

Greater New Orleans Surgery Center

Approved Abbreviation List

Abbreviations	Meaning
ā	before
aa	of each
AB	abortion
abd	abdomen, abdominal
ABG	arterial blood gases
ac	before meals
ACTH	adrenocorticotropic hormone
ad lib	as desired
ADL	activities of daily living
AFB	acid-fast bacilli
Afib	atrial fibrillation
AHD	arteriosclerotic heart disease
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AKA	above knee amputation
AM	morning (before noon)
AMA	against medical advice
amb	ambulate, ambulatory
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
amp	ampule
amt	amount
anes	anesthesia
ant	anterior
AODM	adult onset diabetes mellitus
A & P	anterior and posterior
AP & LAT	anteroposterior and lateral
approx	approximate
appt	appointment
aq	water
A/R	accounts receivable
ARD	acute respiratory disease
as tol	as tolerated
ASAP	as soon as possible
ASCVD	arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASD	atrial septal defect
ASP	asparate
asst	assistant
AV	atrioventricular; arteriovenous
Ax	axillary
BB	Bier block
BBB	bundle branch block
BBS	bilateral breath sounds
bid	twice daily
bil	bilateral

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Abbreviations	Meaning
BKA	below knee amputation or amputee
BM	bowel movement
BP	blood pressure
BPH	benign prostatic hypertrophy
BR	bathroom
bronch	bronchoscopy
BRP	bathroom privileges
BS	blood sugar
BSO	bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
BUN	blood urea nitrogen
Bx	biopsy
C	centigrade
C1-C7	cervical vertebrae 1 through 7
CA	cancer
Ca	calcium
CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
cal	calorie
cap	capsule
Cath	catheter, catheterize, catheterization
CBC	complete blood count
CC	chief complaint
CCU	coronary care unit
cgm	centigram
CHB	complete heart block
CHD	congenital heart disease; coronary heart disease
chemo	chemotherapy
CHF	congestive heart failure
chole	cholecystectomy
cm	centimeter
CNA	certified nurse assistant
CNS	central nervous system
C/O	complaints of
CO2	carbon dioxide
coag	coagulation
cont	continue, continued
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPM	continuous passive motion
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CRNA	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
C & S	culture and sensitivity
C-sec, C-section	cesarean section
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CST	certified scrub tech
CT	computed tomography scan
cu	cubic

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Abbreviations	Meaning
CV	cardiovascular
CVA	cerebrovascular accident
CVP	central venous pressure
cx	cancelled
CXR	chest x-ray
cysto	cystoscopy
c	with
↓	decreased, lower
D5/NS	dextrose 5% in normal saline
D5LR	dextrose 5% in Lactated Ringer's solution
D5W	dextrose 5% in water
D & C	dilatation and curettage
DDS	Doctor of Dental Surgery
defib	defibrillate
derm	dermatology, dermatologist
diff	differential, difference, different
dil	dilute, diluted, dilution
DJD	degenerative joint disease
DM	diabetes mellitus
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
DOB	date of birth
DOE	dyspnea on exertion
DOS	date of surgery
DP	dorsalis pedis
DPM	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine
Dr	doctor
dsg	dressing
DT	delirium tremens
Dx	diagnosis
E coli	Escherichia coli
ea	each
EBL	estimated blood loss
ECG	electrocardiogram
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eye, ear, nose and throat
EES	erythromycin ethylsuccinate
EKG	electrocardiogram
elix	elixir
EMG	electromyogram
endo	endoscopy
ENT	ear, nose, throat
epi	epinephrine
equip	equipment
ER	emergency room

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Abbreviations	Meaning
ESI	epidural steroid injection
est	estimated
ET	endotracheal tube
EUA	exam under anesthesia
eval	evaluation, evaluate
exam	examination, examiner
exc	excision
F	female
FB	foreign body
FBS	fasting blood sugar
FHT	fetal heart tones
FHx	family history
fib	fibrillation
fluoro	fluoroscopy
FOB	foot of bed
FS	frozen section
ft	foot, feet
F/U	follow-up
FUO	fever of unknown origin
fx	fracture
GB	gallbladder
gen	general
GI	gastrointestinal
GTT	glucose tolerance test
GU	genitourinary
gyn	gynecology
H2O	water
H2O2	hydrogen peroxide
HA	headache
Hct	hematocrit
HEENT	head, eyes, ears, nose and throat
Hgb	hemoglobin
H/H	hematocrit/hemoglobin
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HOB	head of bed
HOH	hard of hearing
hosp	hospital, hospitalization
H & P	history and physical
hr	hour
HR	heart rate
ht	height
Hx	history
hyst	hysterectomy

