



Commonly Used Abbreviations and Symbols

POLICY

The attached list is a reference for commonly used abbreviations written within the medical record. Abbreviations, symbols and/or initials are not allowed in recording the final diagnosis or on the informed consent. Common abbreviations may also be found in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Dorlands' Medical Dictionary, or Stedman's Medical Dictionary.

A

A assessment, applanation tonometry
 A 1% atropine 1%
 aa of each
 AA Alcoholics Anonymous; Aplastic anemia
 A/A alveolar-arterial oxygen content gradient
 AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm
 AAL anterior axillary line, Allergy Clinic
 AAO alert, awake and oriented
 AAOx3 alert, awake and oriented to time, place & person
 AAROM active assistive range of motion
 ab abortion
 AB gap air bone gap
 A/B apnea & bradycardia acid-base
 abd abdomen, abdominal, abduction
 ABG arterial blood gases
 abn abnormal
 ABP arterial blood pressure
 ABR auditory brainstem response, American Board of Ratiology
 ABW actual body weight, adjusted body weight
 Abx antibiotics
 AC before meals, assist control, anterior chamber
 AC/A accomodative conver-gence/ accommodation ratio
 ACC Ambulatory Care Clinic
 accom accommodation
 Acid Phos Acid Phosphatase
 ACLS advance cardiac life support
 ACR American College of Radiology
 ACSW Academy of Certified Social Workers
 ACT activated clotting time
 AD Alzheimer's Disease, right ear, above diaphragm, right ear
 ADA American Diabetes Association, adenosine deaminase
 add adduction
 Adeq. adequate
 ADH antidiuretic hormone
 ADHD Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder
 ADL activities of daily living
 A'Dione androstenedione
 ad lib as often as desired
 adm admission
 ADR allergic drug reaction
 AE above elbow, after evacuation
 AEC Atomic Energy Commission
 AEF aryepiglottic fold
 AF atrial fibrillation
 AFB acid fast bacilli
 AFD anode film distance
 AFDC aid to Familes with dependent children
 afeb afebrile
 AFM after fatty meal
 AFP alpha-fetoprotein
 AG albumin to globulin ration, argon green laser
 AGA adequate for gestational age

AGN acute glomerulonephritis
 AGR anus, genitals, rectum
 A/H auditory hallucinat-ion
 AI amniotic fluid index, aortic insufficiency
 AIDS acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
 AIMS abnormal involuntary movement scale
 AION anterior ischemic optic neuropathy
 AK actinic keratosis, above knee
 AKA above the knee amputation
 AKN acne keloidalis nuchae
 alb albumin
 ALD alcoholic liver disease
 alk alkaline
 alk phos, ALKP. . alkaline phosphatase
 ALL acute lymphocytic leukemia
 ALS Advance Life Support, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
 ALT alanine amino-transaminase, Argon laser trabeculoplasty
 A.M. before noon
 A-Mask aerosol mask
 AMA against medical advice, American Medical Association
 amb ambulatory
 amb care ambulatory care
 AMI acute myocardial infarction
 Amino amniocentesis
 AML acute myelogenous leukemia
 amp ampule
 amt amount
 ANA antinuclear antibody
 ANC Absolute neutrophil count
 AND anterior nasal drainage
 ANE Anesthesiology
 anes Anesthesia
 ank. ankle
 ANLL acute non-lymphocytic leukemia
 ant anterior
 ante before
 Ant Seg anterior segment
 A/O alert and oriented, anterior oblique
 AODM adult onset diabetes mellitus
 AOM acute otitis media
 AOPIP American Optical Psuedolochromatic Plates Color Vision Test
 A&P auscultation & percussion anterior & posterior, assessment and plans, anterior posterior
 AP & LAT anteroposterior and lateral
 A & P Repair anterior and posterior repair
 APD afferent pupillary defect
 APMPPE Acute Posterior Multifocal Placoid Pigment Epitheliopathy
 APMS Acute Pain Management Service
 approx approximately
 appt. appointment
 aPTT activated partial thromboplastin time
 APUD amine precursor uptake and decarboxylation
 aq water
 aq dist distilled water
 AR allergic rhinitis, auto-refraction

ARC AIDS Related Complex
 ARDS acute respiratory distress syndrome
 ARF acute renal failure
 ARMD age related macular degene-ration
 AROM active range of motion
 ART automated Reagin test, arterial
 arr arrive
 ARRS American Roentgen Ray Society
 ARRT American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
 ARS American Radium Society
 art line arterial line
 arwy airway
 AS aortic stenosis, left ear (auris sinistra), anterior segment
 ASAP as soon as possible
 ASC anterior subcapsular cataract
 A-scan A-scan ultrasound
 ASCVD arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
 ASD atrial septal defect
 ASH atrial septal hypertrophy
 ASHD arteriosclerotic heart disease
 as tol as tolerated
 ASO antistreptolysin O
 ASRT American Society of Radiolo-gic Technologists
 AST aspartate amino-transaminase
 Astig astigmatism
 ATH adenotonsillar hypertrophy
 ATN acute tubular necrosis
 ATPS Ambient, Temp and Pressure Saturated
 atr fib atrial fibrillation
 AUR acute urinary retention, Association of University Radiologist
 aux auxiliary
 AV arterioventricular, arteriovenous ration
 avg average
 AVM arteriovenous malformation
 AV node atrioventricular node

BCNSP Board Certified Nutritional Support Pharmacist
 BCNU Carmustine
 BCP birth control pills
 BCPS Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist
 BCSW Board Certified Social Worker
 BD below diaphragm
 BDR background diabetic retino-pathy
 BE barium enema, base excess, below knee
 BEE Basal Energy Expenditure
 BF black female
 BFP Biophysical Profile
 BG blood glucose
 BIPAP Biphasic Positive Airway Pressure
 bicarb bicarbonate
 BICU burn intensive care unit
 bid twice daily
 bilat bilateral
 bili bilirubin
 BK below the knee
 BKA below the knee amputation
 Blasto blastomycosis
 bldg bleeding, building
 BLE both lower extremities
 Bleph blepharoplasty
 BLS Basic Life Support
 BM black male, bone marrow, bilateral tympanic membranes, bowel movement
 bmd bone mineral density
 BMP Basic Metabolic Panel
 BMR basal metabolic rate
 BMRR bilateral medical rectus recession
 BMT bone marrow transplant
 BMTT bilateral myringotomy & tympanostomy tube placement
 BNC bladder neck contracture
 BNI bladder neck incision
 BNO bladder neck obstruction
 BOM bilateral otitis media
 BOO bladder outlet obstruction
 BOT base of tongue
 BOW bag of water
 BPD bronchopulmonary dysplasia, Bipolar Disorder
 BP blood pressure
 BPH benign prostatic hypertrophy
 bpm beats per minute
 BPRS brief psychiatric rating scale
 BR bed rest
 brat banana, rice cereal, apple sauce and tea
 BRB bright red blood
 BRBPR bright red blood per rectum
 BRM biological response modifier
 BRP bathroom privileges
 BRVO brance retinal vein occlu-sion
 BS bowel sounds, bedside breath sounds, blood sugar
 B-Scan b-Scan ultrasound
 BSA body surface area
 BSO bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
 BSOM bilateral serous otitis media

B

Ba barium
 bact bacteria
 BAL bronchoscopy and lavage
 baso basophil
 BaS04 barium sulphate
 Ba. Swallow barium swallow
 BBB bundle branch block
 BBFF both bone forearm fracture
 BBT basal body temperature
 BBS bilateral breath sounds
 BC blood culture, Blue Cross, bedside commode
 BCAA branch chained amino acids
 BCC basal cell carcinoma
 BCD Board Certified Diplomate
 BCG bacilli Calmette-Guerin vaccine
 BCLS Basic Cardiac Life Support
 BCNP Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist

BSO bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
 BSOM bilateral serous otitis media
 BSP bromsulphthalein
 BSS balanced salt solution
 BTFS breast tumor frozen section
 BTL Bilateral Tubal Ligation
 BTPS Body Temp and Pressure Saturated
 BUN blood urea nitrogen
 BUS Bartholin, urethral, and Skene's glands
 Bw or Bt.Wt. birth weight
 BW body weight
 Bx biopsy

