

APPENDIX M – Medical Abbreviations and Symbols List

Welcome to the new abbreviation and symbol list. This is not a complete listing of medical abbreviations or symbols, but contains commonly found abbreviations used in Adult Care Home and In Home Service settings.

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
<u>ā</u>	before
ac	before meals
abd	abdomen
AD	Alzheimer's disease; right ear
ADL	activities of daily living
ad lib	as desired
AKA	above the knee amputation
amb	ambulation (walk)
ama, AMA	against medical advice, American Medical Assoc.
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
ANS	autonomic nervous system
appt	appointment
ARDS	adult respiratory distress
AROM	active range of motion
AS	left ear; aortic stenosis
AVR	aortic valve replacement
AV	atrioventricular (heart)
ASAP	as soon as possible
ASHD	arteriosclerotic heart disease
BID, bid	twice in the day
BKA	below knee amputation
BM	bowel movement
BP	blood pressure
BPH	benign prostatic hypertrophy (enlarged prostate gland)
BR or br	bath room
BSC	bed side commode, a "portable potty chair"
BUN	blood urea nitrogen (a lab test)
Bx or BX	biopsy
<u>c</u>	with
c/o	complaints of
C1 , C2	refers to cervical vertebra #1, #2, a location in the spine
Ca, CA	cancer
caps	capsule with medication in it
CAD	coronary artery disease (heart disease)
CAT or CT scan	computerized axial tomography (CAT scan of the body)
cath	catheter (a tube used to drain out body fluid)

CABG	coronary arterial bypass graft
CBC	complete blood count (a blood test)
CC	chief complaint; cardiac catheterization
CCU	coronary care unit
CHD	coronary heart disease
CHF	congestive heart failure
CNS	central nervous system
cont.	continued
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CXR	chest xray
CRF	chronic renal failure (kidney failure)
CVA	cerebral vascular accident
CVD	cardiovascular disease
CVS	cardiovascular system
cysto	cystoscopy
/d	per day
DC or D/C	discharge
dc	discontinue
decub	decubitus ulcer (pressure sore, bedsore)
DJD	degenerative joint disease (osteoarthritis)
DM	diabetes mellitus (diabetes)
DOA	date of admission; dead on arrival
DOB	date of birth
Dx	diagnosis
drsg	dressing
DSD	dry sterile dressing
DT, DTs	delirium tremens ("the shakes" from alcohol withdrawal)
ECG, EKG	electrocardiogram
EEG	electroencephalogram (measurement of electric brain activity)
e.g.	example
ENT	ears, nose, throat
ERT	estrogen replacement therapy
est, EST	estimate; electroshock therapy
ETOH	ethanol (alcohol)
FBS	fasting blood sugar (a lab test)
F/U FU	follow up
FUO	fever of unknown origin
Fx	fracture
G tube	gastric tube (a tube in the stomach)
GB	gall bladder
GBS	gall bladder series (a type of xray of the gut)

GC	gonorrhea
GERD	gastroesophageal reflux disease (a severe recurrent heartburn disorder)
GU	genitourinary
gtts	drops
gyn	gynecology
hgb hct	hemoglobin, hematocrit, (both are blood cell measurements)
HHA	home health agency; or home health aide
H ₂ O	water
HS, hs	hour of sleep, or at bedtime
ht	height
Hx hx	history
I & O	intake and output (amount of fluid taken in and urine output)
ICF	intermediate care facility
ICU	intensive care unit
ID	incision and drainage (when a scalpel is used to cut & drain a boil)
IDDM	insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
IM	intramuscular
inj	injection
IV	intravenous
IVP	intravenous pyelogram (a type of xray of the kidneys and bladder)
L lft lt	left
L1, L2, L3	refers to the lumbar section of the spine
lab	laboratory
liq	liquid
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LP	lumbar puncture (spinal tap)
LPN	licensed practical nurse
LRQ	lower right quadrant
LUQ	left upper quadrant
LV	left ventricle
max	maximum
meds	medications
MI	myocardial infarction (heart attack)
mod	moderate
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MS	mitral stenosis; multiple sclerosis; musculoskeletal
MVR	mitral valve replacement
N/C	no complaints
NG, NGT	nasogastric (tube)

NIDDM	non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
noc	night
norm	normal
NPO	nothing by mouth
NSAID	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
nsg	nursing
OA	osteoarthritis
OBS	organic brain syndrome
occ	occasional
OD	right eye; overdose
OOB	out of bed
OS	left eye
OU	both eyes
orth ortho	orthopedic
os	bone; opening; mouth
OV	office visit
O ₂	oxygen
̄	after
p̄	pulse
P	physician assistant
PA	pap smear (a lab test)
Pap	pathology
path	after meals
pc, p.c.	physician's desk reference (a drug handbook)
PDR	physical exam
PE pe	as needed or required
prn, p.r.n.	passive range of motion
PROM	my mouth
PO po	patient
pt	premature ventricular contraction
PVC	peripheral vascular disease
PVD	hydrogen ion concentration (a measure of the acidity of a substance)
ph pH	
q	every
qam	every am
qd	every day
qod	every other day
qh	every hour
q2h, q3h, q4h	every 2 hours, every 3 hours, every 4 hours
qhs	every night (hour of sleep)
qid	four times a day
quad	quadriplegic (arms and legs paralyzed)
R, rt	right

RA	right atrium
re:	about or regarding
rbc, RBC	red blood cell
reg	regular
resp	respiration or breaths
RLQ	right lower quadrant
RN	registered nurse
R/O, r/o	rule out
ROM	range of motion
RUQ	right upper quadrant
RV	right ventricle
Rx, RX	treatment
\bar{s}	without
SA	sinoatrial node
sl	sublingual meaning under the tongue
sm	small
SOB	short of breath
S/P, s/p	status post (status post an "event" , s/p MI, s/p CVA, s/p GI bleed)
spec	specimen
spec grav, sp gr	specific gravity (urine test)
s & s, s/s	signs and symptoms
staph	staphylococcus
stat	immediately
STD	sexually transmitted disease
strep	streptococcus
subq, subc	subcutaneous
symp, Sx	symptom
T	temperature
T1, T2, T3	refers to the thoracic section of the spine
tab	tablet, a tablet of medication, a round pill
TB	tuberculosis
THR	total hip replacement
TIA	transient ischemic attack
tid	three times a day
TKR	total knee replacement
T/O, t/o	telephone order
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration (the measurement of these 3 things)
tsp	teaspoon measurement
TUR, TURP	transurethral resection (prostate gland surgery in men)
Tx	treatment
U/A, u/a	urine analysis

URI	upper respiratory infection
UTI	urinary tract infection
VD	venereal disease
VO, v/o	verbal order
vs, VS, v/s	vital signs (temperature, pulse and respiration measurements)
WBC, wbc	white blood cell
W/C	wheel chair
WNL	within normal limits
w/o	without
wt	weight
w/u	work up
x	times
y/o	years old
yr	year

Commonly Used Symbols

↑	increase	↓	decrease
~	approximately	#	number
@	at	°	degree
>	greater than	<	less than
+	positive	-	negative
+, &	and	∅	nothing, not, none
=	equal to	≠	not equal to
♂	male	♀	female
ī	one of something	īī, īīī	2, 3 of something

(dss.abrvlist/98)