There are three dates scheduled for the HIMAA challenge examination in medical terminology and candidates must sit on one of these dates:

**2 May (applications close 31 March)**
Examination date for **July intake** HLTCC301B Produce coded clinical data or Introductory ICD-10-AM, ACHI and ACS clinical coding course

**2 December (applications close 31 October) and 2 February (applications close 5 January)**
Examination dates for **March intake** HLTCC301B Produce coded clinical data or Introductory ICD-10-AM, ACHI and ACS clinical coding course

The sample questions are a self-assessment tool for you to decide whether or not you should sit the challenge examination or enrol in the Comprehensive Medical Terminology course.

The pass mark for the challenge examination is 80%. If you achieve this mark we advise you to apply to sit for the challenge examination.

If you feel that you need further revision we recommend you purchase the textbook for the Comprehensive Medical Terminology course


If your mark is between 70% and 79% you should be able to pass the challenge examination with revision and we recommend that you purchase the textbook. If you would like to discuss the format of the challenge examination and your revision please contact Joanne Williams, Education Officer, Comprehensive Medical Terminology email joannew@himaa.org.au or phone +61 2 9887 5898

If your mark is less than 70% we advise you to enrol in the HIMAA Comprehensive Medical Terminology course. If you are unsure whether or not to enrol in this course please contact Joanne Williams or email education@himaa.org.au.

**NOTE**
The challenge examination in medical terminology is a supervised ninety minutes closed book examination.
CONTENT

All questions must be attempted. It is better to answer a portion of a question and get one quarter of a mark than to leave a blank.

**Question 1** (10 marks)

Answer **TRUE** or **FALSE** to the following

*(In the examination there are ten statements worth one mark each)*

(a) Both combining forms ren/o and nephr/o mean kidney

(b) An acoustic neuroma is a benign tumour arising from the acoustic nerve

(c) Hypothyroidism is an oversecretion of thyroid hormone

(d) Pulmonary edema is swelling and fluid in the air sacs of the lung and bronchioles

(e) Nephrolysis is another term for renal calculus

(f) Atrial fibrillation involves rapid irregular atrial impulses and ineffective atrial contractions

(g) Secondary infertility in a female is infertility as the result of another condition

(h) A condition of excessive thirst is polydipsia

(i) Trigonitis is inflammation of the trigger finger

(j) Hydroureter is the overdistention of the ureter with semen
Question 2 (10 marks)

Select from the following terms to complete the sentences below:

(There are ten sentences and fifteen or sixteen terms. Each sentence is worth one mark)

(idiopathic) hysterosalpingography paracentesis

(aphakia) iatrogenic antiemetic
dactyrorrhoea

(amniocentesis) antipyretic agenesis

(angiography) otopyrorrhoea anencephaly

(a) Unexpected side effects that result from treatment by a physician are described as ____________________________

(b) ___________________________ is the absence of the crystalline lens of the eye

(c) An ___________________________ disease is a disease of unknown causation

(d) ___________________________ is the congenital condition where the infant has no brain

(e) ___________________________ is the surgical puncture of the abdomen for withdrawal of fluid

(f) A condition of overabundance of tears is ___________________________

(g) A drug that reduces vomiting is an ___________________________

(h) Flow of pus from the ear is ___________________________

(i) ___________________________ is performed by injecting contrast material into the uterus and uterine tubes and x-rays taken

(j) A congenital anomaly known as ___________________________ is the absence of one kidney
Question 3 (10 marks)

Indicate the most appropriate answer by circling the accompanying letter

*(in the examination, there are ten statements worth one mark each)*

(i) The meaning of the prefix auto- is

(a) automatic  
(b) one  
(c) self  
(d) without

(ii) Bartholin’s glands are located

(a) at the base of the brain  
(b) at the vaginal orifice  
(c) in the cul-de-sac  
(d) in the graafian follicles

(iii) Deficient sodium in the blood is

(a) hyperthyroidism  
(b) ketoacidosis  
(c) hyponatraemia  
(d) hypoglycaemia

(iv) Dysplasia of the kidneys is

(a) displaced kidney  
(b) missing kidney  
(c) multicystic kidney  
(d) polycystic kidney

