

Common Medical Abbreviations

Abb.	Meaning	Abb.	Meaning
ā	Before	CVP	Central venous pressure
AAA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm	CXR	Chest X-ray
Abd	Abdomen	d/c	Discontinue or discharge
ABG	Arterial blood gas	DM	Diabetes mellitus
AED	Automated External Defibrillator	DNR	Do not resuscitate
a.c.	Before meals	dL	Deciliter
ASA	Aspirin	DOA	Dead on arrival
ALS	Advanced life support	DOB	Date of birth
AMA	Against medical advice	DOE	Dyspnea on exertion
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction	DOS	Dead on scene
Ant	Anterior	Dx	Diagnosis
A/O,A&O	Alert and oriented	DDx	Differential Diagnosis
AOB	Alcohol on breath	EEG	Electroencephalogram
		ECG,	Electrocardiogram
ARDS	Adult respiratory distress syndrome	EDC	Estimated date of confinement, Estimated date
ASHD	Arteriosclerotic heart disease	ENT	Ear, Nose, & Throat
b.i.d.,	Twice a day	ETA	Estimated time of arrival
Bilat, ^(B)	Bilateral	ETOH	Alcohol (ethanol)
BLS	Basic life support	ETT	Endotracheal tube
BP	Blood pressure	ext	Extremity
BS	Breath sounds, bowel sounds, blood	FROM	Full Range of Motion
BSA	Body surface area	Fx	Fracture
BVM	Bag-valve-mask	GCS	Glasgow coma scale
̄	with	GI	Gastrointestinal
c/o	Complaining of	g or gm	Gram
Ca	Cancer/carcinoma	gr	Grain
cc	Cubic centimeter	GSW	Gunshot wound
CC	Chief Complaint	gtt	Drop/Drip (used in medications)
C°	Celsius	GU	Genitourinary
CHF	Congestive heart failure	GYN	Gynecologic
Cl	Clear	h, hr., °	Hour
cm	Centimeter	H/A, HA	Headache
CNS	Central Nervous System	Hct	Hematocrit
CO	Carbon monoxide	HEENT	Head, ears, eyes, nose, throat
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Hg	Mercury
CP	Chest pain or Cerebral Palsy	Hgb	Hemoglobin
CPAP	Continuous positive airway pressure	H&P	History & Physical
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	h/o	History of
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid	HR	Heart rate
CV	Cardiovascular	hs	At bedtime
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident (Stroke)	HS	Heart Sounds

This list is not all-inclusive. Some abbreviations may not meet Joint Commission Standards. Consulting a medical professional to confirm is always recommended.

HTN	Hypertension	NROM	Normal range of motion
Hx	History	NS	Normal saline
IC	Intracardiac	RLQ	Right lower quadrant
ICP	Intracranial Pressure	RUQ	Right upper quadrant
ICU	Intensive Care Unit	Rx	Prescription
IM	Intramuscular	\bar{s}	without
Inf	Inferior	SC, SQ,	Subcutaneous
Insp	Inspiratory	SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
IO	Intraosseous	SL	Sublingual
irreg	Irregular	SOB	Shortness of breath
IV	Intravenous	S&S or S/S	Signs and Symptoms
IVP	Intravenous push	stat.	immediately
J, j	Joules	Sup.	Superior
jt	Joint	SVT	Supraventricular tachycardia
JVD	Jugular venous distension	TB	Tuberculosis
kg	Kilogram	TIA	Transient ischemic attack
KVO	Keep vein open (used in reference to	t.i.d. / TID	Three times a day
L	Left or Liter	TKO	To keep open (in reference to IV's)
Lac	Laceration	TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
LVH	Left Ventricular Hypertrophy	Tx	Treatment
LLQ	Left Lower Quadrant	Unc	Unconscious
LOC	Level of consciousness	Unk	Unknown
LPM, L/min	Liters per minute	URI	Upper respiratory infection
LR	Lactated Ringers solution	UTI	Urinary tract infection
LSB	Long spine board	V.S.	Vital signs
LV	Left ventricle	w/, \bar{c}	with
Med or	Medications	W/D	Warm and dry
mcg	Micrograms	Wt	Weight
mEq	Milliequivalent	w/o or \bar{s}	without
min	Minute	WD/WN	Well-developed/well-nourished
mg	Milligram	WNL	Within normal limits
ml	Milliliter	x	Times (multiply)
mm	Millimeter	y/o or y.o.	Year(s) old
mm Hg	Millimeters of mercury	1°	Primary or first degree
Mod.	Moderate	>	More than
MS	Morphine sulphate, multiple sclerosis	<	Less than
N/A	Not applicable	↑	Increased, elevated
NAD	No apparent distress	↓	Decreased, diminished
NC	Nasal cannula	♂	Male
NG	Nasogastric	♀	Female
NKA	No known allergies	Δ	change
NKDA	No known drug allergies	+	Positive
npo	Nothing by mouth	-	Negative
NPA	Nasopharyngeal Airway	°	Hour or -ary (eg. primary, secondary)
NRB	Non-rebreather mask	≈	Approximate