# HOSA MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY – PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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.

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# 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. 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.

### 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. 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. What does the suffix "-osis" generally indicate?**

A. Abnormal condition

B. Excessive flow

C. Deficiency

D. Formation

**2. What does the suffix "-rrhaphy" refer to in medical terminology?**

A. Suture

B. Process of cutting

C. Process of removal

D. Surgical fixation

**3. What does the suffix "-ectomy" indicate?**

A. Infection

B. Enlargement

C. Surgical removal

D. Study of

**4. What does the prefix "circum-" refer to?**

A. Above or over

B. With or together

C. Around

D. Against or opposite

**5. In medical terminology, what does "Py-" specifically indicate about a substance?**

A. It is opaque

B. It is containing pus

C. It is transparent

D. It is volatile

**6. What condition does the prefix "men-" refer to in medical terminology?**

A. Menopause

B. Menstruation

C. Meniscus injury

D. Meningitis

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**7. Which suffix indicates a state or condition?**

A. -osis

B. -pathy

C. -itis

D. -emia

**8. What does the prefix "necro-" signify?**

A. With or together

B. Against or opposite

C. Dead or death

D. Around

**9. What does the prefix "trans-" indicate?**

A. Below

B. Across or through

C. Under

D. Fast

**10. What does the suffix "-osis" signify?**

A. Normal function

B. Abnormal condition

C. Procedure

D. Theory

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# Answers

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

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# Explanations

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## 1. What does the suffix "-osis" generally indicate?

A. Abnormal condition

B. Excessive flow

C. Deficiency

D. Formation

*The suffix "-osis" is commonly used in medical terminology to signify an abnormal condition or process. It typically indicates a disease, disorder, or pathological state. For example, "fibrosis" refers to an abnormal condition involving the thickening and scarring of connective tissue, while "neurosis" points to a functional disorder of the nervous system that does not necessarily have a clear physical cause. The use of "-osis" helps healthcare professionals convey information about diseases and conditions succinctly, providing insight into the nature of the medical issue being described. This understanding is crucial for accurate diagnosis and treatment. The other potential suffixes provided do not align with the meaning of "-osis" and represent different types of conditions or processes in medical terminology.*

## 2. What does the suffix "-rrhaphy" refer to in medical terminology?

A. Suture

B. Process of cutting

C. Process of removal

D. Surgical fixation

*The suffix "-rrhaphy" specifically refers to the act of suturing or stitching together. In medical terminology, it is often used to describe surgical procedures that involve the closure of a wound or incision by sewing the tissues together. For example, "herniorrhaphy" indicates the surgical repair of a hernia by suturing the muscle layer. This suffix is derived from the Greek word "rrhaphē," meaning "to sew." Understanding this term can be crucial in various medical contexts, as suturing is a common practice in surgeries and wound care. The other options refer to different surgical concepts: the process of cutting would relate to "-tomy," process of removal pertains to "-ectomy," and surgical fixation is indicated by "-pexy." Each of these suffixes carries a distinct meaning that is important in accurately describing surgical procedures.*

## 3. What does the suffix "-ectomy" indicate?

A. Infection

B. Enlargement

C. Surgical removal

D. Study of

*The suffix "-ectomy" specifically indicates surgical removal of a certain body part or tissue. This term is derived from the Greek word "ektomē," which means "to cut out." In medical terminology, it is commonly used to describe various surgical procedures, such as appendectomy (removal of the appendix), hysterectomy (removal of the uterus), and tonsillectomy (removal of the tonsils). Each of these procedures involves the excision of an organ or tissue for therapeutic purposes, making the indication of surgical removal clear. Understanding this suffix is crucial for recognizing additional medical terms related to surgery and can help in effective communication within a healthcare setting.*

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## 4. What does the prefix "circum-" refer to?