(v) Decubitus ulcer is

(a) cutaneous inflammatory condition producing red, papular and vesicular lesions, crusts and scales  
(b) inflammation of the skin  
(c) inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissue  
(d) a bed sore or pressure sore

(vi) Major depressive disorder (previously called endogenous depression) is

(a) depression which comes about as a result of external changes e.g. loss of loved one  
(b) depression mainly resulting from internal biochemical causes, with episodes of severe dysphoria  
(c) anxiety that appears to be without a specific cause  
(d) depression in enclosed situations
Glaucoma is

(a) degeneration of the macula lutea of the retina
(b) abnormal deviation of the eye
(c) glucose in the eye
(d) increased intraocular pressure results in damage to the retina and optic nerve

Reading, writing and learning disorder is

(a) dyslexia
(b) epilepsy
(c) aphasia
(d) dyspraxia

Awareness of a pounding or racing heart is

(a) palpitation
(b) murmur
(c) sinus rhythm
(d) vasospasm

The kneecap is known as the

(a) femur
(b) patella
(c) tibia
(d) fibula

Question 4  (32 marks)

Divide the following terms into their components (i.e., prefix, suffix, and word root/combin- ing form) and give the meaning of each component. One mark is given for the correct definition of each component part.

For example  neural = neur (nerve) + al (pertaining to)

(In the examination there will be approximately twelve terms and each component is worth one mark. HINT - the number of lines next to each word is the number of components)

(a) intraocular

(b) encephalomyelitis

(c) toxaemia
(d) polyneuritis

(e) haematuria

(f) pancytopenia

(g) otalgia

(h) dacryoadenectomy

(i) antepartum

(j) sialadenitis

(k) melanoma

(l) colpoperineorrhaphy

(m) glossodynia
Question 5  (8 marks)

Define the following medical terms

Note information such as symptoms and aetiology should be included to illustrate your answer but the depth of detail should be balanced against the value of a correct answer (i.e. one mark is the maximum which can be gained for each definition)

(In the examination there are eight terms worth one mark each)

(a) pleurisy  

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(b) late-onset dementia  

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(c) Parkinson’s disease  

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(d) episiotomy  

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(e) giardiasis  

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carpal tunnel syndrome  

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(f) osteomyelitis  ____________________________________________
                                      _______________________
                                      _______________________
                                      _______________________

(g) thalassaemia  ____________________________________________
                                      _______________________
                                      _______________________
                                      _______________________

**Question 6 (20 marks)**

Expand the following underlined abbreviations and write the full words they represent in the spaces provided:

*(In the examination a number of abbreviations may be used in a single sentence. There are twenty abbreviations and each abbreviation is worth one mark)*

On examination the JVP was significantly elevated, leading to suspicion of SVC obstruction

A relatively new technique involving study of the CSF may allow early noninvasive dx of encephalitis due to HSV

This 35 year old man was admitted to the Urology Ward. Results of the MSU showed a UTI. He was given Augmentin forte t.d.s.

The patient’s ECG confirmed the diagnosis of AMI. He was admitted to the ICU for stabilization of his condition

This 51-year-old woman, with a PH of PMB, was admitted for THBSO

This 18 year old male was the passenger in a MVA. He underwent ORIF for a # L femur and his fractured R NOH was treated conservatively
Question 7 (10 marks)

Define the meaning of the following terms. Your definition should demonstrate the difference between them.

For example  
hypertension - high blood pressure  
hypotension - low blood pressure

(In the examination there are five pairs of terms. Each term is worth one mark. HINT - only give sufficient detail to define the term and demonstrate the differences - three or four words may suffice for some terms)

- urologist
- nephrologist
- ectropion
- entropion
- osteoarthritis
- rheumatoid arthritis
- diabetes mellitus
- diabetes insipidus
- ilium
- ileum
ANSWERS TO SAMPLE EXAMINATION

Question 1
(a) TRUE
(b) TRUE
(c) FALSE
(d) TRUE
(e) FALSE
(f) TRUE
(g) TRUE
(h) TRUE
(i) FALSE
(j) FALSE

Question 2
(a) iatrogenic
(b) aphakia
(c) idiopathic
(d) anencephaly
(e) paracentesis
(f) dacryorrhoea
(g) antiemetic
(h) otopyorrhoea
(i) hysterosalpingography
(j) agenesis