C

c with
 C centigrade, concentration
 C & F cell and flare
 C & S culture and sensitivity
 Ca+ calcium
 CaO₂ oxygen content of arterial blood
 CA carcinoma
 CABG coronary artery bypass graft
 CaCl₂ calcium chloride
 CAD coronary artery disease
 CAH congenital adrenal hyperplasia
 Cal kilocalorie calories, calcium
 cAMP cyclic AMP
 CAP Cancer of the prostate, capsule
 CAPD continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
 CAR Cardiology
 carb carbohydrate
 cat cataract
 cath catheter, catheterization, catheterized
 CB ciliary body
 CBB ciliary body band
 CBC complete blood count
 CBD common bile duct
 CBG corticosteroid binding globulin, capillary blood gas
 CCA calcium channel antagonist
 CCB calcium channel blocker
 CCC Comprehensive Care Clinic
 CCE clubbing, cyanosis, edema
 CCL Cardiac Cath Lab
 CCMS clear catch midstream
 CCPD continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis
 CCRN certified critical care nurse
 CCU coronary care unit
 C/D cup to disc ratio
 CDC Center for Disease Control
 CD & L Spine ... cervical, dorsal and lumbar spine
 CDE Certified Diabetes Educator
 CDU chemical dependency unit
 Cdyn Dynamic Compliance
 CE continuing education
 CEA carcinoembryonic antigen
 CEO chief executive officer

cerv cervical
 CETN Certified Enterostomal Therapy Nurse
 CF cystic fibrosis, count fingers
 ch chronic
 CHD coronary heart disease
 chem chemistry
 CHF congestive heart failure
 chg change
 CHL conductive hearing loss
 CHO carbohydrate
 chol cholesterol
 Chorio chorioamionitis
 CHPX chickenpox
 chr chronic
 CHTN chronic hypertension
 CI cardiac index
 CIC clean intermittent catheterization
 CIDC Chronically Ill and Disabled Children
 CIRC circumcision
 CIS carcinoma in-situ
 ck check, creatine kinase
 cl chloride, clearanc-e, contact lens
 CLL chronic lymphocytic leukemia
 CLSH Central Louisiana State Hospital
 cm centimeter, costal margin
 CMC carpometacarpal
 CME cystoid macular edema
 CMG cystometrogram
 CML chronic myelogenous leukemia
 CMP Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
 CMS Central Medical Supply
 CMV cytomegalovirus
 CNS central nervous system
 CNI, CNII, etc. .. cranial nerve I,II, etc.
 CNT continuous n
 c/o complaining of
 c/w consistent with
 Co cobalt, cardiac output
 COA Council on Aging
 COAG chronic open angle glaucoma
 coccidio coccidioidomycosis
 CODF continuous oral/duodenal feeding
 COGF continuous oral/gastral feeding
 COHb carboxyhemoglobin
 COLD chronic obstructive lung disease
 colpo colposcopy
 comp compound
 conc concentrate
 conf conference
 conj conjunctiva
 cont continued, continuous
 COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 CO₂ carbon dioxide
 CP chest pain, cerebral palsy
 C & P cystoscopy & pyelogram
 CPA costophrenic angle; Child Protection Agency
 CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
 CPC clinicopathologic conference
 CPD cephalopelvic disproportion
 CPK creatine phosphokinase
 CPL Cariopulmonary

CPNP certified pediatric nurse practitioner
 CPP cryoprecipitate
 CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
 CPS Child Protective Services, Chronic
 Paranoid Schizophrenia
 CPT chest physiotherapy
 C1,C2,etc. first, second, etc. cervical vertebra
 CR cardiorespiratory, cycloplegic refraction,
 chromium, creatinine
 CRAO central retinal artery occlusion
 creat creatinine
 CRF chronic renal failure, corticotropin
 releasing factor
 CRH corticotropin releasing hormone
 CRI chronic renal insufficiency
 CRNA certified registered nurse anesthetist
 CRNP certified registered nurse practitioner
 CRRT continuous renal replacement therapy
 CRT certified respiratory therapist
 CRTE Certified Respiratory Therapist, Eligible
 CRVO central retinal vein occlusion
 cryo cryosurgery; cryoprecipitate
 Cs cesium, central supply; Christian Services,
 culture & sensitivity conjunctiva and sclera
 C-Sect cesarean section
 CSF cerebrospinal fluid, colony-stimulating
 factor
 CSME clinically significant macular edema
 Cst Static Compliance
 CT computer tomography, chest tube, count,
 calcitonin
 CTA clear to auscultation
 CTB ceased to breathe
 ctx cervical traction
 ctxn contractions
 CTZ chemoreceptor trigger zone
 cult culture
 CV cerebrovascular, cardiovascular
 CVA cerebrovascular accident, costo-vertebral
 angle
 CVAT costovertebral angle tenderness
 CVL central venous line
 CVP central venous pressure
 CVS chorionic villus sampling
 CVVH continuous venovenous hemofiltration
 CVVHD continuous venovenous hemo-filtration
 dialysis
 CVVHDF continuous venovenous hemofiltration with
 dialysis and ultra-filtration
 CWS continuous wall suction
 Cx cervix
 CXR chest x-ray
 cyclo cyclogel
 Cyro cryotherapy
 Cysto cystoscopy/cystoscopic

DABR Diplomate of American Board of Radiology
 DBP diastolic blood pressure
 DCC direct current cardioversion
 DCE double contrast enema
 DCF Family and Children Services
 DCR dacryocystorhinostomy
 ddl didanosine
 D & D diarrhea and dehydration
 DDD degenerative disc disease
 dec decubitus
 decel deceleration
 decr decreased
 del delivery, delivered
 Dep depressed
 Derm dermatology, dermatitis
 DES dry eye syndrome
 dev deviation
 DFE dilated fundus exam
 d.h. dermatitis herpetiformis
 DHT dihydrotestosterone
 DI direct/indirect, diabetes insipidus
 DIC disseminated intravascular coagulation
 diam diameter
 diff differential
 Dil dilate
 Dils dilutions
 DIP distal interphalangeal
 dis disease
 Disp disposition
 Dist distance
 DJD degenerative joint disease
 DKA diabetic ketoacidosis
 D/L dislocation, direct laryngoscopy
 dL deciliter
 DLCO diffusing capacity of lung for carbon
 monoxide
 DLE discoid lupus erythematosus
 dinmp date last normal menstrual period
 DM diabetes mellitus
 DMARD disease modifying antirheumatic drug
 DME Durable Medical Equipment, diabetic
 macular edema
 DNKA did not keep appointment
 DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
 DNR do not resuscitate
 DO Doctor of Osteopathy
 DO2 Oxygen Delivery
 DOA dead on arrival date of admission
 DOB date of birth
 DOC deoxycorticosterone
 DOE dyspnea on exertion
 doz dozen
 DPA dual-photon absorptiometry; Discharge
 Planning Assessment
 DPI Dry Power Inhaler
 DPL diagnostic peritoneal lavage
 D & Q deep and quiet
 dr dram
 drng drainage
 DRE Digital Rectal Exam
 DRG diagnostic-related group
 DRSG dressing

D

D Distance, dose
 DBE Diabetic Education

DSE Detrusor-sphincter
 DSST Dyssynergia Denervation Supersensitivity
 test
 DT delirium tremens
 DTAD Drain tube adapter device
 DTR deep tendon reflexes
 DU duodenal ulcer
 DUB dysfunctional uterine bleeding
 D & V diarrhea and vomiting
 DVT deep vein thrombosis
 d/w dextrose in water
 dx diagnosis
 dxt dextrostick
 D1ONS 10% dextrose in normal saline
 D3 distal third
 D5NS 5% dextrose in normal saline
 D5W 5% dextrose in normal water

ELISA enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
 elix elixir
 ELSH East Louisiana State Hospital
 EM ejection murmur, electromotive
 EMB endometrial biopsy
 EMF electromotive force
 EMG electromyogram
 EMS Emergency Medical Services
 EMT Emergency Medical Technician
 END endoscopy
 ENG electronystagmography
 ENOG electroneurography
 ENT ears, nose and throat
 ENUC enucleation
 EOG electra-oculogram
 EOM extraocular movement
 EOMI extraocular movements (or muscles)
 intact

