

**Introduction**

Healthcare professionals use medical terminologies that are often difficult to understand. Like other languages, medical terminologies are also universal to the healthcare and medical industry. This language helps medical professionals completely understand the current status of the patient, any diagnostics or ancillary testing among others. Medical terminology is not limited to doctors, providers, medical assistants, nurses and other medical practitioners as other healthcare professionals must also master the language.

Healthcare professionals who are actively working with patients and/or patient information will use the language of medical terminology to accurately record the diagnosis and treatment. Without a solid understanding of medical terminology, the communication between healthcare professionals may get lost in translation and cause harm to the patient, or the patients' progression.

**Abbreviation Background**

A short hand of medical terminology incorporates medical abbreviations and acronyms. These abbreviations are commonly used to improve speed of medical record documentation and to conserve the volume of documentation without losing the integrity of the medical record documentation. The quality of the patient care is always the primary function, and there has to be a balance of quality documentation and the care that is provided. Abbreviations should not threaten patient care or the reimbursement of services provided.

Many specialties have evolved over the years through the support of medical specialty society's. These organizations have, in many cases, developed their own

abbreviations and acronyms which may not be recognized by other in the same specialty or those outside the specialty.

While medical abbreviations allow physicians to spend more time with the patient, potentially improving the quality of the care provided, it can also create ambiguity. When an abbreviation has more than one meaning or possible interpretation the risk of ambiguity arises.

**Example:**

Cardiovascular system: Regular rate and rhythm, S1 and S2 are normal, no murmurs/rubs/or gallops, point of maximal intensity non displaced and non sustained, capillary refill less than 2 seconds

CV: RRR, S1S2nl, Ø m/r/g, PMI non displaced/non sustained, CR <2secs

In the example, it is evident that the abbreviations and acronyms that were utilized provided the same information in an easier format. However, lack of understanding of those abbreviations and acronyms could lead to complete confusion.

**Categories**

Although abbreviations and acronyms are not officially organized in categories, some students find it easier to learn abbreviations and acronyms by breaking them down into separate categories.

- Prescriptions / Drug Management
- Orders / Ancillary Services
- Surgical Reports
- Progress Notes
- History and Physicals
- Hospital Discharge Reports

## Joint Commission

What is the Joint Commission? The Joint Commission provides this summary on their website.

([https://www.jointcommission.org/about\\_us/about\\_the\\_joint\\_commission\\_main.aspx](https://www.jointcommission.org/about_us/about_the_joint_commission_main.aspx))

“An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting certain performance standards.”

Their mission is “To continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.”

Some abbreviations can create confusion that could adversely affect patient care. To eliminate the potential for error, the Joint Commission has created an official “Do Not Use” list of abbreviations.

## Official “Do Not Use” List

**Do not use:**

U, u (unit)

**Potential Problem:**

Mistaken for “0” (zero), the number “4” (four) or “cc”

**Use Instead:**

Write "unit"

**Do not use:**

IU (International Unit)

**Potential Problem:**

Mistaken for IV (intravenous) or the number 10 (ten)

**Use Instead:**

Write "International Unit"

**Do Not Use:**

Q.D., QD, q.d., qd (daily)

Q.O.D., QOD, q.o.d, qod (every other day)

**Potential Problem:**

Mistaken for each other. Period after the Q mistaken for "I" and the "O" mistaken for "I"

**Use Instead:**

Write "daily"

Write "every other day"

**Do Not Use:**

Trailing zero (X.0 mg)\*

Lack of leading zero (.X mg)

**Potential Problem:**

Decimal point is missed

**Use Instead:**

Write X mg

Write 0.X mg

**Do Not Use:**

MS

MSO<sub>4</sub> and MgSO<sub>4</sub>

**Potential Problem:**

Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate. Confused for one another

**Use Instead:**

Write "morphine sulfate"

Write "magnesium sulfate"

## Medical Abbreviations

Below is a comprehensive list of abbreviations found on the Taber's Online website.

[https://www.tabers.com/tabersonline/view/Tabers-Dictionary/767492/all/Medical\\_Abbreviations](https://www.tabers.com/tabersonline/view/Tabers-Dictionary/767492/all/Medical_Abbreviations)

**A** accommodation; acetum; angström unit; anode; anterior  
**a** artery  
**a** before  
**A2** aortic second sound  
**aa** of each; arteries  
**AAA** abdominal aortic aneurysm  
**abd** abdominal/abdomen  
**ABG** arterial blood gas  
**ABI** ankle-brachial index  
**ABO** three basic blood groups  
**AC** adrenal cortex; air conduction; alternating current; axiocervical  
**a.c., ac** before a meal  
**acc.** accommodation  
**A/CA** accommodative/convergence accommodation ratio  
**ACE** angiotensin-converting enzyme  
**ACh** acetylcholine  
**AChE** acetylcholinesterase  
**AChR** acetylcholine receptor  
**ACLS** advanced cardiac life support  
**ACTH** adrenocorticotrophic hormone  
**AD** advance directive  
**ad** to; up to  
**ADH** antidiuretic hormone  
**ADHD** attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder  
**ADL, ADLs** activities of daily living  
**ad lib.** freely; as desired  
**admov.** apply  
**ad sat.** to saturation  
**AED** antiepileptic drug  
**AF** atrial fibrillation  
**AFB** acid-fast bacillus  
**AFP** alpha-fetoprotein  
**A/G; A-G** ratio albumin/globulin ratio

