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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGA</td>
<td>adequate for gestational age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>albumin to globulin ratio, argon green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFP</td>
<td>alpha-fetoprotein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFM</td>
<td>after fatty meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afeb</td>
<td>afebrile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFDC</td>
<td>aid to Families with dependent children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFD</td>
<td>anode film distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFB</td>
<td>acid fast bacilli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFDC</td>
<td>aid to Families with dependent children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFG</td>
<td>anode film distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGA</td>
<td>adequate for gestational age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>adequate for gestational age</td>
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<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>adequate for gestational age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>adequate for gestational age</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:**
- AGA: adequate for gestational age
- AG: albumin to globulin ratio, argon green
- AFP: alpha-fetoprotein
- AFM: after fatty meal
- Afeb: afebrile
- AFDC: aid to Families with dependent children
- AFD: anode film distance
- AFB: acid fast bacilli
- AFDC: aid to Families with dependent children
- AGA: adequate for gestational age
- AG: adequate for gestational age
- AG: adequate for gestational age
- AG: adequate for gestational age
AIDS Related Complex
acute respiratory distress syndrome
acute renal failure
age related macular degeneration
active range of motion
automated Reagin test, arterial
arrive
American Roentgen Ray Society
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
American Radium Society
vascular sinus, left ear (auris sinistra), anterior segment
as soon as possible
anterior subcapsular cataract
A-scan ultrasound
arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
atrial septal defect
atrial septal hypertrophy
arteriosclerotic heart disease
as tolerated
antistreptolysin O
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
aspartate amino-transaminase
astigmatism
adenotonsillar hypertrophy
tube placement
black male, bone marrow, bilateral
bone mineral density
Basic Metabolic Panel
basal metabolic rate
bilateral medical rectus recession
bone marrow transplant
tube placement
bladder neck contracture
bladder neck incision
bladder neck obstruction
bilateral otitis media
bladder outlet obstruction
base of tongue
bag of water
bronchopulmonary dysplasia, Bipolar Disorder
blood pressure
benign prostatic hypertrophy
beats per minute
brief psychiatric rating scale
bed rest
banana, rice cereal, apple sauce and tea
bright red blood
bright red blood per rectum
biological response modifier
bathroom privileges
brachial vein occlusion
bowel sounds, bedside breath sounds, blood sugar
b-Scan ultrasound
body surface area
bilateral salpingo-ophorectomy
bilateral serous otitis media
barium
bacteria
bronchoscopy and lavage
basophil
barium sulphate
barium swallow
bundle branch block
both bone forearm fracture
basal body temperature
bilateral breath sounds
culture, Blue Cross, bedside commode
branch chained amino acids
basal cell carcinoma
Board Certified Diplomate
bacilli Calmette-Guerin vaccine
Basic Cardiac Life Support
Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DBE</td>
<td>Diabetic Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Distance, dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDE</td>
<td>Cardiopulmonary resuscitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Child Protective Services, Chronic Paronoid Schizophrenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>chest physiotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1,C2,etc</td>
<td>first, second, etc. cervical vertebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>cardiopulmonary, cycloplegic refraction, chromium, creatinine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAO</td>
<td>central retinal artery occlusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creat</td>
<td>creatinine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRF</td>
<td>chronic renal failure, corticotropin releasing factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRH</td>
<td>corticotropin releasing hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRI</td>
<td>chronic renal insufficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRNA</td>
<td>certified registered nurse anesthetist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRNP</td>
<td>certified registered nurse practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRRT</td>
<td>continuous renal replacement therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRT</td>
<td>certified respiratory therapist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRTE</td>
<td>Certified Respiratory Therapist, Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRVO</td>
<td>central retinal vein occlusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cryo</td>
<td>cryosurgery; cryoprecipitate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cs</td>
<td>cesium, central supply; Christian Services, culture &amp; sensitivity conjunctiva and sclera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Sect</td>
<td>cesarean section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>cerebrospinal fluid, colony-stimulating factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSME</td>
<td>clinically significant macular edema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cst</td>
<td>Static Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>computer tomography, chest tube, count, calcitonin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTA</td>
<td>clear to auscultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTT</td>
<td>ceased to breathe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ctx</td>
<td>cervical traction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ctxn</td>
<td>contractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTZ</td>
<td>chemoreceptor trigger zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cult</td>
<td>culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>cerebrovascular, cardiovascular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVA</td>
<td>cerebrovascular accident, costo-vertebral angle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVAT</td>
<td>costovertebral angle tenderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVL</td>
<td>central venous line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVP</td>
<td>central venous pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVS</td>
<td>chorionic villus sampling</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVVH</td>
