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**ACRONYMS IN MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY: BALANCING
EFFICIENCY AND CLARITY IN HEALTHCARE COMMUNICATION**

У науковій праці досліджуються аббревіатури, які являють собою самостійні терміни і збагачують термінологічну систему англійської мови. Відомо, що лише половина всіх аббревіатур та скорочень, які використовуються лікарями однієї спеціальності, правильно розуміється фахівцями інших галузей медицини. Сформульована мета дослідження вимагає проаналізувати закономірності, тенденції, проблеми, адекватного перекладу медичних аббревіатур, що потребує наявності спеціальних знань і підвищеної уваги.

Ключові слова: акроніми, аббревіатури, медицина, ерготерапія, фізична терапія.

The scientific work investigates abbreviations that are independent terms and enhance the English terminological system. It is known that only half of all abbreviations used by doctors of one specialty are correctly understood by specialists in other fields of medicine. The formulated goal of the study requires analyzing patterns, trends, problems, adequate translation of medical abbreviations, which needs special knowledge and increased attention.

Keywords: acronyms, abbreviations, medicine, ergotherapy, physical therapy.

Acronyms are commonly used in medical terminology to help healthcare professionals communicate more efficiently and effectively. However, their use should be approached with caution, as they can also be a source of confusion and errors if not used correctly. An acronym is a word formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase. It is a type of abbreviation that is pronounced as a single

word, such as «PT» - «Physical therapy». Acronyms are commonly used in medical terminology, technical fields, government, and military, as well as in everyday language, to save time and space when referring to long or complicated terms. They can also serve as mnemonic devices to help people remember complex information more easily.

A study published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine in 2016 found that the use of acronyms in medical notes and orders was associated with a higher risk of medication errors. Another study published in the British Journal of Anaesthesia in 2013 discussed the potential for confusion and errors caused by multiple meanings for the same acronym in different medical specialties. Overall, while acronyms can be useful in medical communication, their use should be approached with caution and clear communication should always be prioritized to avoid potential misunderstandings and errors.

Acronyms are commonly used in both physical therapy and occupational therapy to represent medical conditions, procedures, and treatment modalities. In addition, it is important to ensure that the patient or client understands any acronyms that are used and to avoid using multiple acronyms for the same term, as this can lead to confusion and errors.

There are several acronyms commonly used in physical therapy and occupational therapy to represent medical conditions, procedures, and treatment modalities. Some examples include [1, 2, 3, 4]: PT -«Physical therapy», HA- «Headache is a concept which includes a feeling of pain or discomfort localized above the eyebrows», CHD - «Chronic kidney disease», SAH- «Syndrome of arterial hypotonia is a clinical syndrome characterized by persistent decrease of blood pressure (BP)», AIH-«Autoimmune hepatitis is a chronic disease of unknown cause and is characterized by autoimmune hepatocellular inflammation and necrosis with a tendency to progress to liver cirrhosis», CHB-«Chronic hepatitis B», CHC-«Chronic hepatitis C», PHSC-«Primary health and social care», ESWT-«Extracorporeal shock wave therapy», IFC-«Interferential current therapy

is a type of electro therapy modality that uses alternating medium frequency electric current signals of slightly different frequencies», ALL-«Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia», X-Ray-«It is a type of radiation call electromagnetic waves», X-ray imaging creates pictures of the inside of your body», IGRA- «Interferon-gamma release assay is a type of blood test that measures a person's immune reactivity to M.tuberculosis», WHO-«World Health Organization», OT - «Occupational therapy», MMT - «Manual muscle testing», SCI -«Spinal cord injury», TBI - «Traumatic brain injury», CP - «Cerebral palsy», MS - «Multiple sclerosis», RA - «Rheumatoid arthritis», OA -«Osteoarthritis».

These acronyms are commonly used in medical documentation, treatment plans, and communication among healthcare professionals in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

To circumvent these pitfalls and optimize clarity in medical communication, healthcare professionals should receive training on the proper use of acronyms and be encouraged to use pithy and cogent language in all medical communication. Furthermore, patients or clients should be apprised of any acronyms used in their treatment, and healthcare professionals should prioritize patient comprehension and safety in all medical communication.

In essence, while acronyms can be an efficacious tool in medical communication, their use should be circumspect and imbued with an abiding commitment to lucidity and safety. By astutely navigating the use of acronyms in medical terminology, healthcare professionals can better communicate with each other and with patients to provide optimal healthcare outcomes.

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