**Ag** silver; antigen  
**AGC** atypical glandular cells  
**AgNO3** silver nitrate  
**ah** hypermetropic astigmatism  
**AHF** antihemophilic factor  
**AI** aortic incompetence; aortic insufficiency  
**AICD** automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator  
**AIDS** acquired immunodeficiency syndrome  
**AK** above the knee  
**Al** aluminum  
**Alb** albumin  
**ALL** acute lymphocytic leukemia  
**ALP** alkaline phosphatase  
**ALS** amyotrophic lateral sclerosis  
**ALT** alanine aminotransferase  
**alt. dieb.** every other day  
**alt. hor.** every other hour  
**alt. noc.** every other night  
**AM** morning  
**Am** mixed astigmatism  
**a.m.a.** against medical advice  
**AMI** acute myocardial infarction  
**AML** acute myelogenous (myeloblastic) leukemia  
**AMLS** Advanced Medical Life Support  
**amp** ampule; amputation  
**ANA** antinuclear antibody  
**anat** anatomy or anatomic  
**ANNA** anti-neuronal nuclear antibody  
**ANP** atrial natriuretic peptide  
**ant.** anterior  
**anti-CCP** anticyclic citrullinated peptide  
**Ao.** aorta  
**A-P** anterior-posterior  
**A&P** auscultation and percussion  
**ap** before dinner  
**APAP** acetaminophen  
**aPTT** activated partial thromboplastin  
**AQ, aq** water  
**aq. dest.** distilled water  
**aq. frig.** cold water  
**ARC** AIDS-related complex  
**ARDS** acute respiratory distress syndrome  
**ARMD** age-related macular degeneration

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AS</b> ankylosing spondylitis; aortic stenosis; auris sinistra (left ear)	<b>BM</b> bowel movement
<b>As.</b> astigmatism	<b>BMI</b> body mass index
<b>ASA</b> acetylsalicylic acid	<b>BMR</b> basal metabolic rate
<b>ASC</b> atypical squamous cells	<b>BMS</b> bone marrow suppression
<b>asc.</b> ascending	<b>BMT</b> bone marrow transplantation
<b>ASCA</b> anti-Saccharomyces cerevisiae antibody	<b>BNP</b> brain natriuretic peptide
<b>ASC-US</b> atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance	<b>bol.</b> pill
<b>ASCVD</b> atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	<b>BP</b> blood pressure
<b>ASD</b> atrial septal defect	<b>B.P.</b> British Pharmacopeia
<b>AsH</b> hypermetropic astigmatism	<b>BPH</b> benign prostatic hyperplasia
<b>AsM</b> myopic astigmatism	<b>bpm</b> beats per minute
<b>AST</b> aspartate aminotransferase	<b>BRM</b> biologic response modifier
<b>Ast</b> astigmatism	<b>BROW</b> barley, rye, oats, and wheat
<b>ATCC</b> American Type Culture Collection	<b>BSA</b> body surface area
<b>at. wt.</b> atomic weight	<b>BSE</b> breast self-examination
<b>Au</b> gold	<b>BUN</b> blood urea nitrogen
<b>A-V; AV; A/V</b> arteriovenous; atrioventricular	<b>BW</b> birth weight; body weight
<b>av.</b> avoirdupois	<b>Bx</b> biopsy
<b>AVM</b> arteriovenous malformation	<b>C</b> Calorie (kilocalorie); Celsius
<b>AVP</b> arginine vasopressin	<b>c</b> calorie (small calorie)
<b>B</b> boron; bacillus	<b>c</b> with
<b>Ba</b> barium	<b>CA</b> coronary artery
<b>BAC</b> blood alcohol concentration	<b>ca.</b> about; approximately; cancer
<b>BBB</b> blood-brain barrier; bundle branch block	<b>CABG</b> coronary artery bypass graft
<b>BBT</b> basal body temperature	<b>CaCO<sub>3</sub></b> calcium carbonate
<b>BCG</b> bacille Calmette-Guérin	<b>CAD</b> coronary artery disease
<b>BCLS</b> basic cardiac life support	<b>CAH</b> chronic active hepatitis
<b>BCP</b> birth control pills	<b>Cal</b> large calorie
<b>BD</b> Buerger disease	<b>CAP</b> let (the patient) take
<b>BE</b> barium enema	<b>cap.</b> capsule
<b>Be</b> beryllium	<b>C&amp;S</b> culture and sensitivity
<b>BHS</b> beta-hemolytic streptococci	<b>cath</b> catheter
<b>Bi</b> bismuth	<b>CBC</b> complete blood count
<b>b.</b> bone	<b>CBI</b> continuous bladder irrigation
<b>bib.</b> drink	<b>CBRNE</b> chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive agents
<b>b.i.d., bid</b> twice a day	<b>CBT</b> cognitive behavioral therapy
<b>b.i.n.</b> twice a night	<b>CC</b> chief complaint
<b>bipap bilevel</b> positive airway pressure	<b>cc</b> cubic centimeter
<b>BK</b> below the knee	<b>CCI 4</b> carbon tetrachloride
<b>BLS</b> basic life support	<b>CCU</b> coronary care unit; critical care unit
	<b>CD4</b> T-helper cells
	<b>CD8</b> cytotoxic cells
	<b>CDC</b> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
	<b>CEA</b> carcinoembryonic antigen