<td>continuous venovenous hemofiltration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVVHD</td>
<td>continuous venovenous hemofiltration dialysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVVHDF</td>
<td>continuous venovenous hemofiltration with dialysis and ultrafiltration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWS</td>
<td>continuous wall suction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cx</td>
<td>cervix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CXR</td>
<td>chest x-ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cyclo</td>
<td>cyclogel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyro</td>
<td>cryothera-py</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cysto</td>
<td>cystoscopy/cystoscopic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cystometry</td>
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<td>Cystoscopy</td>
<td>cystoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Distance, dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DABR</td>
<td>Diplomate of American Board of Radiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBP</td>
<td>diastolic blood pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCC</td>
<td>direct current cardioversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>double contrast enema</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>Family and Children Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCR</td>
<td>dacryocystorhinostomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ddl</td>
<td>didanosine</td>
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<tr>
<td>D &amp; D</td>
<td>diarrhea and dehydration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDD</td>
<td>degenerative disc disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>dec</td>
<td>decubitus</td>
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<td>deceleration</td>
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<td>decre</td>
<td>decreased</td>
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<tr>
<td>del</td>
<td>delivery, delivered</td>
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<td>Dep</td>
<td>depressed</td>
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<td>Derm</td>
<td>dermatology, dermatitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>dry eye syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>dev</td>
<td>deviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFE</td>
<td>dilated fundus exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>d.h.</td>
<td>dermatitis herpetiformis</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHT</td>
<td>dihydrotestosterone</td>
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<tr>
<td>DI</td>
<td>direct/indirect, diabetes insipidus</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIC</td>
<td>disseminated intravascular coagulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>diam</td>
<td>diameter</td>
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<tr>
<td>diff</td>
<td>differential</td>
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<td>Dil</td>
<td>dilate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dils</td>
<td>dilutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIP</td>
<td>distal interphalangeal</td>
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<td>dis</td>
<td>disease</td>
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<td>Disp</td>
<td>disposition</td>
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<td>Dist</td>
<td>distance</td>
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<td>DJD</td>
<td>degenerative joint disease</td>
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<td>DKA</td>
<td>diabetic ketoacidosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>D/L</td>
<td>dislocation, direct laryngoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>dl</td>
<td>decliters</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLCO</td>
<td>diffusing capacity of lung for carbon monoxide</td>
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<tr>
<td>DLE</td>
<td>discoid lupus erythematosus</td>
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<tr>
<td>dlnmp</td>
<td>date last normal menstrual period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>diabetes mellitus</td>
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<tr>
<td>DMARD</td>
<td>disease modifying antirheumatic drug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DME</td>
<td>Durable Medical Equipment, diabetic macular edema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNKA</td>
<td>did not keep appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNA</td>
<td>deoxyribonucleic acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>do not resuscitate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>Doctor of Osteopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO2</td>
<td>Oxygen Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>died on arrival date of admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOB</td>
<td>date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOC</td>
<td>deoxycorticosterone</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>dyspnea on exertion</td>
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<tr>
<td>doz</td>
<td>dozen</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPA</td>
<td>dual-photon absorptiometry; Discharge Planning Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPI</td>
<td>Dry Power Inhaler</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPL</td>
<td>diagnostic peritoneal lavage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D &amp; Q</td>
<td>deep and quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dr</td>
<td>dram</td>
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<tr>
<td>drng</td>
<td>drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRE</td>
<td>Digital Rectal Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRG</td>
<td>diagnostic-related group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRSG</td>
<td>dressing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
f ............... frequency
F ............... Fahrenheit
FA ............. fluorescein angiogram
FACR .......... Fellow of the American College of Radiology
FAM .......... Family Medicine
FB ............ foreign body, finger-breath, fibroptic bronchoscopy, followed by
FBI .......... Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBS ........ fasting blood sugar
FC ............ foley catheter, finger count
FCC .......... Faculty Care Clinic
F & D ........ fixed and dilated
FDA .......... Food & Drug Administration
FDP ............ fibrin degradation products
FDV .......... full duction and versions
Fe ............ iron
FEF .......... forced 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-fluorouracil
FUB .......... functional uterine bleeding
FUO .......... fever, unknown origin
FVC .......... forced vital capacity; false vocal chord
FWB .......... full weight bearing
Fx .......... fracture
5FV .......... 5-fluorouracil

