

Medical Terminology Abbreviations with Definitions

@	at
A & P	anatomy and physiology
ab	abortion
abd	abdominal
ABG	arterial blood gas
a.c.	before meals
ac & cl	acetest and clinitest
ACLS	advanced cardiac life support
AD	right ear
ADL	activities of daily living
ad lib	as desired
adm	admission
AFB	acid-fast bacillus
AKA	above the knee
alb	albumin
alt dieb	alternate days (every other day)
am	morning
AMA	against medical advice
amal	amalgam
amb	ambulate, walk
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
amt	amount
ANS	automatic nervous system
ant	anterior
AOx3	alert & oriented to person, time, place
Ap	apical
AP	apical pulse
approx	approximately
aq	aqueous
ARDS	acute respiratory distress syndrome
AS	left ear
ASA	aspirin
asap (ASAP)	as soon as possible
as tol	as tolerated
ATD	admission, transfer, discharge
AU	both ears
Ax	axillary
BE	barium enema

bid	twice a day
bil	bilateral
BK	below knee
BKA	below the knee amputation
bl	blood
bl wk	blood work
BLS	basic life support
BM	bowel movement
BOW	bag of waters
B/P	blood pressure
bpm	beats per minute
BR	bedrest
BRP	bathroom privileges
BS	breath sounds
BSI	body substance isolation
BSO	bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
BUN	blood, urea, nitrogen
BVM	bag-valve-mask
bx	biopsy
—	
c	with
C & S	culture and sensitivity
c-spine	cervical spine
CA	cancer
CAD	coronary artery disease
cal	calorie
CAT	computerized axial tomography
cath	catheter
CBC	complete blood count
cc	cubic centimeters
CC	chief complaint
CCU	coronary care unit
CHD	coronary heart disease
CHF	congestive heart failure
CHO	carbohydrate
chol	cholesterol
circ	circumcision
cl liq	clear liquid
CNS	central nervous system
c/o	complains of
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPK	creatine phosphokinase

CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CPT	chest physical therapy
CS	central supply
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CT	computer tomography
CVA	cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
CVU	cardiovascular unit
cx	cervix or complaint of
CXR	chest x-ray
cysto	cystography
d/c	discontinue
D & C	dilation & curettage
DAT	diet as tolerated
DC	discontinue or discharge
del	delivery
Del. Rm.	delivery room
diff	differential
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DNR	do not resuscitate
DOA	dead on arrival
DOB	date of birth
DPT	diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus
DRG	diagnosis-related grouping
D/S	dextrose in saline
DT's	delirium tremens
DW	distilled water
D5W	5% dextrose in water
Dx	diagnosis
EBL	estimated blood loss
ECG	electrocardiogram
ED	emergency department
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eye, ear, nose, throat
EKG	electrocardiogram
EMG	electromyogram
EOA	esophageal obturator airway
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
est	estimated
ER	emergency room
ET	endotracheal
ETA	estimated time of arrival
etiol	etiology

ETOH	ethyl alcohol, intoxicated
exam	examination
exp	exploratory
ext	external, extract, extraction
FBOA	foreign body obstructed airway
FBS	fasting blood sugar
FBW	fasting blood work
FF (F, FI)	force fluids
FH	family history
FHS	fetal heart sounds
FHT	fetal heart tone
FIFO	first in, first out
FSH	follicle-stimulating hormone
ft	foot
FUO	fever undetermined origin
Fx	fracture
GB	gall bladder
GI	gastrointestinal
GU	genitourinary
GTT	glucose tolerance test (pancreas test)
gtt(s)	drop(s)
gyn	gynecology
H & H	hemoglobin and hemocrit
HCG	human chorionic gonadotrophin
hct	hematocrit
HDL	high-density lipoprotein
hgb	hemoglobin
HOB	head of bed
hr (h)	hour
HIV	human immuno virus
HR	heart rate
hs	bedtime, hour of sleep
ht	height
Hx	history
hypo	hypodermic injection
hyst	hysterectomy
I & D	incision and drainage
I & O	intake and output
ICP	intracranial pressure
ICU	intensive care unit
IM	intramuscular
ing	inguinal