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>CF</b> cystic fibrosis; Christmas factor	telangiectasia (cluster of features of systemic sclerosis scleroderma)
<b>CFTR</b> cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator	<b>CRP</b> c. reactive protein
<b>cg</b> centigram	<b>CRS-R</b> Conners Rating Scales-Revised
<b>CHD</b> congenital heart disease; coronary heart disease	<b>CS</b> cardiogenic shock; cesarean section; culture and sensitivity
<b>ChE</b> cholinesterase	<b>CSF</b> cerebrospinal fluid; colony-stimulating factor
<b>CHF</b> congestive heart failure	<b>CSH</b> combat support hospital
<b>CI</b> cardiac index	<b>CT</b> computed/computerized tomography
<b>Ci</b> curie	<b>Cu</b> copper
<b>CIN</b> cervical intraepithelial neoplasia	<b>CV</b> cardiovascular
<b>CIS</b> carcinoma in situ	<b>CVA</b> cardiovascular accident; cerebrovascular accident; costovertebral angle
<b>CK</b> creatine kinase	<b>CVC</b> central venous catheter
<b>CK-MB</b> serum creatine kinase, myocardial-bound	<b>CVP</b> central venous pressure
<b>Cl</b> chlorine	<b>CVRB</b> critical value read back
<b>CLL</b> chronic lymphocytic leukemia	<b>CVS</b> chorionic villi sampling
<b>cm</b> centimeter	<b>CXR</b> chest x-ray
<b>c.m.s.</b> to be taken tomorrow morning	<b>D</b> diopter; dose
<b>CMT</b> certified medication technician	<b>D5/0.9 NaCl 5%</b> dextrose and normal saline solution (0.9% NaCl)
<b>CMV</b> cytomegalovirus	<b>D5<sup>1/2</sup> /NS 5%</b> dextrose and half-normal saline solution (0.45% NaCl)
<b>c.n.</b> tomorrow night	<b>D5W 5%</b> dextrose in water
<b>CNS</b> central nervous system	<b>d</b> density; right
<b>c.n.s.</b> to be taken tomorrow night	<b>/d</b> per day
<b>CO</b> carbon monoxide; cardiac output	<b>D and C</b> dilatation and curettage
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b> carbon dioxide	<b>dB</b> decibel
<b>Co</b> cobalt	<b>DBP</b> diastolic blood pressure
<b>c/o</b> complains of	<b>DC</b> direct current; doctor of chiropractic
<b>COLD</b> chronic obstructive lung disease comp. compound; compounded of	<b>dc</b> discontinue
<b>COMT</b> catechol-O-methyltransferase	<b>Derm</b> dermatology
<b>COPD</b> chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	<b>det.</b> let it be given
<b>COX-2</b> cyclooxygenase 2 inhibitors	<b>DEXA</b> dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry
<b>CP</b> cerebral palsy; cleft palate	<b>DFV</b> Doppler flow velocimetry
<b>CPAP</b> continuous positive airway pressure	<b>DHT</b> dihydrotestosterone
<b>CPC</b> clinicopathologic conference	<b>DI</b> diabetes insipidus
<b>CPD</b> cephalopelvic disproportion	<b>DIC</b> disseminated intravascular coagulation
<b>CPHSS</b> Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale	<b>dieb. alt.</b> every other day
<b>CPK</b> creatine phosphokinase	<b>dieb. tert.</b> every third day
<b>CPM</b> continuous passive motion	<b>dil.</b> dilute; diluted
<b>CPR</b> cardiopulmonary resuscitation	<b>dim.</b> halved
<b>CR</b> conditioned reflex; controlled release; crown-rump length	<b>DISIDA</b> (scan) diisopropyl iminodiacetic acid (cholescintigraphy)
<b>CREST</b> calcinosis, Raynaud phenomenon, esophageal dysfunction, sclerodactyly,	