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
G ............. growth hormone
Gl .......... gastrointestinal
G1,G2 .......... primigravida, secundigravida
GP .......... General Practitioner
G-P-Ab ......... Gravida-para-abortus
g .......... grain
GRH .......... growth releasing hormone
Grav .......... primigravida
GravII .......... secundigravida
GSW .......... gunshot wound
GT .......... gastric tube
GM ........... 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 .............. height, heart
H & D .......... characteristic curve of film
HA .......... hearing aide, headache hydroxapatite implants
HA .1% ........ hematropine 0.1%
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 …………… isolated 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 …………… 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 ………………… cornea  
K+ …………… potassium  
KA …………… keratoacanthoma  
kcal …………… kilocalorie  
KCL …………… potassium chloride  
Kel …………… elimination rate constant  

L ………………… liter, lower, left  
LA …………… left atrium, left arm, lymphadenopathy  
L & A …………. light and accommodation  
L & D …………. Labor and Delivery  
lab …………… laboratory  
lac …………… laceration  
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 mentrotansverse*
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 ................. 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

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
MC .................. metacarpo-phalangeal
MC ................. medium chain triglyceride
MCT ................. mean corpuscular volume
MD ................. medical doctor, Murphy Drip
MDA ................. Muscular Dystrophy Association
MDI ................. metered dose inhaler
MDB ................. Medicine Diabetes Clinic
MDE ................. Major Depressive Episode
MDI ................. metered dose inhaler
MDR ................. Medicine Dermatology Clinic
mech ............... mechanical
Mev ................. million electron volts
MED ................. medication, medical, Medicine
MFER ............. maximum expiratory flow rate
MEN ................. multiple endo-crine neoplasia, Medicine
Endocrinology
mEq .............. milliequivalent
mEq/L .......... milliequivalent per liter
MetHb .......... 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 ............. Medical Health Clinic, major
histocompatibility complex, Mental Health Center
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
Invetory
MMR ............... measles, mumps and rubella
MMS ............. molar micrographic surgery
MMT ............. manual muscle test
M & N ............ mydriacyl and neosynephrine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>necrotizing enterocolitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCPAP</td>
<td>nasal CPAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC/AT</td>
<td>normocephalic, atraumatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/C</td>
<td>no complaints, non-contributory, nasal cannula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N&amp;V</td>
<td>nausea &amp; vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na</td>
<td>sodium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nursing Assistant, narrow angle, no answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Window</td>
<td>nasal antral window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAAC</td>
<td>No Apparent Anesthesia Complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NaCl</td>
<td>sodium chloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAD</td>
<td>no acute distress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAG</td>
<td>narrow angle glaucoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NaK Glucose</td>
<td>3.5% glucose with 26 meg Na/liter, 25 meq K/liter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NaHCO3</td>
<td>sodium bicarbonate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAO</td>
<td>nasal airway obstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB</td>
<td>newborn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/C</td>
<td>no complaints, non-contributory, nasal cannula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC/AT</td>
<td>normocephalic, atraumatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCPAP</td>
<td>nasal CPAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>necrotizing enterocolitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NED</td>
<td>no evidence of disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neg</td>
<td>negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEO</td>
<td>neosynephrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEU</td>
<td>neurology, neurologic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGT</td>
<td>nasogastric tube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>Nursing Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHL</td>
<td>Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHP</td>
<td>Nursing Home Placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>no improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIA</td>
<td>niacin, niacinamide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICU</td>
<td>Neonatal Intensive Care Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIDDM</td>
<td>non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIF</td>
<td>negative inspiratory force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIP</td>
<td>negative inspiratory pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/K Table</td>
<td>quadriceps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NKA</td>
<td>no known allergies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NKDA</td>
<td>no known drug allergies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nl</td>
<td>normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLP</td>
<td>no light perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td>neuromuscular, nanometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMI</td>
<td>no middle initial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNP</td>
<td>neonatal nurse practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noct</td>
<td>night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMSC</td>
<td>non-melanoma skin cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norepi</td>
<td>norepinephrine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOS</td>
<td>not otherwise specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>neuropsychiatry nurse practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPA</td>
<td>no previous admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPC</td>
<td>nasopharyngeal carcinoma, non-productive cough, near point of convergene</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPO</td>
<td>nothing by mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPS</td>
<td>nasopharyngoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP &amp; T</td>
<td>nasopharynx and throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR</td>
<td>nonreactive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRBC</td>
<td>nucleated red blood cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRI</td>
<td>nutritional risk index</td>
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<tr>
<td>NS</td>
<td>nuclear sclerosis normal saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSA</td>
<td>no significant abnormality</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSAIDS</td>
<td>nonsteroidal antiflammatory drug</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSC</td>
<td>nuclear sclerotic cataract</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSD</td>
<td>normal spontaneous delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSR</td>
<td>normal sinus rhythm; nasal spetal reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>Nephrology Surgery Service, normal saline solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NST</td>
<td>non-stress test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSU</td>
<td>Neurosurgery Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSVD</td>
<td>normal spontaneous vaginal delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT/ND</td>
<td>non-distended/non-tender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTS</td>
<td>nasotracheal suction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NV</td>
<td>neurovascular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVD</td>
<td>neovascularization of the disc (optic nerve)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nvd</td>
<td>neck venous distention, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVE</td>
<td>neovascularization elsewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVFCD</td>
<td>nausea, vomiting, fever, chills and diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWB</td>
<td>non-weight bearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWRADAC</td>
<td>Northwest Regional Alcohol &amp; Drug Abuse Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
O

