



Al-Maarif University College Nursing Department Medical Terminology

Stage -1- Introduction to Medical terminology Lecture. 1

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In this presentation we will learn:

- Introduction to Medical Terminology
- Hospital structure
- Hospital therapeutic departments



Introduction to Medical Terminology

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- **Medical Terminology:** is a language used to precisely describe the human body including its components, processes, conditions affecting it, and procedures performed upon it. Medical terminology is used in the field of medicine.
- **Why studying medical terminology is very important for nursing students?**

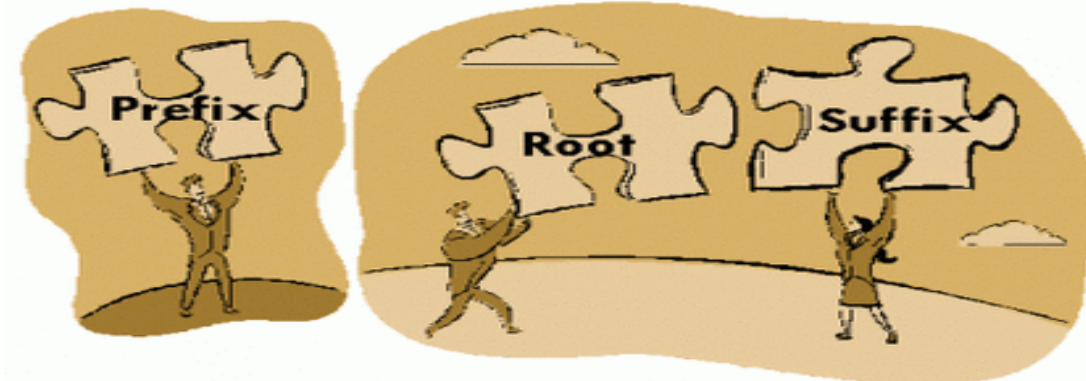
As a new nursing student it considered very important to learn medical terminology for such reasons:

1. Learning medical terminology is learning a new language that help better understand and comprehend the material read for nursing school.
2. Also when have a deeper understanding of medical terms will able to answer test questions on exam more efficiently.

- The best method of improving knowledge of medical terminology is to understand how those word parts form the medical terms.