EOG —electro-oculogram
 EOM extraocular movement
 EPA erect posteroanterior
 EPAP Expiratory Positive Airway Pressure
 Epith epithelium
 EPO erythropoietin
 EPS extrapyramidal symptoms
 ER emergency room
 ERCP endoscopic retrograde
 cholangiopancreatography

ERG electroretinogram
 ERM epiretinal membrane
 ERT estrogen replacement therapy
 ERV expiratory reserve volume
 ESLD end stage liver disease
 ESM exudative senile maculopathy
 Esoph esophagus
 ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
 ESRD end stage renal disease
 EST electroshock therapy
 ESU electrostatic unit
 ESWL extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy
 ET esotropia, endotrache-al,
 E (T) intermittent esot-ropia
 E/T Evaluation and Treatment
 ETCO2 end tidal carbon dioxide
 ETD eustachian tube dysfunction
 ETDRS early treatment diabetic retinopathy study

etc and so forth
 etio etiology
 Etoh ethanol
 ETOH alcohol
 ETT endotracheal tube, Enterstomal Therapy
 EVAP electrovaporization of prostate
 EU Excretory Urogram
 EUA examination under anesthesia
 ex. excision, exercise
 exam examination
 exp expiration
 exp. lap. exploratory laparotomy
 ext extract, extension, external exam
 extr extremity
 Ex'=Ex=0 Orthophoria (near=far)
 Ext. Rot external rotation

E

E extubation, erythema, esophoria,
 eosinophils
 E' esophoria at near
 ea each
 EAC external auditory canal, E.A. Conway
 Hospital
 EAM external auditory meatus
 EB epidermolysis bullosa, epidermolysis
 bullosa acquisita
 EBL estimated blood loss
 EBV Epstein-Barr virus
 EC enteric-coated
 ECC Emergency Care Center
 ECCE extracapsular cataract extraction
 ECF extend care facility
 ECG electrocardiogram
 ECH Echocardiogr-aphy
 echo echocardiogram
 ECHOV enterocytopathogenic human orphan virus
 ECMO extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
 ECS extracapsular spread
 ECT electroconvulsive therapy
 ED emergency department
 EDC estimated date of confinement
 EDVI end diastolic volume index
 EEG electroencephalogram
 EENT eyes, ears, nose and throat
 EEP end expiratory pressure
 EF ejection fraction
 EFAD essential fatty acid deficiency
 EFW estimated fetal weight
 e.g. for example
 EGA estimated gestational age
 EGD esophagogastroduodenoscopy
 EHC Employee Health Clin-ic
 EKC epidemic keratoconjunctivitis
 EKG electrocardiogram
 elev elevation
 ELF elective low forceps

F

f frequency
F Fahrenheit
FA fluorescein angiogram
FACR Fellow of the American College of Radiology
FAM Family Medicine
FB foreign body, finger-breadth, fibroptic bronchoscopy, followed by
FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBS fasting blood sugar
FC foley catheter, finger count
FCC Faculty Care Clin-ic
F & D fixed and dilated
FDA Food & Drug Administration
FDP fibrin degradation products
FDV full duction and versions
Fe iron
FEF florced expiratory flow
Feb febrile
FEM-POP femoral-popliteal
FeSO₄ ferrous sulfate
FEV1 forced expiratory volume in one second
FF filtration fraction, fat free
FFA free fatty acids
FFD focal film distance
FFP fresh frozen plasma
FH fundal height, family history
Fhb fetal hemoglobin
FHR fetal heart rate
FHS fetal heart sound
FHT fetal heart tone
Fhx family history
FIF forced inspiratory flow
FIGO International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
FiO₂ fraction of inspired oxygen
fl fluid
fl dr fluid dram
fl oz fluid ounce
Flex flexion
FM fetal movements, face mask
FME focal macular edema
FML focal macular laser
FNS Food and Nutritional Services
FOB fiber optic bronchoscopy
FOB fecal occult blood test
FOC fronto-occipital circumference
FOM floor of mouth, full ocular motility
FPC Family Practice Clinic Family Planning Clinic
FRC functional residual capacity
FS Food Stamps, focal spot
FSH follicle stimulating hormone
FTA fluorescent treponemal antibody
FTHE foveal threatening hard exudates
FTN finger-to-nose
Ftr Father
FTT failure to thrive
F/U follow-up

FUB functional uterine bleeding
FUO fever, unknown origin
FVC forced vital capacity; false vocal chord
FWB full weight bearing
Fx fracture
5FV 5-fluorouricil

G

G Gravida, gram
GAD generalized anxiety disorder
GB gallbladder
GB Series gallbladder series
GC gonorrhea, gonococcus
GCS Glasgow Coma Score
GCT giant cell tumor
G gastroesophageal, gastroenterology
gen general
GERD gastroesophageal reflux disease
Gest gestation
GFR glomerular filtration rate
GGT gamma glutamyl transferase
GGTP gamma glutamyl transpeptidase
GH growth hormone
GI gastrointestinal
GI Series gastrointestinal tract study
glob globulin
glu glucose
gm gram
GN glomerulonephritis, graduate nurse
Gonio gonioscopy
G1,G2 primigravida, secundigravida
GP General Practitioner
G-P-Ab Gravida-para-abortion
g grain
GRH growth releasing hormone
GravI primigravida
GravII secundigravida
GSW gunshot wound
GT gastric tube
GTM Gynecology Tumor
gtt drops
GTT glucose tolerance test
GU genitourinary
GVF Goldmann visual fields
GVH graft versus host (reaction)
GVHD graft versus host disease
GVL graft versus leukemia
GYN Gynecology
G6PD Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
G6PH glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase

H

h height, heart
H & D characteristic curve of film
HA hearing aide, headache hydroxapatite implants
HA .1% hematropine 0.1%

HAA hepatitis associated antigen
 hal hallucinations
 HAL hyper-alimentation
 H&P history and physical
 HAV Hepatitis A virus
 Hb, Hgb hemoglobin
 HBIG Hepatitis B immune globulin
 HBP high blood pressure
 HbsAg hepatitis B surface antigen
 HBV Hepatitis B virus
 HC head circumference, hydrocortisone,
 home care
 HCG Human chorionic gonadotropin
 HCIG Home Care Instructions Given
 HCO3 bicarbonate
 Hct hematocrit
 HCV Hepatitis C virus
 HCVD hypertensive Cardiovascular disease
 HD Hodgkin's Disease, hemodialysis
 HD high density lipoprotein
 H&E hematoxylin & eosin, hemorrhage and
 exudate
 HEENT head, eyes, ears, nose, throat
 heme hemorrhage
 hemi one side of the body
 Hemopt hemoptysis
 HEPA high-efficiency particular air
 Hep-lock heparin lock
 HF heart failure
 HFJC high frequency jet ventilation
 HFO high frequency oscillator
 Hg mercury
 hgb hemoglobin
 HGH human growth hormone
 HH hiatal hernia; Home Health
 HHC Household Composition
 HHN hand held nebulizer
 H&H Hemoglobin & hematocr-it
 H/I homicidal ideation
 HIAA hydroxy indoleacetic
 5HIAA 5 hydroxy indoleacetic
 Hib hemophilus influenza type B
 Histo histoplasmosis
 HIV human immunodeficiency virus
 HJR hepatojugular reflux
 HL heplock; hearing loss
 HLA human leukocyte antigen
 HM hand motion
 HMD hyaline membrane disease
 HMG-CoA hydrosymethylglutaryl-COA
 HNP herniated nucleuse pulposus
 HO history of, house officer
 HOB head of bed
 HP hot packs
 HPA hypothalamic-pituitary axis
 hpf high power field
 HP history of present illness
 HPL human placental lactogen
 hr hour, heart rate
 HRC high resk characteristics
 HRT hormone replacement therapy
 h.s. at bedtime; hour of sleep