O .................. objective/observation
OA ................... occiput anterior osteoarthri-s, 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
OTOR .............. on call to the operating room
OE ................... otitis externa
OFS ................. Office of Family Services
OH ................... Occupational Health
Oif.................. 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 apena
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,
pulse
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 ............. posteroanterio-r, 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 aymehiae
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
PCGG ............ perichondrial cutaneous graft
PCD ............ Pediatric Cardiac Clinic
PCIOL .......... posterior chamber intraocular lens
PCH .............. Pediatric Chest Clinic
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
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
PThP .............. 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
Puv ................. 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 ...................... 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 ...................... right, retinoscopy, co-entgen-
R&M ............... routine & microscopic
R & R ................ recess-resect
RA ................. rheumatoïd arthritis, right arm, right atrium,
room air
RABG .............. room air blood gas
rad ..................... radium, reactive airway disease, radiology-gy
RAE ................. right atrial enlargement
RAIU .............. radioactive iodine uptake
RAO ................. right anterior oblique
Raw ................ airways resistance
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 hyper-trophia
Rh neg .......... Rhesus factor negative
Rh pos .......... Rhesus factor positive
RIA ............... radioimmunoassay
RID ............... radial immune diffusion radio immune
diffusion
RIL ............... right inguinal hernia
RIS ............... radiology information system
RISA ............. radio-iodinated serum albumin
RHC ............. right heart catheterization
RK ................ radial keratomy
RLE ............... right lower extremity
RLF ............... retroental fibroplasia
RLL ............... right lower lobe, rig-ho lower lid
RLQ ............... right lower quadrant
RLR ............. right lateral rectus
RMA ............... right mentoanterier*
RML ............... right middle lobe
RMP ............... right mentoposterior*
RMR ............... right medial rectus, red macttox rod
RMT ............... right mentotransverse*; retromolar trigone
RN .............. Registered Nurse
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
dissolve
tbsp  .......... tablespoon
Tg  .......... thyroglobulin
TG  .......... triglyceride
TFT  .......... thyroid function test
tid  .......... three times a day
TIPS  .......... transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
TAKA  ...... total knee arthroplasty
tko  ........ to keep open
TKR  .......... total knee replacement
TL  .......... total laryngectomy
TLC  .......... total lung capacity
TLJ  .......... total lymphoid irradiation
TLP  .......... total laryngopharyngectomy
TLS  .......... tumor lysis syndrome
TLV  .......... total lung volume
TM  .......... tympanic membrane, thyromegaly, trabecular meshwork
TMJ  .......... temporomandibular joint
TMPSMX  ...... trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole
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
TPIR  ...... temperature, pulse and respiration
tr  .......... tincture
Trab  .......... trabeculectomy
Trach  .......... tracheostomy
tracheostomy
TRAM  .......... Transverse Rectus Abdominons Myocutaneous Flap
TRRD  ...... traction retinal detachment
TRH  .......... thyrotrophin releasing hormone
trich  .......... trichomonas
TRNB  ...... 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
TPP  .......... thrombolytic thrombocytopenia
TUMT  ...... transurethral microwave thermotherapy
TUR  .......... transurethral resection
TURBT  ...... Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor
TURP  ...... Transurethral Resection of Prostate
TV  .......... television, tidal volume
tvc  .......... true vocal cord
TVH  .......... transvaginal hysterectomy