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Abbreviations	Meaning
↑	increase, upper
ICU	intensive care unit
I & D	incision and drainage
ID	identification
IDDM	insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IM	intramuscular
ing	inguinal
INH	isonicotinic acid hydrazide
ini	initial
inj	injection
insp	inspiration
int	internal
intra op	during surgery
I & O	intake and output
IPPB	intermittent positive-pressure breathing
irrig	irrigation
IUD	intrauterine device
IUP	intrauterine pregnancy
IV	intravenous
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
IVPB	intravenous piggyback
JCAHO	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
JODM	juvenile onset diabetes mellitus
jt	joint
K+	potassium
KO	keep open
kg	kilogram
KVO	keep vein open
L1-L5	lumbar vertebrae 1 through 5
lab	laboratory
lap	laparotomy
lap chole	laparoscopic cholecystectomy
lat	lateral
lb	pound
LBBB	left bundle branch block
LFT	liver function test
lg	large
LLE	lower left extremity
LLL	left lower lobe
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LMP	last menstrual period
LOC	level of consciousness

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Abbreviations	Meaning
LOS	length of stay
LP	lumbar puncture
LR	lactated ringer's
lt (L)	left
LUE	left upper extremity
LUL	left upper lobe
LUQ	left upper quadrant
LV	left ventricle
lytes	electrolytes
M	male
MD	Doctor of Medicine
MAC	monitored anesthesia care
MAEW	moves all extremities well
max	maximum
med	medicine, medication
mEq	milliequivalent
MI	myocardial infarction
min	minute
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
mn	midnight
mod	moderate, moderately
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MVA	motor vehicle accident
Na	sodium
NaCl	sodium chloride
NAD	no apparent distress / no acute distressed
NANDA	North American Nursing Diagnosis Association
N/C	no complaints
neg (-)	negative
neuro	neurologic
NG	nasogastric
NIDDM	noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NKA	no known allergies
NKDA	no known drug allergies
no, #	number
noc	nocturnal, at night
npo	nothing by mouth
NS	normal saline (0.9%)
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
N & V	nausea and vomiting
O2	oxygen

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Abbreviations	Meaning
O2 sat	oxygen saturation
OB/GYN	obstetrician - gynecologist
occ	occasional
oint	ointment
OJ	orange juice
OM	otitis media
OOB	out of bed
OP	operative procedure
op site	operative site
oph	ophthalmology
OR	operating room
ORIF	open reduction internal fixation
ortho	orthopedics
osteo	osteomyelitis
OT	occupational therapy
otc	over the counter
oz	ounce
— p	after
P	pulse
PA	physician's assistant
PAC	premature atrial contraction
PACU	post anesthesia care unit
palp	palpable
Pap smear	Papanicolaou smear
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
Path	pathology, pathologist
pc	after meals
PCN	Penicillin
PDR	Physicians' Desk Reference
PE	physical examination
ped	pediatrics, pediatrician
PEEP	positive end-expiratory pressure
per	through, by
PERRLA	pupils equal, round, react to light and accommodation
pH	measure of hydrogen ion concentration (degrees of alkalinity or acidity)
PID	present illness
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
PKU	phenylketonuria
PM	evening (after noon)
PND	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
po	by mouth (per os)
polio	poliomyelitis
pos (+)	positive
post	posterior

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Abbreviations	Meaning
postop	postoperative
PP	postpartum
ppd	packs per day
PR	peer review
PR	physical therapy
premi	premature baby
pre-op	pre-operative, prior to surgery
prep	preparation, prepare
prev	previous
prn	as needed; as desired
proc	procedure
prog	prognosis
psych	psychiatry, psychology
PT	prothrombin time
pt	Patient
PTA	prior to admission
PTT	partial thromboplastin time
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
PVD	peripheral vascular disease
q	every
qt	quart
qty	quantity
quad	Quadrant
R	respiration
RA	right atrium
RBBB	right bundle branch block
RBC	red blood cell, red blood count
RDS	respiratory distress syndrome
re	regarding, concerning
rec'd	received
reg	regular
rehab	rehabilitation
resp	respiration, respiratory
RF	rheumatic fever
Rh	Rhesus blood factor
RHD	rheumatic heart disease
RHF	right heart failure
RL	ringer's lactate
RLE	right lower extremity
RLL	right lower lobe
RLQ	right lower quadrant
RML	right middle lobe
RN	registered nurse