HSA human serum albumin
 HSC hysteroscopy
 HSG hysterosalpingogram
 HSM hepatosplenomegaly
 HSN Hansen Street Nail
 HSV herpes simplex virus
 HSW Hospital Social Worker
 ht height, Hubbard Tub
 HTLV-III human T-cell lymphotropic virus type III
 HTN hypertensive, hypertension
 HVF Humphrey visual vields
 HVUF high volume ultra-filtration
 hx history
 HVL half value layer
 HZ herpes zoster
 HZV herpes zoster virus
 H2O water

I

I intubation, iodine, iris
 I&D incision & drainage
 I & A irrigation and aspiration-
 I&O intake & output
 IABP intra-aortic balloon pump
 IACR Inter American College of Radi-ology
 IBD inflammatory bowel disease
 IBW ideal body weight
 ICBG iliac crest bone graft
 ICCE intraocular cataract extraction
 ICD-9-CM In-ternational Classification of Diseases,
 9th Edition, Clinical Modification
 ICF intermediate care facility
 ICF-I insulin-like growth factor I (somatomedin
 C)
 ICF-II insulin-like growth factor II (somatomedin
 A)
 ICH intracranial hemorrhage
 ICP intracranial pressure
 ICR International Commission on Radiation
 Units and Measurements
 ICS intercostal space
 ICU intensive care unit
 I.D. Infectious Diseases
 I & D incision and drainage
 IDDM insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
 IDL intermediate density lipoprotein, indirect
 laryngoscopy
 IDNP indirect nasopharyngoscopy
 IDV intermittent demand ventilation
 IEP immunoelectrophoresis
 Ig immunoglobulin
 IgG Immunoglobulin G
 IHD ischemic heart disease
 IICP increased intracranial pressure
 J internal jugular
 IM intramuscular
 IMP impression
 IMV intermittent mandatory ventilation
 In indium
 IncAb incomplete abortion

Incr increased
 INF interferon
 Inj injection
 Inorg Phos inorganic phosphorus
 INR international normalized ratio
 INS insurance, inspiration
 Instr. instructions
 insuff insufficient
 int inter-nal
 Int Med internal medicine
 IO inferior oblique
 IOL intraocular lens
 I & O intake and output
 IOP intraocular pressure
 IOT intraocular tension
 IP inpatient, interphalangeal, intraperitoneal
 IPAP Inspiratory Positive Airway Pressure
 IPG impedance plethysmography
 IPN interstitial pneumonia
 IPPB intermittent positive Pressure breathing
 IQ intelligence quotient
 IR inferior rectus, internal rotation
 IRMA intraretinal microvascular anomaly
 IROU inferior rectus OU (both eyes)
 IRP incus replacement prosthesis
 IRV inspiratory reserve volume
 ISA intrinsic sympathomimetic activity
 ISC intercostal space
 ISH solated systolic hypertension
 ISMN isosorbide mononitrate
 ISOL isolation
 IT industrial therapy
 ITP idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura
 IUD intrauterine device
 IUFD intrauterine fetal demise
 IUGR intrauterine growth retardation
 IUP intrauterine pregnancy
 IUPM intrauterine pressure monitor
 IV intravenous
 IVC inspiratory vital capacity, inferior vena cava, intravenous cholangiogram
 IVDA intravenous drug abuse
 IVF intravenous fluids

J

J juice
 JODM juvenile onset diabetes mellitus
 JP Jackson-Pratt
 Jr junior
 JRA juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
 Juv juvenile
 JVD jugular venous distention
 JVP jugular venous pressure

K

K cornea
 K+ potassium
 KA keratoacanthoma
 kcal kilocalorie
 KCL potassium chloride
 Kel elimination rate constant

KG kilogram
 KJ knee jerk
 k kilometer
 KKK cold knife conization
 KP keratic precipitates
 KP04 potassium phosphate
 KR krypton laser
 K-sicca keratoconjunctivitis sicca
 17KS 17 ketosteroid
 KUB kidney, ureter, bladder
 Kv kilovolt
 KVP kilovolts peak
 KVO keep vein open

L

L liter, lower, left
 LA left atri-um, left arm, lymphadenopathy
 L & A light and accommodation
 L & D Labor and Delivery
 lab laboratory
 lac laceration
 LAD left axis deviation
 LADC left anterior descending coronary
 LAE left atrial enlargement
 LAL left atrial line
 LAO left anterior oblique
 LAP leukocyte alkaline phosphatase, laporatory
 lat lateral, Latisimus dorsi
 LAVH laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy
 lb pound
 LBBB left bundle branch block
 LBP low back pain
 LBW low birth weight
 LC living children
 LCAT lecithin:cholesterol acyltransferase
 LCL lateral collateral ligament of knee
 LCM left costal margin
 LD lethal dose
 LDH lactic dehydrogenase
 LDL low density lipoprotein
 LDN Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist
 L-EMG laryngeal electromyography
 LE lupus erythematosus, lower extremity
 LES lower esophageal sphincter
 LET left esotropia
 LFA left fronto transverse*
 LFP left fronto posterior*
 LFT left fronto transverse*liver function tests
 lg large
 LGA large for gestational age
 LH luteinizing hormone
 LHC left heart catheterization
 LHRH luteinizing hormone releasing hormone
 LHT left hypertrop-ia
 LH(T) intermittent left hypertropia
 Li— lithium
 LIH left inguinal hernia
 liq liquid

LIS left interspace
 LKS liver, kidneys, spleen
 L/L lids and lashes
 LLE left lower extremity
 LLL left lower lobe, left lower lid
 LLQ left lower quadrant
 LLSB left lower sternal border
 LLWC long leg walking cast
 LMA left mentoanterior
 LMD last/local medical doctor
 LML left mediolateral
 LMP last menstrual period
 LMT left mentotransverse*
 LN lymph node
 LNMP last normal menstrual period
 LOA left occiput anterior*
 LOC loss of consciousness
 LOP left occiput posterior*
 Lord lordotic
 LOS length of stay
 LOT left occiput transverse*
 lp light perception, lumbar puncture, lichen
 planus
 Lp(a) lipoprotein a
 LP & P light perception and project-ion
 LPF low power field
 LPL lipoprotein lipase
 LPN licensed practical nurse
 LPO left posterior oblique
 LPT licensed physical therapist
 LR lactated ringers, lateral rectus
 LRT Licensed Respiratory Technician
 LS lumbosacral
 L/S ratio lecithin to sphingomyelin ratio
 LSA left sacrum anterior*, lichen sclerosus et
 atrophieus
 LSC laparoscopy
 LSD lysergic acid diethylamide
 LSO left salpingo-oophorectomy
 LSP left sacrum posterior*
 LST left sacrum transverse*
 LSUHSC Louisiana State University Health
 Sciences Center
 lt left
 LTCF long term care facility
 LTR laryngotracheal reconstruction
 LUE left upper extremity
 LUL left upper lobe, left lower lid
 LUQ left upper quadrant

M

m murmur
 M meter, manifest refraction
 MA millamperes
 MAA macro-aggregate albumin
 mac macular, midarm circumference
 MAM midarm muscle circumference
 MAO monamine oxidase
 MAP mean arterial pressure; Medical
 Assistance Program

MAR medication administration record
 MAS meconium aspiration syndrome,
 millampere seconds
 MATS Military Air Transport Service
 max maximum
 mc millicurie
 MCD Medicine Cardiac Clinic
 mcg or ug micrograms
 MCH mean corpuscular hemoglobin
 MCHC mean corpuscular hemoglobin
 concentration
 MCL mid-clavicular line
 MCP metacarpophalangeal
 MC medium chain triglyceride
 MCV mean corpuscular volume
 MD medical doctor, Murphy Drip
 MDA Muscular Dystrophy Association
 MDI metered dose inhaler
 MDB Medicine Diabetes Clin-ic
 MDE Major Depressive Episode
 MDI metered dose inhaler
 MDR Medicine Dermatology Clinic
 mech mechanical
 Mev million electron volts
 MED medication, medical, Medicine
 MEFR maximum expiratory flow rate
 MEN multiple endo-crine neoplasia, Medicine
 Endocrinology
 mEq milliequivalent
 mEq/L milliequivalent per liter
 MethHb meth hemoglobin
 MFB metallic foreign body
 mg milligram
 MG Magnesium Marcus-Gunn response
 MGE Medicine Gastroenterology
 MGP Marcus Gunn Pupil
 MHB maximum hospital benefit
 MHC Mental Health Clinic, major
 histocompatibility complex, Mental Health
 Center
 MHM Medicine Hematology
 MI myocardial infarction, mitral insufficiency
 MIC minimum inhibitory concentration
 micro microcytosis
 MIC medical intensive care unit
 min minimum
 ml milliliter
 ML midline, microlaryngoscopy
 MLEpis midline episiotomy
 MM multiple myeloma
 mm millimeter
 mM millimolar
 mm/hr millimeters per hour
 MM-C mitomycin-C
 MMEFR maximal midexpiratory flow rate
 mmr cardiac murmur
 MMRI Minnesota Multiphasic Personality
 Inventory
 MMR measles, mumps and rubella
 MMS molar micrographic surgery
 MMT manual muscle test
 M & N mydriacyl and neosynephrine