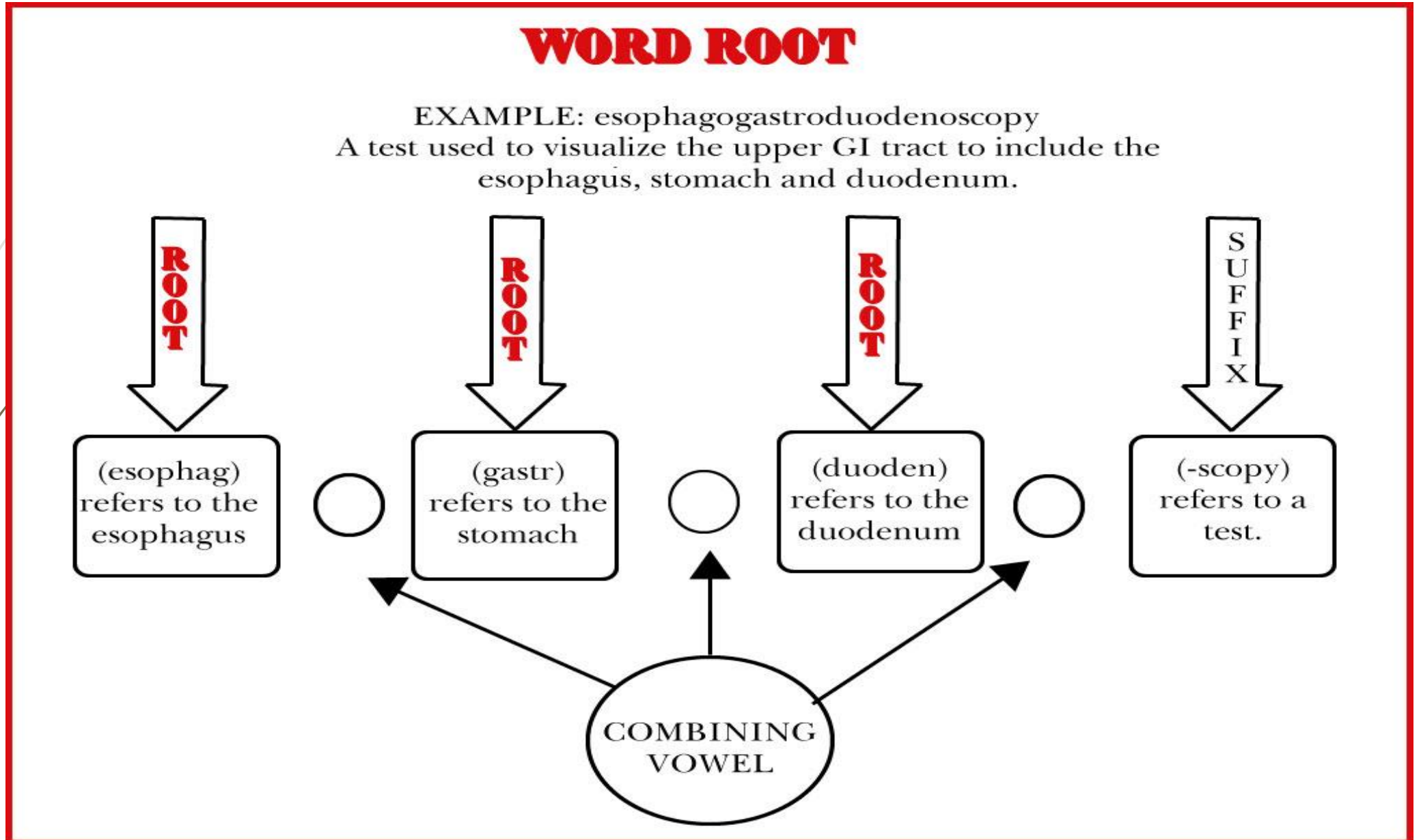
The parts that form medical terms include: **word roots**, **prefixes**, **suffixes** and **combining vowels**. These parts have their origin in Greek and Latin.

- **Word Root**: The word root is the main body of the word and helps with the fundamental meaning of the word. The word root will usually but not always refer to body systems, organs, anatomy, diagnosis and medical procedures. A medical term can have more than one root.
- **Prefixes**: The prefix is placed before the word root to modify or vary the meaning. You will find that when the prefix is written detached it is commonly followed by a hyphen (-).
- **Suffixes**: The suffix is placed at the end (after) the word root or word part to modify or vary the meaning. Suffixes can indicate a condition, disease or a procedure. When a suffix is written detached it is preceded by a hyphen (-).



Example: The word esophagogastroduodenoscopy. The suffix (-scopy) and the combining vowel (o) will be covered below.

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Example: The prefix (hyper-) means excessive or higher than normal. In the example below the prefix (hypo-) means below or lower than normal. The word root (volemia) means volume of plasma in the body or “the condition” of the volume of plasma in the body.

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PREFIXES



(hyper-) means
excessive or
higher than
normal

(volemia)
means the
volume of
plasma in the
body

Hypervolemia means excessive or higher than normal volume of plasma in the body.



(hypo-) means
below or lower
than normal

(volemia)
means the
volume of
plasma in the
body

Hypovolemia means below normal or lower than normal volume of plasma in the body.

Example: In the example below the suffix (-itis) means inflammation. The suffix (-scopy) means observation, visualization or examination. The word root (gastr) pertains to stomach.

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SUFFIXES



(gastr) is the
root word for
stomach

(-itis) is a suffix
meaning
inflammation
of

Gastritis is the inflammation of the lining of the stomach.

