



Common Medical Abbreviations

A

A.A.R.O.M.	Active assistive range of motion	C1, C2, etc.	first cervical vertebrae, second etc.
A.B.G.	Arterial blood gas	CA	cardiac arrest
a.c.	before meals	CA, ca	carcinoma
A/C	Assist Control	CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
add	Adduction	CAD	coronary artery disease
ADA Diet	American Diabetes Association Diet	cal	calorie
A.D.L.	activities of daily living	cath	catheter
A.Fib.	arterial fibrillation	CBC	complete blood count
AKA	Above Knee Amputation or above the knee amputation	cc	cubic centimeter
ALS	amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	CC	chief complaint
AMA	against medical advice	CHF	congestive heart failure, chronic heart failure
A&O	alert and oriented	CCU	coronary care unit
A/P	anterior-posterior	CHI	closed head injury
A.R.O.M.	active range of motion	cm	centimeter
ASAP	as soon as possible	CMT	continuing medication and treatment

B

b.i.d.	twice a day	CN	cranial nerve
BKA	Below Knee Amputation	CNA	certified nursing assistant
B.L.BS	bilateral breath sounds	CNS	central nervous system
bm	bowel movement	c/o	complains of
BM	bone marrow	COTA	certified occupational therapy assistant
BMR	basal metabolism rate	cont	continue(d)
BP	blood pressure	COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
BR	bed rest	CPAP	continuous positive airway pressure
bs	bowel sounds	CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
BS	breath Sounds	CRF	chronic renal failure
B/S	bedside	CRNP	certified registered nurse practitioner
bx	biopsy	CSF	cerebrospinal fluid

C

C	with (c with bar above it)	CT	computerized tomography
C	Celsius, centigrade	CV	cardiovascular

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CVA cerebral vascular accident
 CXR chest X-ray

D

d day
 d/c discontinue
 DC discharge
 DNK do not know
 DNKA did not keep appointment
 DNR do not resuscitate
 DNT did not test
 DOA dead on arrival
 DOB date of birth
 DOE dyspnea on exertion
 d/t due to
 Dx diagnosis

E

ECC, EKG electrocardiogram
 ED emergency department
 EEG electroencephalogram
 EENT eye, ear nose, throat
 EMG electromyogram
 ENT ear, nose, throat
 ER emergency room
 ETOH ethanol (alcohol)
 exam examination
 ext external, exterior

F

F Fahrenheit
 FH family history
 fib fibrillation
 fl, fld fluid
 FOB foot of bed
 f/u follow-up
 FWB full weight bearing
 Fx fracture

G

GB gall bladder
 GCS Glasgow Coma Scale
 GE Gastroenterology
 GERD gastroesophageal reflux disease
 G/E gastroenteritis
 gen general
 gest. gestation
 G.I. gastrointestinal
 GNA geriatric nursing assistant
 gluc glucose
 GP general practitioner, general paralysis
 GSW gun shot wound
 GTT glucose tolerance test
 Gt. tr. gait training
 GYN gynecology

H

h hour
 H/A headache
 HAV Hepatitis A Virus
 Hb. hemoglobin
 HB heart block
 HBP high blood pressure
 h.d. at bedtime
 HEENT head, eyes, ear, nose, throat
 H₂O water
 h/o history of
 HOB head of bed
 H & P history and physical
 HR heart rate
 HTN hypertension
 HVD hypertensive vascular disease
 Hx history
 Hz Hertz (cycles/second)

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I

ICCU	intensive coronary care unit
ICP	intracranial pressure
ICU	intensive care unit
imp.	impression
incr.	increased(ing)
inf	infusion, inferior
inspire	inspiration, inspiratory
int.	internal
I&O	intake and output
IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing
irreg.	irregular
IV	intravenous(ly)

J

J	joint
jt.	joint

K

K	potassium, kidney
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L

L	left, liver, liter, lower, light, lumbar
L2, L3	second, third lumbar vertebrae
lab	laboratory
lac.	laceration
lat.	lateral
LBW	low birth rate
L.E.	lower extremities
liq.	liquid
L.O.C.	loss of consciousness, level of consciousness, laxative of choice
LOS	length of stay
LP	lumbar puncture
LPN	licensed practical nurse
LUE	left upper extremity
Lx	larynx

L&W living and well

M

m,M	married, male, mother
	murmur, meter, mass, molar
max.	maximum, maxillary
MBC	maximum breathing capacity
MBSS	modified barium swallow study
MCA	middle cerebral artery
MD	muscular dystrophy
mdnt.	midnight
med.	medicine
mets.	metastasis
MG	myasthenia gravis
MI	myocardial infarction
min	minute
MICU	medical intensive care unit
mod	moderate
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
mss	massage
MVA	motor vehicle accident
N	
n.	nerve
Na	sodium
NaCl	sodium chloride
NAD	no abnormality detected
NAD	no apparent distress
neg.	negative
neur.	neurology
NG	nasogastric
NIC	neonatal intensive care
NICU	neonatal intensive care unit