MN midnight
MNP Medicine Nephrology
mod moderate
MOE malignant otitis externa
mono monocyte
MP metacarpophalangeal
MPC maximum permissible concentration
MPD maximum permissible dose
MPV mean platelet volume
m/r/g murmur/rub/gallop
MR medical rectus
MRH Medicine Rheumatology
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MRM modified radical mastoidectomy
MRND modified radical neck dissection
MROU medial rectus OU(both eyes)
MRSA methicillin resistant staph aureus
MS musculoskeletal, multiple sclerosis,
medical student
MSAFP maternal serum alpha fetoprotein
MSE mental status exam
MSL midsternal line
MSW Master's of Social Work
M.T. medical technologist
MTD maximum tolerated dose
MTP metatarsophalangeal
Mtr Mother
MTX Medicine Toxicology
MUD matched unrelated donor
MUGA multiple gated acquisition
MV minute ventilation
mva motor vehicle accident
MVI multivitamin
MVR mitral valve replacement
MVV maximum voluntary ventilation
mx maxilla
myelo myelocyte
m/3 middle third

N

N nitrogen
N&V nausea & vomiting
Na sodium
NA Nursing Assistant, narrow angle, no
answer
Na Window nasal antral window
NAAC No Apparent Anesthesia Complications
NaCl sodium chloride
NAD no acute distress
NAG narrow angle glaucoma
NaK Glucose ... 3.5% glucose with 26 meq Na/liter, 25
meq K/liter
NaHCO₃ sodium bicarbonate
NAO nasal airway obstruction
NB newborn
N/C no complaints, non-contributory, nasal
cannula
NC/AT normocephalic, atraumatic
NCPAP nasal CPAP
NEC necrotizing enterocolitis

NED no evidence of disease
neg negative
NEO neosynephrine
NEU neurology, neurologic
NGT nasogastric tube
NH Nursing Home
NHL Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
NHP Nursing Home Placement
NI no improvement
NIA niacin, niacinamide
NICU Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NIDDM non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
NIF negative inspiratory force
NIP negative inspiratory pressure
N/K Table quadriceps
NKA no known allergies
NKDA no known drug allergies
nl normal
NLP no light perception
NM neuromuscular, nanometer
NMI no middle initial
NNP neonatal nurse practitioner
noct night
NMSC non-melanoma skin cancer
Norepi norepinephrine
NOS not otherwise specified
NP neuropsychiatry nurse practitioner
NPA no previous admission
NPC nasopharyngeal carcinoma, non-
productive cough, near point of convergence
NPC@N near point of convergence to nose
NPH neutral protamine hagedorn
NPN nonprotein nitrogen
NPO nothing by mouth
NPS nasopharyngoscopy
NP & T nasopharynx and throat
NR nonreactive
NRBC nucleated red blood cell
NRI nutritional risk index
NS nuclear sclerosis normal saline
NSA no significant abnormality
NSAIDS nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug
NSC nuclear sclerotic cataract
NSD normal spontaneous delivery
NSR normal sinus rhythm; nasal spetal
reconstruction
NSS Nephrology Surgery Service, normal saline
solution
NST non-stress test
NSU Neurosurgery Service
NSVD normal spontaneous vaginal delivery
NT/ND non-distended/non-tender
NTS nasotracheal suction
NV neurovascular
NVD neovascularization of the disc (optic nerve)
nvd neck venous distention, nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea
NVE neovascularization elsewhere
NVFCD nausea, vomiting, fever, chills and diarrhea
NWB non-weight bearing
NWRADAC Northwest Regional Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Center

O

O objective/observation
 OA occiput anterior osteoarthritis, observation and assessment
 OAD other administrative discharge
 OB, OBG, Obstetrics and Gynecology
 OB/GYN
 obj objective
 obl oblique
 OBS organic brain syndrome
 OCA oral contraceptive agent
 occ occasional, occiput
 OCD obsessive-compulsive disorder
 OCG oral cholecystogram
 OCP ova, cysts, parasites
 OCS Office of Community Service
 OCT oxytocin challenge test
 OCTOR on call to the operating room
 OE otitis externa
 OFS Office of Family Services
 OH Occupational Health
 OI oxygen index
 OKN opokinetic nystagmus
 17 OHCS 17 hydroxycorticosteroids
 17 OHP 17 hydroxy progesterone
 OHTx Orthotopic heart transplant
 OLTx Orthotopic liver transplant
 OM otitis media
 OMH Office of Mental Health
 OMR Office of Mental Retardation
 ON optic nerve, oral-nasal, optic nerve
 OOB out of bed
 op outpatient, operation, occiput posterior, operation, outpatient
 OP/OC oropharynx/oral cavity
 O & P ova and parasites
 OPC Order for protective custody
 OPD Outpatient department
 OPG ocular plethysmography
 OPS outpatient surgery
 OPT ophthalmology
 OPV oral polio vaccine
 O.R. operating room
 Orient oriented, orientation
 ORIF open reduction/internal fixation
 ORT orthopaedic
 os mouth, left eye
 OSA obstructive sleep apnea
 OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 OSU Oral Surgery
 O.T. occupational therapy
 otc over the counter
 OTO Otolaryngology
 OTT orotracheal tube
 O.U. each eye, both eyes
 oz ounce

O2 oxygen
 O2Ct oxygen content
 O2 sat oxygen saturation

P

p after, pulse
 P pain, para, pulse, percussion, plan, pressure
 P 0 .1% propine 0.1%
 P1, P2 primipara, secundipara
 P50 P02 at 50% saturation
 P&A percussion and auscultation
 P&T peak and trough
 PA posteroanterior, physician's assistant, pulmonary artery, alveolar pressure, posterior anterior
 PAC premature atrial contraction
 Pa0 arterial oxygen tension
 PA02 alveolar oxygen tension
 PaCO2 arterial carbon dioxide tension
 PACO2 alveolar carbon dioxide tension
 PACU post anesthesia care unit
 palp palpable, palpations
 P.A.P. Prostatic Acid Phosphatase
 Pap pananicoaou smear
 para paraplegic, paralysis
 Para I Primipara
 Para II women with > 1 child
 PAS para-aminosalicylic acid, peripheral anterior aymechia
 PAT paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
 path pathology
 paw airway pressure
 PAWP pulmonary artery wedge pressure
 PBD post burn day
 PBI protein bound iodine
 PBL pre-term birth living child
 PBSCT peripheral blood stem cell transplantation
 PC packed cells, post cast, pressure control after meals, posterior chamber
 PCA patient controlled analgesic
 PCC Primary Care Clin-ic
 PCCG perichondrial cutaneous graft
 PCD Pediatric Cardiac Clinic
 PCIOL posterior chamber intraocul-ar lens
 PCH Pediatric Chest Clinic
 PCM protein calorie malnutrition
 PCN penicillin,
 PCO polycystic ovarian disease, posterior capsule opacification
 PCO2 partial pressure of carbon dioxide
 PCP Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, phencyclidine
 PCT porphyria cutanea tarda
 PCV packed cell volume, polycythemia vera
 PCWP pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
 PD postural drainage, pharmacodynamics
 PDA patent ductus arteriosus
 PDR Physician's Desk Reference, proliferative