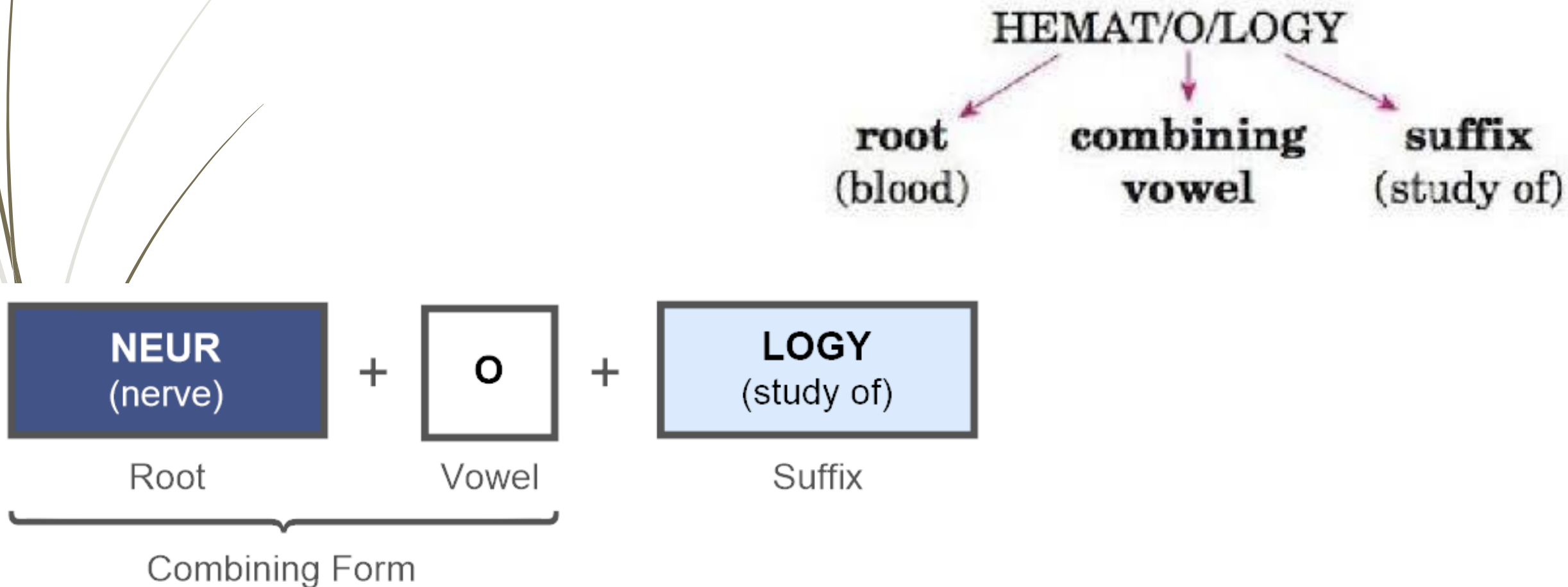


(gastr) is the
root word for
stomach

(-scopy) is a
suffix meaning
observation or
examination

Gastroscopy is the observation or visualization of the interior of the stomach.

- **The combining vowel:** is usually an (o) which is often inserted between word roots to make a word easier to pronounce. Combining vowel usually connects one word root to another word root and also connects a word root to a suffix. The combining vowel does not modify or vary the meaning. When a word root is written with a combining vowel a forward slash is used.
Example: esophag/o; gastr/o; duoden/o



Hospital Structure and Departments

Organizational Structure of a Hospital

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- Organizational structure refers to levels of management within a hospital.
- Levels allow efficient management of hospital department.
- The structure helps to understand the hospital's chain of command.
- Organizational structure varies from hospital to another in which large hospitals have complex organizational structure than simple hospitals.



Grouping of hospital Departments within the Structure:

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- Hospital departments are grouped in order to promote efficiency of facility.
- Grouping is generally done according to similarities of duties.