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>DJD</b> degenerative joint disease	<b>EKG</b> electrocardiogram; electrocardiograph
<b>DKA</b> diabetic ketoacidosis	<b>ELISA</b> enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
<b>dL</b> deciliter	<b>elix.</b> elixir
<b>DM</b> diabetes mellitus	<b>Em</b> emmetropia
<b>DMARD</b> disease-modulating antirheumatic drug	<b>EMA-IgA</b> immunoglobulin A antiendomysial
<b>DNA</b> deoxyribonucleic acid	<b>EMG</b> electromyogram, electromyography
<b>DNH</b> do not hospitalize	<b>EMS</b> emergency medical service
<b>DNR</b> do not resuscitate	<b>Endo</b> endocrine
<b>DOA</b> dead on arrival	<b>ENT</b> ear, nose, and throat
<b>DOB</b> date of birth	<b>EOM</b> extraocular muscles
<b>DOE</b> dyspnea on exertion	<b>EP</b> extrapyramidal
<b>DPat</b> diphtheria-acellular pertussis tetanus (vaccine)	<b>EPS</b> extrapyramidal symptoms
<b>DPT</b> diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)	<b>ER</b> Emergency Room, extended-release
<b>dr.</b> dram	<b>ERCP</b> endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
<b>DRE</b> digital rectal examination	<b>ESR</b> erythrocyte sedimentation rate
<b>DRG</b> diagnosis-related group	<b>ESRD</b> end-stage renal disease
<b>DSM-IV-TR</b> Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision	<b>EST</b> electroshock therapy
<b>DTR</b> deep tendon reflex(es)	<b>ESWL</b> extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy
<b>DTs</b> delirium tremens	<b>ET-1</b> endothelin-1
<b>dur. dolor</b> while pain lasts	<b>ETOH, EtOH</b> ethyl alcohol
<b>DVT</b> deep vein thrombosis	<b>ext.</b> extensor; external
<b>Dx</b> diagnosis	<b>F</b> Fahrenheit
<b>D5W</b> dextrose 5% in water	<b>f</b> female
<b>DWI</b> driving while intoxicated	<b>FA</b> fatty acid
<b>E</b> eye; Escherichia	<b>F and E</b> fluid and electrolyte
<b>EBV</b> Epstein-Barr virus	<b>FAP</b> familial adenomatous polyposis
<b>ECF</b> extended care facility; extracellular fluid	<b>FBS</b> fasting blood sugar
<b>ECG</b> electrocardiogram, electrocardiograph	<b>FD</b> fatal dose; focal distance
<b>ECHO</b> echocardiography	<b>FDA</b> (U.S.) Food and Drug Administration
<b>ECMO</b> extracorporeal membrane oxygenation	<b>Fe</b> iron
<b>ECT</b> electroconvulsive therapy	<b>FEV</b> forced expiratory volume
<b>ED</b> emergency department; effective dose; erythema dose; erectile dysfunction	<b>FFP</b> fresh frozen plasma
<b>EDD</b> estimated date of delivery (formerly EDC: estimated date of confinement)	<b>FHT</b> fetal heart tone
<b>EEG</b> electroencephalogram	<b>FISH</b> fluorescence in situ hybridization
<b>EENT</b> eye, ear, nose, and throat	<b>fl.</b> flexor
<b>EF</b> ejection fraction	<b>Fld</b> fluid
<b>EGD</b> esophagogastroduodenoscopy	<b>FP</b> family practice; family practitioner
<b>EIA</b> enzyme immunosorbent assay	<b>FSH</b> follicle-stimulating hormone
	<b>FTT</b> failure to thrive
	<b>FUO</b> fever of unknown origin
	<b>G, g, gm</b> gram
	<b>GABA</b> gamma-aminobutyric acid

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>GABAB</b> gamma-aminobutyric acid type B	<b>HER2</b> human EGF (epidermal growth factor) receptor 2
<b>GABRB3</b> GABAA receptor gene	<b>HEV</b> hepatitis E
<b>garg</b> gargle	<b>HF</b> heart failure
<b>GB</b> gallbladder; Guillain-Barré	<b>Hg</b> mercury
<b>GC</b> gonococcus or gonorrheal	hgb hemoglobin
<b>GDM</b> gestational diabetes mellitus	<b>HGSIL</b> high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
<b>GDS</b> Geriatric Depression Scale	<b>Hib</b> Haemophilus influenzae type B
<b>GERD</b> gastroesophageal reflux disease	<b>HIDA</b> hepatobiliary iminodiacetic acid (cholescintigraphy)
<b>GFR</b> glomerular filtration rate	<b>HIV</b> human immunodeficiency virus
<b>GGT</b> gamma-glutamyl transferase	<b>HLA</b> human leukocyte antigen
<b>GH</b> growth hormone	<b>h/o</b> history of
<b>GI</b> gastrointestinal	<b>HOB</b> head of bed
<b>GnRH</b> gonadotropin-releasing hormone	<b>H<sub>2</sub>O</b> water
<b>GP</b> general practitioner	<b>H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub></b> hydrogen peroxide
<b>G6PD</b> glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase	<b>hor. decub.</b> bedtime
<b>gr</b> grain	<b>hor. som, h.s.</b> bedtime
<b>grad</b> by degrees	<b>HPI</b> history of present illness
<b>GRAS</b> generally recognized as safe	<b>HPV</b> human papillomavirus
<b>GSW</b> gunshot wound	<b>HR</b> heart rate
<b>GTT</b> glucose tolerance test	<b>HRT</b> hormone replacement therapy
<b>Gtt, gtt</b> drops	<b>HSIL</b> high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
<b>GU</b> genitourinary	<b>HSV</b> herpes simplex virus
<b>guttat.</b> drop by drop	<b>HTLV-III</b> human T lymphotropic virus type III
<b>GVHD</b> graft-versus-host disease	<b>HTN</b> hypertension
<b>GYN</b> gynecology	<b>hx, Hx</b> history
<b>H</b> hydrogen	<b>Hy</b> hyperopia
<b>H+</b> hydrogen ion	<b>Hz</b> hertz (cycles per second)
<b>h, hr</b> hour	<b>I</b> iodine
<b>H&amp;H</b> hematocrit and hemoglobin	<b>131I</b> radioactive isotope of iodine (atomic weight 131)
<b>H1N1</b> hemagglutinin type 1 and neuraminidase type 1	<b>132I</b> radioactive isotope of iodine (atomic weight 132)
<b>H2</b> histamine 2	<b>I&amp;O</b> intake and output
<b>HAART</b> highly active antiretroviral therapy	<b>IBW</b> ideal body weight
<b>HAV</b> hepatitis A virus	<b>IC</b> inspiratory capacity
<b>HBV</b> hepatitis B virus	<b>ICD</b> implantable cardioverter defibrillator
<b>HCG</b> human chorionic gonadotropin	<b>ICP</b> intracranial pressure
<b>HCP</b> health care professional	<b>ICS</b> intercostal space
<b>HCT, Hct</b> hematocrit	<b>ICSH</b> interstitial cell-stimulating hormone
<b>HCV</b> hepatitis C virus	<b>ICU</b> intensive care unit
<b>HD</b> hearing distance	<b>Id.</b> the same
<b>HDL</b> high-density lipoprotein	
<b>HDV</b> hepatitis D	
<b>HEENT</b> head, eye, ear, nose, and throat	
<b>HELLP</b> hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, low platelets	
<b>HEPA</b> high-efficiency particulate air	