	diabetic retinopathy	PND	post nasal drainage, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
PE	physical examination, pulmonary embolism	PNH	paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
PEC	physician's emergency certificate, Pediatric Endocrine	PNP	Pediatric Nephrology
Ped	pediatric	PNR	Pediatric Neurology
PEEP	positive end expiratory pressure	po	by mouth
PEF	peak expiratory flow	Post op	post operative
PEFR	peak expiratory flow rate	POA	pancreatic onofetal antigen
PEG	pneumoencephalogram, Percutaneous endo-scopic gastrostomy	POAG	primary open-angle glaucoma
perf	perforations	POD	post operative day
P.E. tube	polyethylene tube	POI	post operative instructions
PERLA	pupils equal, reactive to light and accommodations	POL	premature onset of labor
PERRLA	pupils equal, round, reactive to light and accommodations	polys	polymorphonuclear leukocytes
PET	positron emission tomography;	pos	positive
.....	pressure equalization tube	poss	possible
pH	hydrogen ion concentration, acid/base index	Post.	posterior
PH	past history, pin hole	post op	postoperative
PHEO	pheochromocytoma	po2	partial pressure of oxygen
pharm	pharmacy	po4	phosphate
PharmD	Doctor of Pharmacy	POX	pulse oximetry
PHC	post hospital care	PP	postpartum, pancreatic polypeptide, postprandial
PHM	Pediatric Hematology	PPBG	postprandial blood glucose
phos	phosphatase	PPBP	postpartum blood pressure
PHP	phosphorus	ppd	packs per day
PHN	public health nurse	PPD	purified protein derivative (tuberculin)
PHNI	pin hole not improved	PPDR	pre-proliferative sickle retinopathy
PHPV	perisistent hyperplastic primary vitreous	PPN	peripheral parenteral nutrition
PHR	Pediatric High Risk	PPROM	preterm premature rupture of membranes
PHU	public health unit	PPS	postpartum sterilization
P	present illness, principal investigator, performance improvement, peripheral iridectomy	PPTL	postpartum tubal ligation
PICU	pediatric intensive care unit	PPV	pars plana vitrectomy
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease	pr	per rectum, pityriasis rosea, photoentgen
PIH	pregnancy induced hypertension	PRA	panel-reactive antibody, plasma renin activity
PIP	proximal interphalangeal, peak inspiratory pressure	PRBC	packed red blood cells
PIPP	premature infant pain profile	PRE	progressive resistance exercise
PIV	peripheral intravenous	preop	preoperative
PK	pharmacokinetics	prep	prepare
PKP	penetrating keratoplasty	PRL	prolactin
PKU	phenylketonuria	pn	as often as necessary
PLEVA	prtyrias lichenordes et varoliformis	procto	proctoscopic
p.m.	afternoon	Pro	protein
PMA	Pediatric Metabolic Assessment	PRO	Peer Review Organization
PMB	post menopausal bleeding	PROM	premature rupture of membranes, passive range of motion
PMD	private medical doctor, Pediatric Medicine	PRP	pityriasis rubra pilaris, panretinal photocoagulation
PMFF	paramedian forehead flap	PRVC	pressure regulated volume control
PM Flap	pectoralis major flap	Ps	psoriasis, pressure support
PMH	past medical history	PSA	prostate specific antigen, Poly-Substance Abuse
PMI	point of maximum impulse past medical illness	PSC	posterior subcapsular cataract
PMN	polymorphonuclear neutrophil	PSE	portal systemic encephalopathy
PMP	previous menstrual period	PSG	polysomnogram
PMR	physical medicine and rehabilitation	PSH	past surgical history
PMS	premenstrual syndrome	PSP	phenolsulfonphthalein
PNC-E	postnecrotic cirrhosis - ethanol	PSO	polysporim ointment
		PSOM	persistent serous otitis media
		PSP	phenolsulfonphthalein test
		PSR	proliferative sickle retinopathy
		PSVT	paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia

PSY Psychiatry
 pt patient
 pt. ed. patient education
 P.T. physical therapy, pharyngeal toilet
 (suction),
 PTA prior to admission
 PTCA percutaneous transluminal coronary
 angioplasty
 PTH parathyroid hormone
 PTHrP parathyroid hormone-related protein
 P.T.L pre-term labor
 PT/PTT prothrombin time/partial thromboplastin
 time
 PUBS percutaneous umbilical artery sampling
 PU pressure ulcer
 PUD peptic ulcer disease
 Pulm pulmonary
 Pulv powder
 PVC premature ventricular contractions
 PVD peripheral vascular disease, posterior
 vitreous detachment
 PVOD peripheral vascular occlusive disease
 PWB partial weight bearing
 Pyelo pyelonephritis
 PVR proliferative vitreoretinopathy
 PZI protamine zinc insulin
 p pulmonary second sound
 p/3 proximal third

Q

q every
 qam every morning
 qh every hour
 q2h,q3h every 2 hours, every 3 hours
 qid four times a day
 QM Quality Management
 QNS quantity not sufficient
 QL quality of life
 qpm every evening
 qs every shift, sufficient quantity
 qt quart
 quad quadriplegic, paralysis of all four
 extremities
 qual qualitative
 quant quantitative

R

R right,retinoscopy, roentgen-
 R&M routine & microscopic
 R & R recess-resect
 RA rheumatoid rthritis, right arm, right atrium,
 room air
 RABG room air blood gas
 rad radium, reactive airway disease,Radiolo-gy
 RAE right atrial enlargement
 RAIU radioactive iodine uptake

RAO right anterior oblique
 Raw airway resis-tance
 RBBB right bundle branch block
 RBC red blood cells
 RBCX Red Blood Cell Exchange
 RBE relative biologic effectiveness
 RCA right coronary artery
 RCM right costal margin
 RD retinal detachment
 RDA recommended daily allowance
 RDP random donor platelets
 RDS respiratory distress syndrome
 RDW red cell distribution width
 re regarding, concerning
 readm readmission
 rec'd received
 REE Resting Energy Expenditure
 ref referred
 refrax refraction
 reg. regular
 REH rehabilitation
 REM rapid eye movements, roentgen equivalent
 man
 rep repeat
 req request
 RES reticuloendothelial system
 Resp. respiration
 RET right estropia
 Retic reticulocyte
 RF rheumatoid factor, renal failure, rheumatic
 fever
 RFA right fronto anterior*
 RFFF radial forearm free flap
 RFP right fronto posterior*
 RFT right fronto transverse*
 RGP retrograde pyelogram-
 Rh Rhesus blood factor
 RHD rheumatic heart disease
 RH right heart failure
 RHT right hypertrop-ia
 RH (T) intermittent right hype-rtrophia
 Rh neg Rhesus factor negative
 Rh pos Rhesus factor positive
 RIA radioimmunoassay
 RID radial immune diffusion radio immune
 diffusion
 RIH right inguinal hernia
 RIS radiology information system
 RISA radio-iodinated serum albumin
 RHC right heart catheterization
 RK radial keratomy
 RLE right lower extremity
 RLF retrolental fibroplasia
 RLL right lower lobe, rig-ht lower lid
 RLQ right lower quadrant
 RLR right lateral rectus
 RMA right mentoanterior*
 RML right middle lobe
 RMP right mentoposterior*
 RMR right medial rectus, red mattox rod
 RMT right mentotransverse*; retromolar trigone
 RN Registered Nurse

RNA ribonucleic acid
 RN,App Registered Nurse, applicant
 RND radical neck dissection
 RNP Registered Nurse Practitioner
 R/O rule out
 ROA right occiput anterior*
 ROM range of motion
 ROP right occiput posterior,*retinopathy of prematurity
 ROS review of systems
 ROT right occiput transverse*
 RP retropubic, retinitis pigmentosa-
 RPE retinal pigment epithelium
 RPG retrograde pyelogram
 RPGN rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
 R.Ph. Registered Pharmacist
 RPM revolutions per minute
 RPO right posterior obliq-ue
 RPR rapid plasma reag-in
 RPT Registered Physical Therapist
 RQ respiratory quotient
 RR recovery room, respiratory rate
 RRR regular rate and rhythm
 RRT Registered Respiratory Therapist
 RRTE Registered Respiratory Therapist, Eligible
 RRP radical retropubic prostatectomy
 RSO right salpingo-oophorectomy
 RSA right sacrum anterior*
 RSMA Radiologic Society of North America
 RSR regular sinus rhythm
 RST right sacrum transverse*
 RT recreational therapy, radiation therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Registered Technologist
 RTA renal tubular acidosis
 RTC return to clinic
 RU residual urine
 RUE right upper extremity
 RUG retrograde urethrogram
 RUL right upper lobe, lid
 rupt. ruptured
 RUQ right upper quadrant
 RV rectovaginal, right ventricle, residual volume
 RVH right ventricle hypertrophy
 RVSWI right ventricular stroke work index
 Rx prescription
 RXT right exotropia