Common categorical grouping:

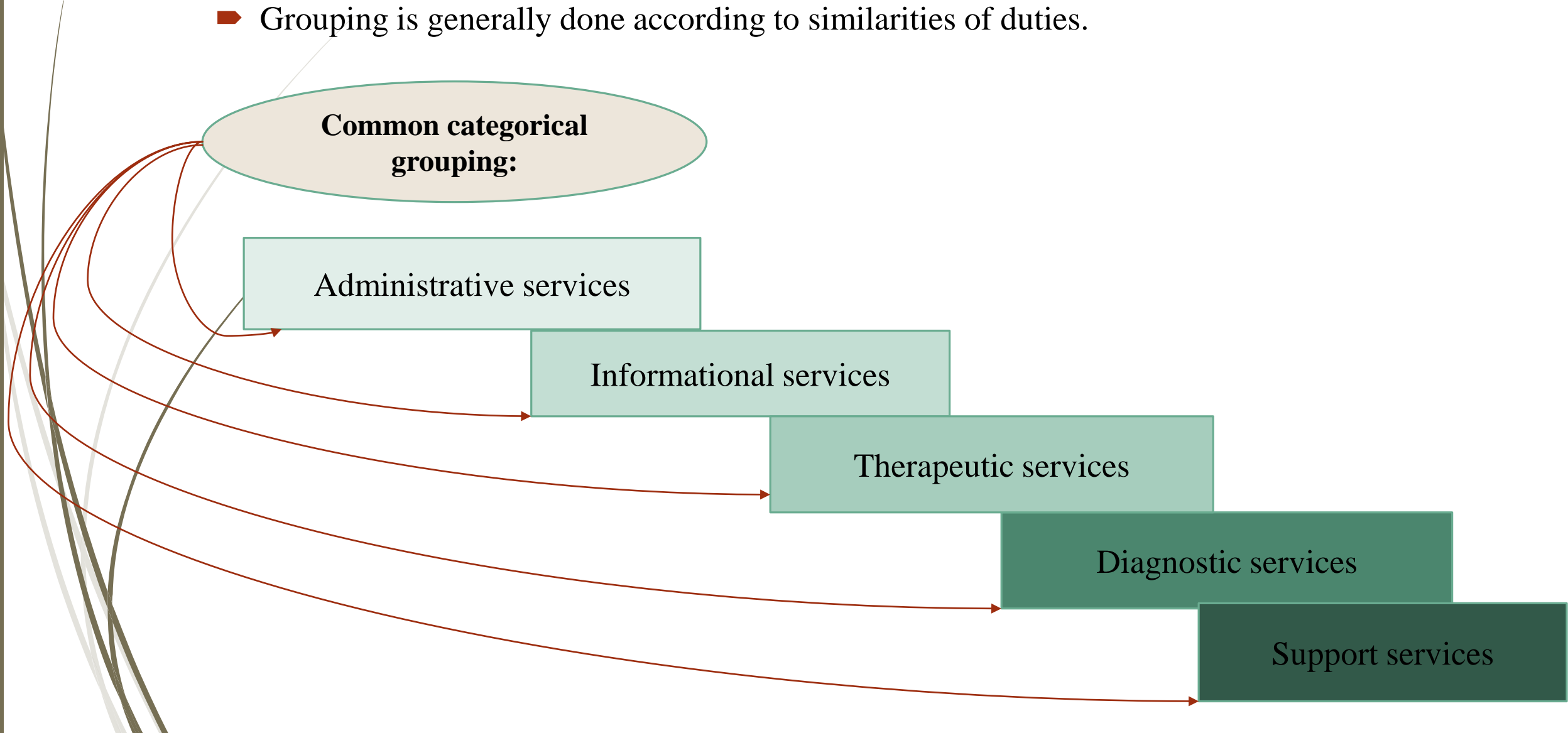
Administrative services

Informational services

Therapeutic services

Diagnostic services

Support services



Administrative Services:

