



Math Study Strategies

Math for Nursing

Roman Numerals

Roman Numerals were the standard numbering system and method of Arithmetic in Ancient Rome and Europe until about 900 AD. They were used for prescribing pharmaceutical prescriptions. Modern medicine still uses Roman Numerals in prescribing medications especially when using apothecaries' system of measurement.

The Roman system uses letters to designate numbers. The most common letters are: i, C, D, M, V and X. In medication the most frequent used are the combination of i, v, and x.

There is also used the common letters such as: S S

Arabic numeral	Roman Numeral	Arabic numeral	Roman Numeral
1/2	S S	9	ix
1	i	10	x
2	ii	15	xv
3	iii	20	xx
4	iv	30	xxx
5	v	50	L
6	vi	100	C
7	vii	500	D
8	viii	1000	M

The steps to read and write Roman Numerals are:

Add values when the largest numeral is on the left and the smallest on the right

Example: $xv = 10 + 5 = 15$

Subtract values when the smallest number is on the left and the largest on the right

Example: $ix = 10 - 1 = 9$

Subtract values first and add when the smallest is in the middle and larger are on either side

Example: $xiv = (10 - 5) + 4 = 14$

Roman Numerals can be repeated in sequence only up to three times

Example: $3 = iii$

Three numerals may never be repeated

Example: $x = 10$ not VV

$c = 100$ not LL