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Abbreviations	Meaning
R/O	rule out
ROM	range of motion
ROS	review of systems
RPR	rapid plasma reagin (blood test for syphilis)
RR	recovery room
RSR	regular sinus rhythm
RT	respiratory therapy
rt (R)	right
RUE	right upper extremity
RUL	right upper lobe
RUQ	right upper quadrant
Rx	prescription
S1-S5	sacral vertebrae 1 through 5
SBE	subacute bacterial endocarditis
sed rate	sedimentation rate
SGOT	serum glutamic oxalecetic transaminase
SGPT	serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
SH	social history
sib	sibling
sig	signature
SLE	systemic lupus erythematosus
sm	small
SO	salpingo-oophorectomy
SOB	shortness of breath
SOM	serous otitis media
s/p	status post
sp gr	Specific gravity
spec	specimen
S/S	signs and symptoms
staph	staphylococcus
stat	immediately
stim	stimulation
strep	streptococcus
subcu	Subcutaneous.
supp	suppository
surg	surgery, surgical, surgeon
SW	social worker
Sx	symptoms
T, temp	temperature
T1-T12	thoracic vertebrae 1 through 12
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
tab	tablet
tachy	tachycardia

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Abbreviations	Meaning
TAH	total abdominal hysterectomy
TB	tuberculosis, tuberculin
TBA	to be admitted
tbsp	tablespoon
T & C	type and crossmatch
TCDB	turn, cough, deep breathe
TENS	transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator
TIA	transient ischemic attack
tinct	tincture
TO	telephone order
TOA	tubo-ovarian abscess
tol	tolerance
tomo	tomography, tomogram
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
trach	tracheostomy
tsp	teaspoon
TUR	transurethral resection
TURB	transurethral resection of bladder
TURP	transurethral resection of prostate
Tx	treatment
UA	urinalysis
UCG	urinary chorionic gonadotropin
UGI	upper gastrointestinal
umb	umbilicus, umbilical
UOP	urinary output
URI	upper respiratory infection
U/S	ultrasound
UTI	urinary tract infection
vag	vagina, vaginal
VCU	voiding cystourethrogram
VD	venereal disease
VDRL	venereal disease research laboratory test
Vfib	Ventricular fibrillation
VFI	ventricular flutter
VO	verbal order
vol	volume
VS	vital signs
VSD	ventricular septal defect
VSS	vital signs stable
vtach	Ventricular tachycardia
WB	whole blood
WBC	white blood cell, white blood count

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Abbreviations	Meaning
w/c	wheelchair
w/d	warm & dry
WD	well developed
WN	well nourished
WNL	within normal limits
w/o, \bar{s}	without
wt	weight
x-ray	roentgen ray
YOB	year of birth
yr	year
YTD	year to date

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Unapproved Abbreviation List

Unapproved Abbreviation	Intended Meaning	Accepted Abbreviation	Common Misinterpretation
&	And	Use 'and'	Mistaken as 2
/ (slash mark)	Seperates two doses or indicates 'per'	Use 'per' rather than a slash mark to separate doses	Mistaken as the number 1 (e.g., '25 units/10 units' misread as '25 units and 110' units)
@	At	Use 'at'	Mistaken as 2
'IV Vanc'	Intravenous vancomycin	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as Invanz
'Nitro drip'	Nitroglycerin infusion	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as sodium nitroprusside infusion
'Norflox'	Norfloxacin	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as Norflex
+	Plus or and	Use 'and' or 'plus'	Mistaken as 4
> and <	Greater than and less than	Use 'greater than' or 'less than'	Mistaken as opposite of intended; mistakenly use incorrect symbion; "<10" mistaken as '40'
°	Hour	Use 'hr' 'h' or 'hour'	Mistaken as a zero (e.g. q2° seen as q 20)
Abbreviations such as mg. Or ml. with a period following the abbreviation	Mg MI	Use mg, ml, etc without a terminal period	The period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorly.
AD AS AU	Right ear Left ear Both ears	Right ear Left ear Both ears	Mistaken for OD Mistaken for OS Mistaken for OU
Apothecary symbols -℥℥	Dram Minim	Dram, minim	Misread as 3
ARA A	vidarabine	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as cytarabine (ARA C)
AZT	Zidovudine (Retrovir)	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as azathioprine or aztreonam
BT	Bedtime	Use 'Bedtime'	Mistaken as BID
cc	Cubic centimeters	Write out milliliter or use ml	Mistaken for U (units) when poorly written
CPZ	Compazine (prochlorperazine)	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as chlorpromazine
D/C	Discharge or discontinue	Write out discharge or discontinue	Mistaken for each other
DPT	Demerol-Phenergan- Thorazine	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)
Drug name and dose run together (especially problematic for drug names that end in 'L' such as Inderal40 mg; Tegretol300 mc)	Inderal 40 mg Tegretol 300 mg	Place adequate space between the drug name, dose and unit of measure	Mistaken as Inderal 140 mg Mistaken as Tegretol 1300 mc
DTO	Diluted tincture of opium or deodorized tincture of opium (Paregoric)	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as tincture of opium
HCl	Hydrochloric acid or hydrochloride	Use complete drug name unless expressed as a salt of a drug	Mistaken as potassium chloride (the 'H' is misinterpreted as 'K')
HCT	Hydrocortisone	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as hydrochlorothiazide
HCTZ	Hydrochlorothiazide	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as hydrocortisone (seen as HCT250 mg)
HS hs	Half-strength At bedtime, hours of sleep	Use 'Half-strength' or 'bedtime'	Mistaken as bedtime Mistaken as half strength
IJ	Injection	Use 'injection'	Mistaken as 'IV' or 'intrajugular'