➤ Including:

- **Hospital administrators:** Vice presidents, Executive assistants, Department heads.
- Business people who run the hospital
- Overseas budgeting and finance
- Establish hospital policies and procedures

Informational services;

☐ Document and process information which includes:

- Admissions
- Billing and collection
- Medical records
- Computer information systems
- Human resources

Therapeutic Departments:

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- **Casualty**: This department, also known as the accident and emergency department deals with patients who have been brought in by an ambulance in an emergency situation. Sometimes patients find their own way to this department to in case they have had an accident or seek immediate treatment.
- **Anaesthetics**: Doctors in this department administer anesthesia for patients for various procedures and surgeries.
- **Cardiology**: The department as the name suggests deals with problems of the human heart or circulation. It treats people on an inpatient and outpatient basis. some of their procedures.
- **Critical Care**: This department also known as the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) provides treatment for seriously ill patients. Certain patients need to be isolated and require close and individual medical attention. The ICU has very few beds and is usually manned by specialist doctors and nurses as well as consultant anaesthetists, physiotherapists and dieticians.

- **Ears, Nose and Throat:** As the name suggests, this department deals with ailments concerned with the Ear, nose and throat and it includes treatment of a variety of ailments like: General ear, nose and throat diseases, Neck lumps, Cancers of the head and neck area, Tear duct problems, Facial skin lesions, .Balance and hearing disorders
- **Geriatrics:** This department is usually manned with doctors specialized in geriatric medicine. Since the elderly suffer from a range of illnesses and seek treatment for: Stroke, Gastroenterology, Diabetes.



- **Gynaecology**: This department deals with the investigation and treatment of problems of the female urinary tract and reproductive system.
- **Gastroenterology**: This department deals with bowel related-medicine. It is usually run by specialist consultants and they investigate and treat upper and lower gastrointestinal diseases, as well as diseases of the pancreas and bile duct system. Special nurses are often posted in this department and they are capable of performing a wide range of bowel investigations.
- **Maternity/Neonatal/Paediatrics**: All facilities concerning giving birth and child care is provided in this department. In some hospitals these can be divided into three different departments but most general hospitals provide this care under one department itself.
- **Neurology**: Neurology deals with the human nervous system. The doctors in this department investigate and treat patients for problems that affect their brain and spinal cord.

- **Oncology**: This department investigates and treats all kinds of cancers and provides a wide range of chemotherapy treatments and radiotherapy for cancerous tumors and blood disorders.
- **Ophthalmology**: This department deals with the investigation and treatment of eye problems of adults and children.
- **Orthopedics**: This department deals with problems that affect the musculoskeletal system.
- **Urology**: This department is usually a surgical department led by surgeons that perform certain specific services like: Flexible cystoscopy bladder checks, Prostate assessments and biopsies.
- **Psychiatry**: This department deals with investigating and treating patients with a wide range of mental illnesses and disorders.

➤ **Diagnostic Imaging:** Also known as the department of radiology, this department provides the following services:

- General radiology (X-rays)
- Scans for Accidents and Emergency
- Mammography (breast scans)
- Ultrasound scans
- Angiography (x-ray of blood vessels)
- Interventional Radiology (minimal invasive procedures)
- CT scanning
- MRI scanning (3D scans using magnetic and radio waves)

- **Pathology/ Laboratory:** This is also a department that handles diagnostic tests that deal with the secretions and body fluids of a patient to determine diagnosis or a disease etiology. Blood tests, urine exam, stool exam, sputum test, biopsy, and other medical laboratories that are needed to confirm disease or presence of bacteria in the body.
- **Microbiology:** This department deals with the microbial and viral aspects of medicine.
- **Haematology:** This department can be part and parcel of the hospital laboratory or work closely with the hospital laboratory. Haematology includes the study of etiology, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, and prevention of blood diseases that affect the production of blood and its components, such as blood cells, hemoglobin, blood proteins, and the mechanism of coagulation.