SBE subacute bacterial endocarditis
 SBFT small bowel follow-through
 SBJ skin, bones and joints
 SBO small bowel obstruction
 SBP systolic blood pressure
 SBR Surgery Burn
 SBS small bowel study
 SCAN suspected child abuse and/or neglect
 SCAT sheep cell agglutination test
 SCC sickle cell crisis
 SCCA squamous cell carcinoma
 SCD Surgery Cadaver Donor
 SCID severe combined immunodeficiency
 SCLC small cell lung cancer
 scop scopolamine
 Scr serum creatinine
 SCT Surgery Cardiothoracic
 SCUF slow continuous ultra-filtration
 SDP single donor platelets
 Se selenium
 seb derm seborrheic dermatitis
 sec seconds (exposure time)
 sed sedimentation
 sed rate sedimentation rate
 segs segments
 SEM systolic ejection murmur
 sens sensitivity
 serv service
 sfb sulf hemoglobin
 SG specific gravity
 SGA small for gestational age
 SGOT serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase
 SGPT serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
 SH social history, suicidal/homicidal ideation
 SHBG sex hormone binding globulin
 SHP Surgery Plastic
 SK seborrheic keratosis
 SLP Speech and Language
 SMHC Shreveport Mental Health Center
 S/I supervision/instruction, suicidal ideation, sector irredecto-my
 SIADH syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone
 Sib Siblings
 SIC self-intermittent catheterization
 SICU surgical intensive care unit
 SIDS sudden infant death syndrome
 sig label (prescriptions)
 SIJ sacroiliac joint
 SIMV synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation
 SIRS systematic inflammatory response syndrome
 SJS Stevens-Johnson syndrome
 SK seborrheic keratosis
 SL sublingual, Schwalbe's line
 SLE systemic lupus erythematosus, slit lamp examination
 SLR straight leg raise
 SMA sequential multiple
 Smd somatomedin
 SMHC Shreveport Mental Health Clinic

S

s without
 s sensitive, scale
 S subjective
 S2 second heart sound
 SA sinoatrial; Salvation Army
 SAGA small appropriate for gestational age
 SAH subarachnoid hemorrhage
 SAO2 arterial oxygen saturation
 SB stillborn

SMR submucous resection
 SNHL sensorineural hearing loss
 SO superior oblique, salpingo-oophorectomy
 SOAP subjective, objective data, assessment and plan
 SOB shortness of breath
 SOM serous otitis media
 sol solution
 solv dissolve
 sono sonogram
 s.o.s. if necessary
 S/P suprapubic, status post, species
 SPEP serum protein electrophoresis
 SPF sun protection factor
 Sp fl spindal fluid
 SP Nail Smith-Peterson Nail
 SPOE Single Point of Entry
 SPD Shreveport Police Department, Surgery Pediatric
 SPE serum protein electrophoresis
 spec specimen
 Spec. Ed Special Education
 SPG specific gravity

T

T or temp temperature
 T&A tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
 T&C type & cross match
 T. Bili total bilirubin
 Ta applanation tonometry
 tab tablet
 3TC lamivudine (Epivir)
 tachy tachycardia
 TAGA term appropriate for gestational age
 TAH total abdominal hysterectomy
 TAH BSO total abdominal hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo oophorectomy
 TANG tangential
 TAPVR total anomalous pulmonary venous rectum
 TB, TBC tuberculosis
 TBG thyroxine binding globulin
 TBII thyrotropin binding inhibitory immunoglobulin
 TBLC term birth, living child
 TBPA thyroxine prealbumin
 TBSE total body skin exam
 tbsp tablespoon
 T/C to consider, Technetium
 TCA tricyclic antidepressant
 TCC Transitional cell cancer
 TCN tetracycline
 TCollar trach collar
 TCC02 transcutaneous carbon dioxide
 TCM Transcutaneous monitoring
 TCP02 transcutaneous oxygen
 TE tracheoesophageal
 TED thromboembolic disease
 temp temperature
 TEN toxic epidermal necrolysis
 TENS transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
 TFD target film distance
 TFT thyroid function test
 TG triglyceride
 Tg thyroglobulin

TGV transposition of great vessel
 THBR thyroid hormone binding ratio
 THC tetrahydrocannabinol
 THR total hip replacement
 TIA transient ischemia attack
 TIBC total iron binding capacity
 tid three times a day
 TIPS transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
 TKA total knee arthroplasty
 tko to keep open
 TKR total knee replacement
 TL total larynegectomy
 TLC total lung capacity
 TLI total lymphoid irradiation
 TLP total laryngophayngectomey
 TLS tumor lysis syndrome
 TLV total lung volume
 TM tympanic membrane;thyromegaly, trabecular meshwork
 TMJ temporomandibular joint
 TMP5MX trimethoprim sulfamethoxazide
 TMTC too many to count
 TNTC too numerous to count
 TO telephone order
 TOA tuboovarian. abscess
 TOD target organ damage
 Tol tolerated
 TORCH toxoplasmosis, other (syphilis, hepatitis, Zoster), rubella, cytomegalovirus, and herpes simplex (maternal infections)
 TP total protein
 TPA tissue plasminogen activator (Alteplase)
 TPE Therapeutic Plasma Exchange
 TPGD thought processes goal directed
 TPN total parenteral nutrition
 TP & P time, place and person
 TRD Therapeutic Radiology
 TPR temperature, pulse and respiration
 tr tincture
 Trab trabeculectomy
 trach tracheostomy
 TRAM Transverse Rectus Abdominous Myocutaneous Flap
 TRD traction retinal detachment
 TRH thyrotrophin releasing hormone
 trich trichomonas
 TRNBP transrectal needle biopsy of the prostate
 TRUS transrectal ultrasound
 TSD target skin distance
 TSH thyroid stimulating hormone
 TSI thyroid stimulating immunoglobulin
 tsp teaspoon
 TSP total serum protein
 TSS toxic shock syndrome
 TT tilt table
 TT lateral trans table lateral
 TTN transient tachypnea newborn
 TTP thrombolytic thrombocytopenia
 TUMT transurethral microwave thermotherapy
 TUR transurethral resection
 TURBT Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor
 TURP Transurethral Resection of Prostate
 TV television, tidal volume
 tv true vocal cord
 TVH transvaginal hysterectomy

Tx treatment, traction
 TYMP/MAST tympanotomy & mastoidectomy
 T1/2 half life
 T3 3, 5, 3 triiodothyronine
 T3U T3- resin uptake
 T4 thyroxine
 rT3 reverse T3

U

U/A Urinalysis
 UE upper extremity
 UGI upper gastrointestinal
 ULQ upper left quadrant
 Ung ointment
 unilat unilateral
 UOQ upper outer quadrant
 UOP urine output
 UP upright
 UPJ uteropelvic junction
 UPP urethral pressure profilo
 UPPP uvulopalatal pharynogoplasty
 UPT urine pregnancy test
 UR Utilization Review, urine
 URI upper respiratory infection
 URO Urology
 URQ upper right quadrant
 US ultrasound
 USD urethral stricture disease
 USG ultrasonography
 USI urinary stress incontinence
 USP United States Pharmacopeia
 UTD up to date
 Ut dic as directed
 UTI Urinary Tract Infection
 UV ultraviolet, umbilical vein
 UVC umbilical venous catheter
 UVJ ureterovesical junction