inj	injection
IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing
irrig	irrigation
IS	intercostal space
isol	isolation
IT	inhalation therapy
IUD	intrauterine device
IV	intravenous
IVF	in vitro fertilization
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
K+	potassium
KCl	potassium chloride
KUB	kidney, ureter, bladder
L	lumbar
L & D	labor and delivery
lac	laceration
lab	laboratory
lap	laparotomy
lat	lateral
LD	lethal dose
LDH	lactic dehydrogenase
LDL	low-density lipoprotein
liq	liquid
LLQ, LLL	left lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
LMP	last menstrual period
LOC	level of consciousness
LP	lumbar puncture
lt	left
LUQ, LUL	left upper quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
MA	mental age
MAST	medical antishock trousers
MCI	mass casualty incident
meds	medications
MI	myocardial infarction
MICU	mobile intensive care unit
min	minute
MN	midnight
MOM	milk of magnesia
MRI	magnetic resonance imagery
MS	morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis
MVA	motor vehicle accident
NVD	nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Na+	sodium
NaCl	sodium chloride
N/C	nasal cannula, no complaints
neg	negative
neuro	neurology
NG	nasogastric
NGT	nasogastric tube
nitro	nitroglycerine
NKA	no known allergies
noc (t)	night
NPO	nothing by mouth
NS	normal saline
nsg	nursing
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
NVS	neurological vital signs
O	oxygen
OB	obstetrics
OD	right eye, overdose
oint	ointment
OOB	out of bed
OPD	outpatient department
OR	operating room
ord	orderly
ORTH	orthopedics
ortho	correct, right (bones)
os	mouth
OS	left eye
OT	occupational therapy
OU	both eyes
oz	ounce
—	
p	after
P	pulse
P & A	percussion & auscultation
PAC	premature atrial contraction
palp	palpation
PAR	postanesthesia room
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
pc	after meals
pCO ₂	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PDR	physician's desk reference
PE	physical exam, pulmonary embolism

PEDS	pediatrics
per	by or through
PERL(A)	pupils equal & reactive to light (and accommodation)
PET	positron emission tomography
PH	past history
pH	hydrogen ion concentration
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
PKU	phenylketonuria
pm	between noon and midnight
PNS	peripheral nervous system
po	by mouth
post (pos)	posterior
postop, PostOp	postoperative
pp (p.p.)	postprandial (after eating)
pO ₂	partial pressure of oxygen
PPD	purified protein derivative (TB test)
preop, PreOp	before surgery
prn	as needed, whenever necessary
pro time	prothrombin time
pt	patient, pint
PT	physical therapy
PTT	partial prothromboplastin time
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
Px	physical exam, prognosis
q	every
qd	every day
qh	every hour
q2h, q3h, ...	every two hours, every three hours,...
qhs	every night at bedtime
qid	four times a day
q. ___ m.	every ___ minutes
qns	quantity not sufficient
qod	every other day
qs	quantity sufficient
r (R)	rectal
R (resp)	respirations, rectal
RAIU	radioactive iodine uptake study
RBC	red blood cell/count
RDA	recommended daily allowance
reg	regular
REM	rapid eye movement
Rh	rhesus

RK	radial keratotomy
RL	ringer's lactate
RLQ, RLL	right lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
RML	right middle lobe (lung)
RO	reality orientation
R/O	rule out
ROM	range of motion
R.R.	recovery room
RUQ, RLL	right upper quadrant, lobe
rt	right
RV	residual volume
Rx	take (prescription)
—	
s	without
S & S	signs & symptoms
ss	1/2
SA	sinoatrial
SB	small bowel
sc	subcutaneous
SGOT	serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase
SGPT	serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
Sig:	label/write
SL	sublingual
SMAC	sequential multiple analysis computer
SOB	shortness of breath
spec	specimen
sp. gr.	specific gravity
SQ, sub q	subcutaneous
SSE	soap suds enema
stat	immediately
STD	sexually transmitted disease
STH	somatotropic hormone
SVD	spontaneous vaginal delivery
SVN	small volume nebulizer
SVT	supraventricular tachycardia
Sx	symptoms
T	temperature, thoracic
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
tab	tablet
TAH	total abdominal hysterectomy
TB	tuberculosis

TCDB	turn, cough, deep breath
temp (T)	temperature
TH	thyroid hormone
TIA	transient ischemic attack
tid	three times a day
TLC	tender loving care
TMJ	temporomandibular joint
tol	tolerated
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse, respirations
tr	tincture
trach	tracheotomy, tracheostomy
TSH	thyroid-stimulating hormone
TT	tetanus toxiod
TUR	transurethral resection
TV	tidal volume
TVH	total vaginal hysterectomy
TWE	tap water enema
TX	traction
UA	urinalysis
umb	umbilicus
unc.	unconscious
ung	ointment
unk	unknown
ur	urine
URC	usual, reasonable, customary
URI	upper respiratory infection
US	ultrasonic
USP	United States Pharmacopeia
UTI	urinary tract infection
V fib	ventricular fibrillation
V tach	ventricular tachycardia
vag	vaginal
VC	vital capacity
VD	venereal disease
vit	vitamin
vo	verbal order
vol	volume
V/S	vital signs
WA	while awake
WBC	white blood cell/count
w/c	wheelchair

WNL	within normal limits
wt	weight
y/o	year(s) old