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>IDDM</b> insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus	<b>lb</b> pound
<b>IDM</b> infants of diabetic mothers	<b>LBW</b> low birth weight
<b>IED</b> improvised explosive device	<b>LD50</b> lethal dose, median
<b>Ig</b> immunoglobulin	<b>LDH</b> lactate dehydrogenase
<b>IgE</b> immunoglobulin E	<b>LDL</b> low-density lipoprotein
<b>IgG</b> immunoglobulin G	<b>LE</b> lower extremity; lupus erythematosus
<b>IL-1</b> interleukin 1	<b>LEEP</b> loop electrosurgical excision procedure
<b>IL-8</b> interleukin 8	<b>LFT</b> liver function test
<b>IM</b> intramuscular	<b>LGA</b> large for gestational age
<b>in d.</b> daily	<b>LH</b> luteinizing hormone
<b>INF</b> interferon	<b>Li</b> lithium
<b>inf.</b> inferior	<b>lig</b> ligament
<b>inj.</b> injection	<b>liq.</b> liquid; fluid
<b>INR</b> international normalized ratio	<b>LLE</b> left lower extremity
<b>instill.</b> instillation	<b>LLL</b> left lower lobe
<b>int.</b> internal	<b>LLQ</b> left lower quadrant
<b>IOP</b> intraocular pressure	<b>lmp</b> last menstrual period
<b>IPPB</b> intermittent positive pressure breathing	<b>LOC</b> level/loss of consciousness
<b>IQ</b> intelligence quotient	<b>LP</b> lumbar puncture
<b>IRV</b> inspiratory reserve volume	<b>LR</b> lactated Ringer (solution)
<b>I.U. a</b> international unit	<b>LSIL</b> low-grade squamous epithelial lesion
<b>IUCD</b> intrauterine contraceptive device	<b>LTD</b> lowest tolerated dose
<b>IUD</b> intrauterine device	<b>LUE</b> left upper extremity
<b>IUFD</b> intrauterine fetal death	<b>LUL</b> left upper lobe
<b>IV</b> intravenous	<b>LUQ</b> left upper quadrant
<b>IVP</b> intravenous pyelogram	<b>LV</b> left ventricle
<b>J</b> joule	<b>LVAD</b> left ventricular assist device
<b>JNC 7</b> The Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure	<b>LVH</b> left ventricular hypertrophy
<b>JRA</b> juvenile rheumatoid arthritis	<b>M</b> master; medicine; molar; thousand; muscle
<b>jt.</b> joint	<b>m</b> male; meter; minim; mole; meta; muscle
<b>K</b> potassium	<b>MA</b> mental age
<b>kg</b> kilogram	<b>MAO-B</b> monoamine oxidase-B
<b>KI</b> potassium iodine	<b>man. prim.</b> first thing in the morning
<b>KOH</b> potassium hydroxide	<b>MAP</b> mean arterial pressure
<b>KS</b> Kaposi sarcoma	<b>MAT</b> Miller Analogies Test
<b>KUB</b> kidney, ureter, and bladder	<b>MBD</b> minimal brain dysfunction
<b>kv</b> kilovolt	<b>mc; mCi</b> millicurie
<b>KVO</b> keep vein open	<b>mcg</b> microgram
<b>L</b> liter	<b>MCH</b> mean corpuscular hemoglobin
<b>L&amp;D</b> labor and delivery	<b>MCHC</b> mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
<b>lab</b> laboratory	<b>MCV</b> mean corpuscular volume
<b>lat</b> lateral	<b>MD</b> muscular dystrophy
	<b>MDI</b> metered-dose inhaler



## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>MED</b> minimum effective dose	<b>NAD</b> no acute distress
<b>med</b> medial	<b>n.b.</b> note well
<b>MELD</b> Model for End-Stage Liver Disease	<b>nCi</b> nanocurie
<b>μEq</b> microequivalent	<b>NDC</b> National Drug Code
<b>mEq</b> milliequivalent	<b>NG, ng</b> nasogastric
<b>mEq/L</b> milliequivalent per liter	<b>NGT</b> nasogastric tube
<b>ME ratio</b> myeloid/erythroid ratio	<b>NH<sub>3</sub></b> ammonia
<b>MG</b> myasthenia gravis	<b>Ni</b> nickel
<b>Mg</b> magnesium	<b>NICU</b> neonatal intensive care unit
<b>MgSO<sub>4</sub></b> magnesium sulfate	<b>NIDDM</b> noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
<b>μg</b> microgram	<b>NIH</b> National Institutes of Health
<b>mg</b> milligram	<b>NK</b> natural killer
<b>MI</b> myocardial infarction	<b>NKA</b> no known allergies
<b>MID</b> minimum infective dose	<b>NMDA</b> N-methyl D-aspartate
<b>mist.</b> a mixture	<b>NMJ</b> neuromuscular junction
<b>ml</b> milliliter	<b>NMS</b> neuroleptic malignant syndrome
<b>MLD</b> minimum lethal dose	<b>nn</b> nerves
<b>MLF</b> medial longitudinal fasciculus	<b>noct.</b> in the night
<b>MM</b> mucous membrane; multiple myeloma	<b>noct. maneq.</b> night and morning
<b>mm</b> millimeter	<b>non rep; n.r.</b> do not repeat
<b>mm Hg</b> millimeters of mercury	<b>NPN</b> nonprotein nitrogen
<b>mMol</b> millimole	<b>NPO; n.p.o.</b> nothing by mouth
<b>MMR</b> measles-mumps-rubella (vaccine)	<b>NRC</b> normal retinal correspondence
<b>MMSE</b> Mini-Mental Status Examination	<b>NS</b> normal saline
<b>Mn</b> manganese	<b>NSAID</b> nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
<b>mol wt</b> molecular weight	<b>NSR</b> normal sinus rhythm
<b>mor. dict.</b> as directed	<b>N&amp;V, N/V</b> nausea and vomiting
<b>mor. sol.</b> as accustomed	<b>O</b> pint
<b>MPC</b> maximum permitted concentration	<b>O<sub>2</sub></b> oxygen
<b>MPN</b> most probable number	<b>OB</b> obstetrics
<b>mr</b> milliroentgen	<b>OC</b> oral contraceptive
<b>MRA</b> magnetic resonance angiography	<b>OCD</b> obsessive-compulsive disorder
<b>MRgFUS</b> MR-guided focused ultrasound surgery	<b>O.D.</b> right eye
<b>MRI</b> magnetic resonance imaging	<b>ol.</b> oil
<b>MS</b> mitral stenosis; multiple sclerosis	<b>om. mane vel noc.</b> every morning or night
<b>MV</b> mitral valve	<b>omn. hor.</b> every hour
<b>mV</b> millivolt	<b>omn. noct.</b> every night
<b>MVA</b> motor vehicle accident	<b>OmPC</b> outer membrane porin C
<b>MW</b> molecular weight	<b>OOB</b> out of bed
<b>My</b> myopia	<b>OPD</b> outpatient department
<b>N</b> nitrogen	<b>OR</b> operating room
<b>n</b> nerve	<b>ORIF</b> open reduction with/and internal fixation
<b>N/A</b> not applicable	<b>O.S.</b> left eye
<b>Na</b> sodium	<b>OSHA</b> Occupational Safety and Health
<b>NAA</b> nucleic acid amplification	

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

Administration	<b>PET</b> positron emission tomography
<b>OT</b> occupational therapy	<b>PFP, P4P</b> pay for performance
<b>OTC</b> over-the-counter	<b>PFT</b> pulmonary function test
<b>OU</b> each eye	<b>pH</b> hydrogen ion concentration
<b>oz</b> ounce	<b>Pharm; Phar.</b> pharmacy
<b>P, p</b> melting point	<b>PI</b> present illness; previous illness
<b>p</b> after	<b>PICC</b> peripherally inserted central catheter
<b>P2</b> pulmonic second sound	<b>PID</b> pelvic inflammatory disease
<b>P-A; PA; pa</b> placenta abruption; posteroanterior; pulmonary artery	<b>PIH</b> pregnancy-induced hypertension
<b>PABA</b> para-aminobenzoic acid (vitamin B10)	<b>pil.</b> pill
<b>Paco2</b> partial pressure of carbon dioxide in alveolar gas	<b>PIP</b> proximal interphalangeal
<b>PACU</b> postanesthesia care unit	<b>PIPDA (scan)</b> 99mTc-para-isopropylacetanilido-iminodiaacetic acid (cholescintigraphy)
<b>PAD</b> peripheral arterial disease	<b>PKU</b> phenylketonuria
<b>PALS</b> pediatric advanced life support	<b>PM</b> afternoon/evening
<b>P-ANCA</b> perinuclear antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody	<b>PMH</b> past medical history
<b>PAO 2</b> alveolar oxygen partial pressure	<b>PMI</b> point of maximal impulse
<b>Pap, Pap test</b> Papanicolaou smear	<b>PMN</b> polymorphonuclear neutrophil leukocytes
<b>part. vic</b> in divided doses	<b>PMS</b> premenstrual syndrome
<b>Pb</b> lead	<b>PND</b> paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
<b>PBI</b> protein-bound iodine	<b>PNH</b> paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
<b>p.c.</b> after meals	<b>PNS</b> peripheral nervous system
<b>PCA</b> patient-controlled analgesia	<b>PO; p.o.</b> orally
<b>Pco 2</b> carbon dioxide pressure	<b>POLST</b> physician orders for life-sustaining therapy
<b>PCOS</b> polycystic ovarian syndrome	post. posterior
<b>PCP</b> Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia; primary care physician; primary care provider	<b>PP</b> placenta previa
<b>PCR</b> polymerase chain reaction	<b>PPD</b> purified protein derivative (TB test)
<b>PCWP</b> pulmonary capillary wedge pressure	<b>ppm</b> parts per million
<b>PD</b> interpupillary distance; Parkinson disease; peritoneal dialysis	<b>p.r.</b> through the rectum
<b>pd</b> prism diopter; pupillary distance	<b>PRBCs</b> packed red blood cells
<b>PDA</b> patent ductus arteriosus	<b>p.r.n.</b> as needed
<b>PDR</b> Physicians' Desk Reference	<b>pro time/PT</b> prothrombin time
<b>PE</b> physical examination; pulmonary embolism	<b>PSA</b> prostate-specific antigen
<b>PEEP</b> positive end expiratory pressure	<b>PSV</b> prostate-specific antigen
<b>PEFR</b> peak expiratory flow rate	<b>PT</b> prothrombin time; physical therapy
<b>PEG</b> percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy	<b>Pt</b> platinum; patient
<b>per</b> through or by	<b>pt</b> pint
<b>PERRLA</b> pupils equal, regular, react to light and accommodation	<b>PTT</b> partial thromboplastin time
	<b>Pu</b> plutonium
	<b>PUBS</b> percutaneous umbilical blood sampling
	<b>PUVA</b> psoralen ultraviolet A
	<b>p.v.</b> through the vagina