A. Above or over

B. With or together

C. Around

D. Against or opposite

*The prefix "circum-" translates to "around." It originates from Latin, where it conveys the idea of encircling or enclosing something. In medical terminology, this prefix is used in various contexts to describe structures or actions that are around or encircle a particular area. For example, "circumflex" refers to something that is bent or curved around, and "circumcision" pertains to the surgical removal of tissue around the penis. This understanding of the prefix helps in comprehending medical terms and their meanings, particularly in anatomy and surgical contexts.*

## 5. In medical terminology, what does "Py-" specifically indicate about a substance?

A. It is opaque

B. It is containing pus

C. It is transparent

D. It is volatile

*In medical terminology, the prefix "py-" specifically indicates that a substance is related to pus. This prefix originates from the Greek word "pur," which means pus. When used in various terms within the medical field, it denotes conditions or substances that involve pus formation, often indicating the presence of an infection or inflammatory process. For example, terms like "pyoderma" refer to a skin condition characterized by the presence of pus. Recognizing this prefix helps in understanding various medical conditions associated with pus and the body's response to infection.*

## 6. What condition does the prefix "men-" refer to in medical terminology?

A. Menopause

B. Menstruation

C. Meniscus injury

D. Meningitis

*The prefix "men-" refers specifically to "menstruation" in medical terminology. This prefix is derived from the Latin word "mensis," which means month, indicating a regular cyclical process that occurs in the female reproductive system. Menstruation is characterized by the monthly shedding of the uterine lining when pregnancy does not occur. The other options, though related to medical terminology involving "men-," do not directly use this prefix in a way that refers only to menstrual cycles. Menopause refers to the cessation of menstruation, but it is defined by the ending of a monthly cycle rather than the cycle itself. A meniscus injury pertains to the cartilage in the knee, and while "meniscus" includes the root "men," it does not relate to menstruation. Meningitis is an inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, known as the meninges, which is a different context altogether. Therefore, "menstruation" is the precise medical term indicated by the prefix "men-."*

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## 7. Which suffix indicates a state or condition?

A. -osis

B. -pathy

C. -itis

D. -emia

*The suffix that indicates a state or condition is -osis. This suffix is commonly used in medical terminology to denote an abnormal or diseased condition. For example, "fibrosis" refers to the condition of having excessive fibrous tissue growth, illustrating how -osis describes a specific state regarding tissue composition. In contrast, -pathy refers to a disease or disorder, typically indicating a condition affecting a specific organ or system. -itis is used to denote inflammation, which is a specific type of condition rather than a general state. -emia refers to a condition related to the blood; for instance, "anemia" involves a state of having a deficiency of red blood cells but is more specific than the broader concept of -osis.*

## 8. What does the prefix "necro-" signify?

A. With or together

B. Against or opposite

C. Dead or death

D. Around

*The prefix "necro-" is derived from the Greek word "nekros," which means "dead" or "death." It is commonly used in medical terminology to refer to dead tissue or cells, as seen in terms like "necrosis" (the death of tissue) or "necrotizing" (relating to the process of tissue death). Understanding this prefix is important in healthcare as it helps professionals describe conditions related to cell and tissue death, which can have significant implications for diagnosis and treatment.*

## 9. What does the prefix "trans-" indicate?

A. Below

B. Across or through

C. Under

D. Fast

*The prefix "trans-" indicates the meaning "across or through." It is commonly used in various medical and scientific terms to convey the idea of crossing from one side to another or moving through a barrier. For example, "transdermal" refers to medication that is administered across the skin, while "transport" involves moving substances across or through different areas. Understanding the meaning of this prefix can help in comprehending various medical conditions and procedures that involve movement or transfer across boundaries, whether they be physical, biological, or chemical.*

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## 10. What does the suffix "-osis" signify?

A. Normal function

B. Abnormal condition

C. Procedure

D. Theory

*The suffix "-osis" is used in medical terminology to denote an abnormal condition, typically a pathological state or disease process. It indicates that there is some form of alteration from the normal state of health, often related to a morbid or diseased condition. For instance, in the term "fibrosis," the suffix "-osis" signifies an abnormal condition characterized by the formation of fibrous tissue, highlighting a deviation from normal tissue function. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect the meaning of "-osis." "Normal function" would not incorporate the concept of abnormality that "-osis" implies. A "procedure" is indicated by different suffixes that denote actions taken in a clinical or surgical context. Likewise, "theory" would not be related to the medical conditions described by "osis." Therefore, the identification of "-osis" as signifying an abnormal condition is essential for understanding various medical terms related to diseases and health issues.*

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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.

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

https://hosaprefixsuffixes.examzify.com

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

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