V

V volts, vesicle
 va visual acuity
 Vacc vaccine, vaccination
 VAH Veteran's Administration Hospital
 VAMC Veteran's Administration Medical Center
 VBAC vaginal birth after c-section
 VC vocal cord, vital capacity
 VC02 carbon dioxide production ml/min
 VCUG voiding cystourethrogram
 VD venereal disease, volume of dead space,
 dead volume
 VDC Viral Disease Clinic
 VDRL Venereal Disease Research Laboratory
 VE expired minute volume
 vent ventilation, ventilator, ventricular
 VER visual evoked response
 vet veteran
 VF visual fields
 V-fib ventricular fibrillation
 V-flutter ventricular flutter
 V/H visual hallucinations, vitreous hemorrhage
 VIP vasoactive intestinal polypeptide
 vit vitamin, vitreous
 VHLA vaginal hysterectomy laparoscopically

assisted
 VKH Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada Syndrome
 VMA vanillylmandelic acid
 V-mask venturi-mask
 VLDL very low density lipoprotein
 VO verbal order
 vO2 oxygen consumption m/min
 VOD veno-occlusive disease
 vol volume
 vp venous pressure
 VP ventricular peritoneal
 V/Q ventilation/perfusion
 VSD Ventricular Septal Defect
 VS vital signs, volume support
 VSD ventricular septal defect
 VSS vital signs stable
 VT ventricular tachycardia
 VUR Vesoureteral Reflux

W

w/ with
 WA while awake
 Wass Wassermann
 WBAT weight bearing as tolerated
 WBC White Blood Count
 WBD weeks to date
 W/C wheelchair
 W/D warm and dry
 WD & WN well developed & well nourished
 weak weakness
 WF white female
 WFL within functional limits
 Whp whirlpool
 WIC Women's, Infants & Children Program
 wk week, weak
 WKMC Willis Knighton Medical Center
 WKMC-S Willis Knighton South
 WM white male

X

x except, exophoria
 x' exophoria at near
 Xe Xenon
 x-rays roentgen rays
 XRT radiation therapy
 XT exotropia
 X(T) intermittent exotr-opia
 XT' exotropia at near

Y,Z

YAG yttrium aluminum garnet laser
 y/o years old
 yr year
 ZnO zinc oxide

*fetal position and presentation

Approved Abbreviations for Medication Orders

Abbreviation	Definition
ac	before meals
BID	twice daily
BSA	body surface area
C	with
cc	cubic centimeter
cm	centimeter
DtaP	diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine
ETT	endotracheal tube
FSBS	finger stick blood sugar
gm	gram
G-tube	gastrostomy tube
HHN	hand held nebulizer
hr	hour
HS	at bedtime
IM	intramuscular
IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
IV	intravenous
J-tube	jejunostomy tube
kg	kilogram
L	liter
m ²	meter squared
MDI	metered dose inhaler
mEq	milliequivalent
mg	milligram
min	minute
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
mMol	millimole
MMR	measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine
NG	nasogastric
NPO	nothing by mouth
OG	orogastric
OPV	oral polio vaccine
oz	ounce
PEG	percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
pc	after meals
PCA	patient controlled analgesia
PIV	peripheral IV
PICC	peripherally inserted central catheter
PN	parenteral nutrition
PO	by mouth
PPD	purified protein derivative
PR	per rectum
PRN	as needed
Q1H, (also Q2h, Q4h, etc.)	every x hour(s)
QID	four times a day
Q AM	every morning
Q HS	at bedtime
SL	sublingual
SSI	sliding scale insulin
STAT	immediately
UAC	umbilical artery catheter
UVC	umbilical venous catheter

Prohibited Abbreviations

Dangerous Abbreviations	Proper Documentaion Instead of the Abbreviation	Misinterpretation
AU, AS, AD	Latin abbreviation for both ears; left ear; right ear	Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation for "OU" (both eyes); "OS" (left eye); "OD" (right eye)
mcg and mg	microgram	Mistaken for "mg" when written resulting in an overdose
o.d. or OD	once daily	Misinterpreted as "right eye" (OD - oculus dexter) and administration of oral medication in the eye
q.o.d. or QOD	every other day	Misinterpreted as "'q.d.'" (daily) or "'q.i.d.'" (four times daily) if the "'o'" is poorly written
sub q	Subcutaneoussc	Mistaken for SL (sublingual)
U or u	unit	Mistaken as zero or a four (4) resulting in overdose (4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44")
IU	international unit	Misread as IV (intravenous)
x3d	for three days	Mistaken for "three doses"
ss	sliding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary) ssi	Mistaken for "55"

Recommendations to Enhance Medication

Medication management is a complex process, involving multiple caregivers and multiple steps across four principal stages – ordering, preparation, administration and monitoring - each susceptible to error. Studies have shown that 49% of medication errors originate in the ordering phase and that many are due to orders that are illegible, incomplete or unclear.

Medication orders, indeed ALL orders, are the basic written communication tool for patient care. What an order says, or is interpreted to say, directly impacts the care of the patient. In carrying out an order, there are many “hand-offs” by physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals. If it is not written clearly, each individual who acts on the order may interpret it a different way. Most importantly, errors can occur when orders are misinterpreted.

To reduce the chance for error, prescribers must avoid dangerous abbreviations and include the required elements in all medication orders.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL ORDER WRITING

BE CAREFUL WITH DECIMALS - Ten-fold errors in drug strength and dosage have occurred with decimals due to the use of a trailing zero (1.0 mg) or the absence of a leading zero (.5 mg). A terminal or trailing zero should NEVER be used after a decimal and a leading zero should always precede a decimal expression of less than one.

NEED TO GIVE A VERBAL ORDER? - Communicate verbal orders clearly and succinctly. Have the person on the receiving end REPEAT back the order to you to ensure that the order is taken correctly.

NEED TO CHANGE AN ORDER? - Correcting errant orders the right way is important. Cross out the entire order and REWRITE IT. Initial beside the erroneous order along with the word “error” and date.

NEED TO ADD AN ORDER? - If you need to ADD an additional order AFTER you have written orders and completed that section of the order sheet, BEGIN A NEW ORDER SECTION.

NEED TO DISCONTINUE AN ORDER? - Every action on a patient’s medication profile requires an order, so BE EXPLICIT in your order writing. If an action such as discontinuation is required, write it out. DO NOT ASSUME an action will be taken if it is not ordered.

Required Elements for Inpatient and Clinic Medication Orders

Adults

Approved abbreviations must be used on ALL orders.

Date and Time

Allergies

Weight (kg or gm)

Need **ONLY** for those drugs that are dosed based on weight (i.e., chemotherapy)

Drug Name

- Generic names are preferred
- Specification of appropriate salts (i.e., potassium **chloride** or potassium **phosphate**) must be written on ALL orders
- Chemical names for electrolytes are acceptable (i.e., $MgSO_4$ for magnesium sulfate)

Dose

Dosage Units

Metric units only (except for standard "unit-based" dosing, i.e. insulin)

If a dose is specified as a volume, specify the concentration as well (i.e., mg/mL)

Diluent

Specify if requiring diluent **OTHER THAN** the standards (5% Dextrose or 0.9% NaCl)

Route of Administration

Frequency or Interval

All orders for PRN medication must include an interval and an indication

Signature (including credentials) and Pager Number

Pediatrics

(≤ 17 years of age [except for obstetrics])

Approved abbreviations must be used on ALL orders.

Date and Time

Allergies

Weight (kg or gm)

For ALL pediatric patients

Drug Name

- Generic names are preferred
- Specification of appropriate salts (i.e., potassium **chloride** or potassium **phosphate**) must be written on ALL orders
- Chemical names for electrolytes are acceptable (i.e., $MgSO_4$ for magnesium sulfate)

Dose

- Dose/kg/interval for all patients < 40 kg (i.e., mg/kg/dose or mg/kg/day)
- For medications given in combination, the dose/kg/interval should be specified for one of the medications in the combination
- Elemental preparations (i.e., iron and zinc) should be ordered based on the desired dose of the element (not the salt).

Dosage Units

Metric units only (except for standard "unit-based" dosing, i.e. insulin) If a dose is specified as a volume, specify the concentration as well (i.e., mg/mL)

Diluent

Specify if requiring diluent **OTHER THAN** the standards (5% Dextrose or 0.9% NaCl)

Route of Administration

Frequency or Interval

All orders for PRN medication must include an interval and an indication

Signature (including credentials) and Pager Number