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>PVC</b> premature ventricular contraction	<b>RT</b> radiation therapy; respiratory therapy
<b>PVR</b> peripheral vascular resistance	<b>R/T</b> related to
<b>q</b> every	<b>RUE</b> right upper extremity
<b>q.d.†</b> every day	<b>RUL</b> right upper lobe
<b>QFT-G</b> QuantiFERON-TB Gold	<b>RUQ</b> right upper quadrant
<b>q.h.</b> every hour	<b>S</b> mark
<b>q.2h.</b> every 2 hours	<b>s</b> without
<b>q.3h.</b> every 3 hours	<b>S.</b> sacral
<b>q.4h.</b> every 4 hours	<b>S-A; S/A; SA</b> sinoatrial
<b>q.i.d.</b> a four times a day	<b>SAD</b> seasonal affective disorder
<b>q.l.</b> as much as wanted	<b>SARS</b> severe acute respiratory syndrome
<b>qns</b> quantity not sufficient	<b>SB</b> small bowel
<b>q.o.d.</b> a every other day	<b>Sb</b> antimony
<b>q.p.</b> as much as desired	<b>SBP</b> systolic blood pressure
<b>q.s.</b> as much as needed	<b>SC, sc, s.c.</b> subcutaneous(ly)
<b>qt</b> quart	<b>SCI</b> spinal cord injury
<b>q.v.</b> as much as you please	<b>S.D.</b> standard deviation
<b>RA</b> rheumatoid arthritis	<b>SDAT</b> senile dementia of the Alzheimer type
<b>Ra</b> radium	<b>S.E.</b> standard error
<b>rad</b> radiation absorbed dose	<b>Se</b> selenium
<b>RAI</b> radioactive iodine	<b>Sed rate</b> sedimentation rate
<b>RAIU</b> radioactive iodine uptake	<b>semih.</b> half an hour
<b>RBC</b> red blood cell; red blood count	<b>SERM</b> selective estrogen receptor modulator
<b>RD</b> Raynaud disease	<b>SGA</b> small for gestational age
<b>RDA</b> recommended daily/dietary allowance	<b>SI</b> international system of units
<b>RDS</b> respiratory distress syndrome	<b>Si</b> silicon
<b>RE</b> right eye	<b>SIADH</b> syndrome of inappropriate diuretic hormone
<b>Re</b> rhenium	<b>SIDS</b> sudden infant death syndrome
<b>REM</b> rapid eye movement	<b>Sig.</b> write on label
<b>RF</b> rheumatoid factor	<b>SJS</b> Stevens-Johnson syndrome
<b>RFT</b> renal function test	<b>SLE</b> systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>Rh</b> rhesus factor; rhodium	<b>SLP</b> speech-language pathology
<b>RHD</b> rheumatic heart disease	<b>Sn</b> tin
<b>RLE</b> right lower extremity	<b>SNF</b> skilled nursing facility
<b>RLL</b> right lower lobe	<b>SNRI</b> serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor
<b>RLQ</b> right lower quadrant	<b>SNS</b> sympathetic nervous system
<b>RML</b> right middle lobe of lung	<b>SOB</b> shortness of breath
<b>Rn</b> radon	<b>sol</b> solution, dissolved
<b>RNA</b> ribonucleic acid	<b>s.o.s.</b> if necessary
<b>R/O</b> rule out	<b>S/P</b> no change after
<b>ROM</b> range of motion	<b>SPECT</b> single-photon emission computed tomography
<b>ROS</b> review of systems	
<b>RPM</b> revolutions per minute	
<b>RQ</b> respiratory quotient	
<b>RR</b> recovery room; respiratory rate	
<b>RSV</b> respiratory syncytial virus	