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Unapproved Abbreviation	Intended Meaning	Accepted Abbreviation	Common Misinterpretation
IN	Intranasal	Use 'intranasal' or 'NAS'	Mistaken as IM or IV
IU	International unit	Use 'units'	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)
Large doses without properly placed commas (e.g. 100000)	100,000 units 1,000,000 units	Use commas for dosing units at or above 1,000 or	100000 has been mistaken as 10,000 or 1,000,000; 1000000 has been
MS MSO4 MgSO4	Morphine sulfate Magnesium sulfate	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as magnesium sulfate Mistaken as morphine sulfate
MTX	Methotrexate	Use complete drug name	Mitoxantrone
No leading zero before decimal point (.5mg)	0.5 mg	0.5mg – Use zero before the decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unit	Misread as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen
Numerical dose and unit of measure run together (e.g. 10mg, 100ml)	10 mg 100 ml	Place adequate space between the dose and unit of measure	The 'M' is sometimes mistaken as a zero or two zeros, risking a 10 to 100 fold overdose
o.d. OD	Once daily	Use 'daily'	Mistaken as right eye, leading to oral liquid medication administered in the eye
OD OS OU	Right eye Left eye Each eye	Right eye Left eye Each eye	Mistaken for AD Mistaken for AS Mistaken for AU
PCA	procainamide	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as Patient controlled Analgesia
Per os	By mouth, orally	Use 'PO', 'by mouth', or 'orally'	The 'os' can be mistaken as 'left eye'
PIT	Pitocin or Pitressin	Pitocin (oxytocin) or Pitressin (vasopressin)	
PTU	propylthiourcil	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as mercaptopurine
q.d., QD Q.O.D.	Every day Every other day	Use 'daily' Use 'every other day'	Mistaken for each other. The period after Q can be mistaken for an "I" or the "O" can be for a T.
Q1d	Daily	Use 'daily'	Mistaken as q.i.d. (four times daily)
Q6PM, etc.	Every evening at 6 PM	Use '6PM nightly' or '6 PM daily'	Mistaken as every 6 hours
qhs	At bedtime	Use 'at bedtime'	Mistaken as 'qhr' or every hour
qn	Nightly	Use 'nightly'	Mistaken as 'qh'
SC SQ sub q	Subcutaneous	Use 'subcut' or 'subcutaneous'	SC mistaken as SL (sublingual) SQ mistaken as '5 every' The 'q' in 'sub q' has been mistaken as "every"
ss	Sliding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary)	Spell out 'sliding scale;' use 'one-half' or "1/2"	Mistaken as '55'
SSRI	Sliding scale regular insulin	Spell out 'sliding scale (insulin)'	Mistaken as selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitor Mistaken as Stron Solution of Iodine (Lugol's)
SSI	Sliding scale insulin		
T.I.W. TIW or tiw	3 times a week	Write 3 times weekly or three times weekly	Mistaken for three times a day or twice in a week
t/d	One daily	Use '1 daily'	Mistaken as 'tid'
T3	Tylenol with codeine No. 3	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as liothyronine
TAC	Triamcinolone	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as tetracaine, Adrenalin, cocaine
TNK	TNKase	Use complete drug name	Mistaken as 'TPA'

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Unapproved Abbreviation	Intended Meaning	Accepted Abbreviation	Common Misinterpretation
Trailing zero after decimal point (1.0)	1 mg	1mg – Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers	Misread as 10 if decimal point is not seen
U or u	Unit	Use 'Unit'	Read as a zero (0) or four (4)
Ug	Microgram	Use 'Mcg'	Misread as mg, or μ
x3d	For three days	Use 'for three days'	Mistaken as '3 doses'
ZnSO4	Zinc sulfate	Use complete drug name	Morphine Sulfate