Question 3
(i) c
(ii) b
(iii) c
(iv) c
(v) d
(vi) b
(vii) d
(viii) a
(ix) a
(a) intra = within  ocular = eye  
(b) encephalo = brain  myel = spinal cord  itis = inflammation  
(c) tox = poison  aemia = blood  
(d) poly = many  neur = nerve  itis = inflammation  
(e) haemat = blood  uria = urine  
(f) pan = all  cyto = cell  penia = deficiency  
(g) ot = ear  algia = pain  
(h) dacryo = tear  aden = gland  ectomy = excision  
(i) ante = before  partum = birth  
(j) sial = saliva  aden = gland  itis = inflammation  
(k) melan = black  oma = tumour  
(l) colpo = vagina  perineo = perineum  rrhaphy = suture  
(m) glosso = tongue  dynia = pain  

Question 5
The following are examples of the way these questions could be answered, including brief definition, symptoms, aetiology and treatment. Quarter and half marks are given for important points up to a maximum of one mark per answer. Information given in brackets is not necessary for a full mark but gives optional or alternate information.

(a) **pleurisy**  
is inflammation of the pleura. It may be caused by infection, injury or tumour, or may be a complication of lung diseases, particularly of pneumonia. Symptoms include cough, fever, chills, and a sharp pain that is worse on inspiration. Treatment is usually directed at the cause of the inflammation.

(b) **late-onset dementia**  
is a general loss of intellectual abilities involving impairment of judgement, memory and abstract thinking, as well as changes in personality, usually occurring in people over the age of 65. There is a gradual and subtle onset, with a progressive course leading to an inability to care for oneself.

(c) **Parkinson's disease**  
is a degeneration of nerves in the brain. Usually occurs in later life. Results in tremors, especially of the hands, weakness and stiffness of muscles, a shuffling gait and slowness of movement. Caused by deficiency of dopamine made by cells in the midbrain. No known cure at present.

(d) **episiotomy**  
is an incision into the perineum to enlarge the vaginal opening and to prevent it tearing during childbirth.
(e) giardiasis
is an infectious disease caused by the intestinal parasite Giardia intestinalis (formerly known as Giardia lamblia) that produces a wide range of symptoms such as gastrointestinal discomfort, diarrhoea, steatorrhoea and malabsorption

(f) carpal tunnel syndrome
is compression (by a wrist ligament) of the median nerve as it passes between the ligament and the bones and tendons of the wrist (carpal tunnel)

(g) osteomyelitis
is inflammation of the bone and bone marrow. Aetiology is bacterial infection. Bacteria enters body through wound or comes from a skin or throat infection. Usually occurs in long bones of the legs and arms. Begins as an abscess. Treated with antibiotics.

(h) thalassaemia
is (group of conditions in which there is) an inherited defect in the ability to produce haemoglobin. Varying forms and degrees of severity. (The name is from the Greek thalass meaning sea as the defect was originally named for people in the Mediterranean area with the defect).

Question 6
jugular venous pressure
superior vena cava
cerebrospinal fluid
diagnosis
herpes simplex virus
mid stream urine (or microurine or mid specimen urine)
urinary tract infection
three times a day (ter die sumendum)  it is not necessary to know the Latin meaning
electrocardiogram
acute myocardial infarction
Intensive Care Unit
past history
postmenopausal bleeding
total hysterectomy bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
motor vehicle accident
open reduction and internal fixation
fracture
left
right
neck of humerus
Question 7

urologist  specialist in the branch of medicine which deals with the urinary system in females, and genitourinary system in males - a surgeon

nephrologist  specialist in the branch of medicine which deals with the kidneys - a physician

ectropion  outward turning of the eyelid

entropion  inward turning of the eyelid

osteoaarthritis  progressive degenerative joint disease, noninflammatory disorder of joints. Degeneration of cartilage.

rheumatoid arthritis  a chronic disease in which joints become inflamed and painful, thought to be an autoimmune reaction to joint tissue

diabetes mellitus  “sugar” diabetes - lack of insulin secretion or resistance to the action of insulin to promote sugar, starch and fat metabolism in cells

diabetes insipidus  “water” diabetes - insufficient secretion or resistance to the action of the antidiuretic hormone (vasopressin).

ilium  uppermost and largest portion of the hip bone

ileum  third part of the small intestine