T or temp  ...... temperature
T&A  .......... tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
T&C  .......... type & cross match
T. Bill  .......... total bilirubin
Ta  .......... applanation tonometry
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
TOC  .......... Transitional cell cancer
TCA  .......... tetracycline
TCollar  .......... trach collar
TCC02  ...... transcutaneous carbon dioxide
TCOM  .......... Transcutaneous monitoring
TCO2  .......... 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
**T**x .................. 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 ................... Urinarlysis
UE .................... upper extremity
UGI ..................... upper gastrointestinal
ULQ ................... upper left quadrant
Ung .................. ointment
unilateral .......... unilateral
UOQ ................... upper outer quadrant
UOP ................. urine output
UP ................... upright
UPJ .................. uteropelvic junction
UPP ................... urethral pressure profil
UPPP .............. uvulopalatal pharyngoplasty
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
VHLEG ............. vaginal hysterectomy laparoscopically

**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 exotropia
XT ................... exotropia at near

**Y,Z**

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

*Fetal position and presentation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ac</td>
<td>before meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BID</td>
<td>twice daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA</td>
<td>body surface area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cc</td>
<td>cubic centimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cm</td>
<td>centimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DtaP</td>
<td>diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETT</td>
<td>endotracheal tube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSBS</td>
<td>finger stick blood sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gm</td>
<td>gram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-tube</td>
<td>gastrostomy tube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHN</td>
<td>hand held nebulizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hr</td>
<td>hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>at bedtime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>intramuscular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPB</td>
<td>intermittent positive pressure breathing</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPV</td>
<td>inactivated polio vaccine</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>intravenous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-tube</td>
<td>jejunostomy tube</td>
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<tr>
<td>kg</td>
<td>kilogram</td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>liter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m2</td>
<td>meter squared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDI</td>
<td>metered dose inhaler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mEq</td>
<td>milliequivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mg</td>
<td>milligram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>min</td>
<td>minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ml</td>
<td>milliliter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mm</td>
<td>millimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mMol</td>
<td>millimole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NG</td>
<td>nasogastric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPO</td>
<td>nothing by mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OG</td>
<td>orogastric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPV</td>
<td>oral polio vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oz</td>
<td>ounce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pc</td>
<td>after meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCA</td>
<td>patient controlled analgesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PN</td>
<td>peripheral IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICC</td>
<td>peripherally inserted central catheter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PN</td>
<td>parenteral nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>by mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPD</td>
<td>purified protein derivative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>per rectum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN</td>
<td>as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1H, (also Q2h, Q4h, etc.)</td>
<td>every x hour(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QID</td>
<td>four times a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q AM</td>
<td>every morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q HS</td>
<td>at bedtime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL</td>
<td>sublingual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI</td>
<td>sliding scale insulin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT</td>
<td>immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAC</td>
<td>umbilical artery catheter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UVC</td>
<td>umbilical venous catheter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prohibited Abbreviations

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

Recommendations to Enhance Medication Safety

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., MgSO₄ 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., MgSO₄ 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**