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NKA	no known allergies	P	
no.	number	PA	physician's assistant
NOS	not otherwise specified	p & a	percussion and auscultation
NPO	nothing by mouth	PACU	post anesthesia care unit
NSA	no specific abnormality	PAF	paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
NST	non-stress test	palp.	palpate, palpated, palpable
N&V	nausea and vomiting	Path	Pathology
NVD	nausea, vomiting, diarrhea	PA view	posterior-anterior view on x-ray
N&W	normal and well	p/c., p.c.	after meals
NWB	non-weight bearing	pdr.	powder
NYD	not yet diagnosed	PDN	private duty nurse
O		PE	physical exam, pulmonary embolism
o	none, without	Ped.	Pediatrics
O	oral	PEEP	positive end expiratory pressure
O2	oxygen	PEG	percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
O2 cap.	oxygen capacity	PET	positron emission tomography
O2 sat.	oxygen saturation	PH	past history
OA	osteoarthritis	pharm	pharmacy
OB, OBG	Obstetrics	PHYS.	physical, physiology
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and Gynecology	PI	present illness, pulmonary insufficiency
Obs	observation	PICU	pulmonary intensive care unit
OBS	organic brain syndrome	PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
O/E	on examination	plts.	platelets
OH	occupational history	P.M.	afternoon, post-mortem
OHD	organic heart disease	PMH	past medical history
oint.	ointment	PMN	physical medicine and rehabilitation
O.M.	otitis media	PN	poorly nourished, practical nurse
O.M.E.	otitis media with effusion	P&N	Psychiatry and Neurology
OOB, oob	out of bed	pneu.	pneumo, pneumonia
Op.	operation		
ot.	ear		
Oto	Otolaryngology		
OTC	over-the-counter (pharmaceuticals)		
O.T.	occupational therapy, old tuberculin		
OR	operating room		

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PNI	peripheral nerve injury	R	
PNX	pneumothorax	R,r	right
p.o.	by mouth	R.	rub, rectal temperature
p.o.d.	postoperative day	RA	rheumatoid arthritis, right atrium
pos.	positive	rad.	radial
post.	posterior	r.a.m.	rapid alternating movements
POSTOP.	postoperative	R.A.S.	right arm sitting
pot. or potass.	potassium	RAtx	radiation therapy
PR	proctology	rbc/RBC	red blood cell, red blood count
pre-op	preoperative	RCA	right coronary artery
prep.	prepare for	RCU	respiratory care unit
p.r.m.	according to circumstances	RD	respiratory distress
		RDS	respiratory distress syndrome
p.r.n., PRN	as often as necessary, as needed	RE	reconditioning exercise
prod.	productive	reg.	regular
Prog.	prognosis	rehab.	rehabilitation
PROM	passive range of motion	resp.	respiratory, respirations
pron.	pronator, pronation	RF	rheumatic fever
prosth.	prosthesis	RLA	Rancho Los Amigo Scale
PSH	past surgical history	R to L&A	react to light and accommodation
Psych.	Psychiatry	RLE	right lower extremity
pt., Pt.	patient	RN	registered nurse
PT	physical therapy	RO, R/O	rule out
P.T.	physical therapy, posterior tibial artery pulse	ROM	range of motion, rupture of membranes, right otitis media
PTA	prior to admission,	ROS	review of symptoms
PUD	peptic ulcer disease	Rt.	right
PVD	peripheral vascular disease	RT	radiation therapy, respiratory therapy
PVT	previous trouble	RUE	right upper extremity
PWB%	partial weight bearing with percent	RV	residual volume
Px, PX	physical examination	Rx	therapy, prescription
Q		S	
q	every	s	without
q.h.	every hour		
q.i.d.	four times a day		
qt.	quart		
quad.	quadriplegic		

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S	sensation, sensitive, serum	STD	sexually transmitted disease
Sa.	saline	subcut.	subcutaneous
s.c.	subcutaneous(ly)	subling.	sublingual
SCD	sudden cardiac death	sup.	superior
SCI	spinal cord injury	supin.	supination
schiz	schizophrenia	surg.	surgery, surgical
SCU	special care unit	Sx	symptoms
sec	second	sys.	system
Sens.	sensory, sensation	Syst.	systolic
sep.	separated		
SGA	small for gestational age	T	
s.gl.	without correction (without glasses)	T	temperature
SH	social history	T&A	tonsils and adenoids, tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
SI	stroke index		
sib.	sibling	tab.	tablet
SICU	surgical intensive care unit	TAH	total abdominal hysterectomy
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome	TB	tuberculosis
skel.	skeletal	TBI	traumatic brain injury
Sl.	slightly	tbsp.	tablespoon
SL	under the tongue	temp	temperature
SLP	speech-language pathology	THERAP.	therapy, therapeutic
sm	small	THR	total hip replacement
S.O.A.P.	subjective, objective assessment plan	TIA	transient ischemic attack
SOB	shortness of breath	TKR	total knee replacement
S/P, s/p	status post (previous condition)	TNM	tumor, nodes, and metastases
sp. cd.	spinal cord	TO	telephone order
spec.	specimen	TPN	total parenteral nutrition
sp. fl.	spinal fluid	TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
sp&H	speech and hearing	tr	trace
spin.	spine, spinal	trach	tracheostomy
spont.	spontaneous	tsp.	teaspoon
s/s	signs and symptoms	Tx	treatment, traction
SS	social service	U	
ST	speech therapy	U/A	urinalysis
stat., STAT	immediately	UCD	usual childhood diseases
		UCHD	usual childhood diseases

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UG	upward gaze	X	
Unilat.	unilateral	x	times
u/o	under observation		
Ur.	urine	Y	
URD	upper respiratory disease	y.o.	years old
URI	upper respiratory infection	yrs.	years
Urol.	urology		
u/s, US	ultrasound		
UTI	urinary tract infection		
V			
V	vein		
VA	visual acuity		
vag	vagina, vaginal		
VC, (vit.cap)	vital capacity		
VD	venereal disease		
vent.	ventilator		
vert.	vertical		
VF	visual fields, ventricular fibrillation		
Via	by way of		
vit.	vitamin		
VN	visiting nurse		
VO	verbal order		
VS, V.S.	vital signs		
W			
W	white		
w, wk	week		
W/C, wh.ch.	wheelchair		
WBT	weight bearing tolerance		
WF	white female		
WFL	within functional limits		
WM	white male		
w/n	within		
WNL	within normal limits		
WP	whirlpool		
wt.	weight		
w/u	workup		

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