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>sp gr</b> specific gravity	<b>t.i.d.</b> three times a day
<b>SPF</b> skin protection factor	<b>t.i.n.</b> three times a night
<b>sph</b> spherical	<b>tinct., tr</b> tincture
<b>spt.</b> spirit	<b>TKR</b> total knee replacement
<b>s.q.</b> subcutaneous(ly)	<b>TI</b> thallium
<b>Sr</b> strontium	<b>TLC, tlc</b> tender loving care; thin layer chromatography; total lung capacity
<b>ss</b> a half	<b>TM</b> tympanic membrane
<b>SSRI</b> selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor	<b>TMJ</b> temporomandibular joint
<b>SSS</b> sick sinus syndrome	<b>TN</b> trigeminal nerve
<b>st.</b> let it/them stand	<b>TNF</b> tumor necrosis factor
<b>Staph</b> Staphylococcus	<b>TNF-I</b> tumor necrosis factor inhibitor
<b>stat.</b> immediately	<b>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></b> tumor necrosis factor alpha
<b>STD</b> sexually transmitted disease	<b>TNM</b> tumor-node-metastasis
<b>Strep</b> Streptococcus	<b>TNT</b> trinitrotoluene
<b>STS</b> serologic test for syphilis	<b>TNTM</b> too numerous to mention
<b>STU</b> skin test unit	<b>top.</b> topically
<b>sup.</b> superior	<b>TORB</b> telephone order read back
<b>supf.</b> superficial	<b>TPI</b> Treponema pallidum immobilization test for syphilis
<b>SV</b> stroke volume; supraventricular	<b>TPN</b> total parenteral nutrition
<b>SVC</b> superior vena cava	<b>TPO</b> thyroid peroxidase
<b>Sx</b> symptoms	<b>TPR</b> temperature, pulse, and respiration
<b>syr.</b> syrup	<b>tr, tinct.</b> tincture
<b>T</b> temperature	<b>TRAP criteria</b> tremor, rigidity, akinesia or postural instability bradykinesia, and postural instability
<b>T3</b> triiodothyronine	<b>Treg</b> regulatory T cell
<b>T4</b> tetraiodothyronine; thyroxine	<b>trit.</b> triturate, grind
<b>T6</b> thoracic nerve pair 6	<b>TSD</b> time since death
<b>TA</b> toxin-antitoxin	<b>TSE</b> testicular self-examination
<b>Ta</b> tantalum	<b>TSH</b> thyroid-stimulating hormone
<b>T&amp;A</b> tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy	<b>tTG</b> antitransglutaminase
<b>TAH</b> total abdominal hysterectomy	<b>TUMA</b> transurethral microwave antenna
<b>TAT</b> thematic apperception test	<b>TUR</b> transurethral resection
<b>T.A.T.</b> toxin-antitoxin	<b>TURP</b> transurethral resection of the prostate
<b>TB</b> tuberculin; tuberculosis; tubercle bacillus	<b>Tx</b> treatment
<b>Tb</b> terbium	<b>U a</b> uranium; unit a
<b>t.d.s.</b> to be taken three times daily	<b>UA</b> urinalysis
<b>Te</b> tellurium; tetanus	<b>UC</b> ulcerative colitis
<b>TEE</b> transesophageal echocardiogram	<b>UE</b> upper extremity
<b>TEN</b> toxic epidermal necrolysis	<b>UHF</b> ultrahigh frequency
<b>TENS</b> transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation	<b>ult. praes.</b> the last ordered
<b>TG</b> thyroglobulin	<b>Umb; umb</b> umbilicus
<b>Th</b> thorium	<b>ung.</b> ointment
<b>THR</b> total hip replacement	<b>URI</b> upper respiratory infection
<b>TIA</b> transient ischemic attack	
<b>TIBC</b> total iron-binding capacity	

## Medical Abbreviations and Acronyms

**US** ultrasonic, ultrasound  
**USAN** United States Adopted Name  
**USP** United States Pharmacopeia  
**ut. dict.** as directed  
**UTI** urinary tract infection  
**UV** ultraviolet  
**v** vein  
**VA** visual acuity  
**VC** vital capacity  
**VD** venereal disease  
**VDRL** Venereal Disease Research Laboratories  
**VF** ventricular fibrillation  
**Vf** field of vision  
**VLBW** very low birth weight  
**VLDL** very low density lipoprotein  
**VMA** vanillylmandelic acid  
**VOE** Vista-Office Electronic Health Record  
**vol.** volume  
**vol %** volume percent  
**VORB** verbal order read back  
**V/Q** ventilation/perfusion  
**VS** volumetric solution; vesicular sound; vital signs  
**VSD** ventricular septal defect  
**VT** ventricular tachycardia  
**vv** veins  
**VZIG** varicella zoster immune globulin  
**W** tungsten  
**w** watt  
**WAIS** Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale  
**WAP** written action plan  
**WBC** white blood cell; white blood count  
**WDWN** well-developed, well-nourished  
**WF/BF** white female/black female  
**WH** well-hydrated  
**WM/BM** white male/black male  
**WN** well-nourished  
**WNL** within normal limits  
**wt.** weight  
**w/v.** weight in volume  
**x** multiplied by  
**y** yocto-  
**yo** years old  
**yr** year

**Z** atomic number  
**Zn** zinc

## References

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