers to the pupil of the eye, indicating its functions and conditions associated with it. This prefix is often found in terms related to the examination and pathology of the pupil, such as "coreometry" (the measurement of the pupil) or "corectopia" (displacement of the pupil). Understanding that "core/o" is linked to the structure of the eye helps to identify it correctly among other terms that might refer to different anatomical parts. Therefore, the association with the pupil is the accurate interpretation of this combining form within medical vocabulary.

#### 6. What does the combining form "estr/o" specifically signify?

- A. Fetus
- B. Red
- C. Female**
- D. Fibrous band

The combining form "estr/o" specifically signifies "female." This term is derived from the word estrogen, a significant hormone associated with the female reproductive system. Estrogen plays a crucial role in the development of female secondary sexual characteristics and the regulation of various physiological functions related to the female reproductive cycle. The presence of "estr/o" in medical terminology commonly relates to female biology, reproductive health, and conditions uniquely associated with women. Therefore, understanding this combining form is essential for grasping related medical and anatomical concepts in the context of female health.

**7. What is the meaning of the root 'myel/o' when referring specifically to tissues?**

- A. Nervous tissue**
- B. Spinal cord and brain**
- C. Bone marrow and spinal cord**
- D. Heart tissue**

The root 'myel/o' is specifically associated with bone marrow and spinal cord. This root comes from the Greek word "myelos," which means "bone marrow." In medical terminology, it reflects not only the bone marrow but also spinal cord tissue, which is integral to the central nervous system. When assessing the given choices, the understanding of 'myel/o' aligns with both aspects: the hematopoietic function of bone marrow and its connection to the nervous system facilitated by the spinal cord. Other tissues, such as nervous tissue, are referred to by different roots, and the heart is denoted by terms that include 'cardi/o'. Therefore, the answer not only encapsulates the correct interpretation of 'myel/o', but it clearly delineates it from roots that serve different tissues.

**8. What does "-cele" suggest in a medical context?**

- A. Pertaining to a rupture**
- B. Fluid accumulation**
- C. Protrusion**
- D. Condition of pain**

The suffix "-cele" in a medical context signifies a protrusion or herniation of a structure or part. This often pertains to areas where an organ can bulge out through a weakened area, such as in conditions like a cystocele (a bulge of the bladder into the vaginal wall) or a meningocele (a protrusion of the protective membranes covering the spinal cord). The terminology reflects this idea of an abnormal expansion or herniation, highlighting how "-cele" helps to convey the specific nature of the condition being described. Understanding this suffix is crucial for interpreting various medical conditions and effectively communicating them in the healthcare setting.

**9. The root "clon/o" indicates what kind of muscle activity?**

- A. Continuous contraction**
- B. Rapid contracting and relaxing**
- C. Rhythmic contraction**
- D. Sustained contraction**

The root "clon/o" is derived from the Greek word "klonos," which means "to move in a violent, confused, or rapid way." In medical terminology, this root specifically refers to muscle activity characterized by rapid contracting and relaxing. This is indicative of clonus, a neuromuscular condition often associated with spasticity, where there are involuntary muscle contractions that can occur in quick succession. This rapid cycling of muscle contraction and relaxation is distinct from other types of muscle activity such as continuous contraction, rhythmic contraction, or sustained contraction, which are denoted by other terms. Thus, the focus on the quick, erratic nature of "clon/o" in its definition appropriately aligns it with rapid contracting and relaxing muscle activity, making that the correct interpretation for this root.

## 10. What does '-ptosis' signify in medical terminology?

- A. Spitting
- B. Drooping**
- C. Pertaining to a meal
- D. Excessive flow

The suffix '-ptosis' in medical terminology signifies a condition of drooping or falling. This term is derived from the Greek word "ptōsis," which means a falling or a downward displacement. It is often used in medical contexts to describe structural changes in the body, especially with regard to organs or tissues that have moved from their normal position. For example, "blepharoptosis" refers to the drooping of the eyelid, and "nephroptosis" describes a condition where the kidney descends from its usual position. Understanding the meaning of '-ptosis' is crucial for grasping various medical conditions and their implications in diagnosis and treatment. The other options do not relate to this specific suffix; for example, spitting is associated with 'sialorrhea,' while terms related to meals usually involve 'meal' or 'postprandial.' Excessive flow is commonly indicated by 'hypersecretion' or 'excessive flow' terms, neither of which shares the same root as '-ptosis.'

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# Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://rutgersmedterms.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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