

Common Medical Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
A	
āā	Of each
Ab	Abortion
abd	Abdominal
ac	Before meals
ACHES	Five Danger Signs for Pill Users: Abdominal Pain; Chest Pain; Headaches (not relieved by ASA or Tylenol); Eye Changes (blurred or decreased vision); Severe Leg Cramps (calves or thighs)
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
ad lib	Freely, as desired
adm	Admitted
AFB	Acid Fast Bacillus
AGA	Appropriate for Gestational Age
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ALS	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
a.m.; AM	Before Noon
AMA	Against Medical Advice
amt	Amount
ant	Anterior
A&P	Auscultation & Percussion
approx	Approximately
appt	Appointment
ARC	AIDS-Related Complex
ASAP	As Soon As Possible
ASHD	Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease
as tol	As Tolerated
ausc	Auscultation
A&W	Alive and Well
ax	Axillary
B	
B-F	Black Female
bid	Twice Daily
bilat	Bilateral
B-M	Black Male
BM	Bowel Movement
BMR	Basal Metabolic Rate
BP	Blood Pressure
BPH	Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy
BRP	Bathroom Privileges

BSE	Breast Self Examination
BSO	Bilateral Salpingo-oophorectomy
BTB	Breakthrough Bleeding
BTL	Bilateral Tubal Ligation
BUS	Bartholin, Urethral, Skene's Glands

Abbreviation Meaning

BV	Bacterial Vaginosis
BW	Birth weight
Bx	Biopsy
C	
c	With
C	Centigrade
CA	Cancer
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
cal	Calorie
cap	Capsule
cath	Catheter, Catheterize
CC	Chief Complaint
CD	Communicable Disease
CDC	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
CHD	Coronary Heart Disease
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
CHO	Carbohydrate
CIN	Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia
CIS	Carcinoma in Situ
cm	Centimeters
CMT	Cervical Motion Tenderness
CMV	Cytomegalovirus
CNS	Central Nervous System
c/o	Complaint of
COLPO	Colposcopy
cont	Continue
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CRYO	Cryosurgery
c. section	Caesarean Section
CT	Computerized Tomography
CVA	Cerebrovascular Accident
CVD	Cardiovascular Disease
CVS	Cardiovascular System or Surgery
CX	Cervix
CXR	Chest X-Ray
D	
D&C	Dilation and Curettage
DDST	Denver Developmental Screening Test

Dept	Department
disc.	Discontinue
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
DNKA	Did Not Keep Appointment
DOB	Date of Birth
dsg	Dressing
DTR	Deep Tendon Reflexes
DUB	Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding
DX	Diagnosis

Abbreviation Meaning

E	
EBV	Epstein-Barr Virus
ECG; EKG	Electrocardiogram
EDC	Expected Date of Confinement
EDD	Expected Date of Delivery
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EENT	Eyes, Ears, Nose, Throat
e.g.	For Example
EGA	Estimated Gestational Age
EMG	Electromyography
ENT	Ears, Nose, Throat
EOM	Extraocular Movement
Epis	Episiotomy
Epi Tx	Epidemiological Treatment
ER	Emergency Room
ESRD	End-Stage Renal Disease
etiol	Etiology
EtOH	Ethyl Alcohol
exam	Examination
F	
F	Fahrenheit
FHR	Fetal Heart Rate
FHT	Fetal Heart Tones
FHx	Family History
FP	Family Planning
FTT	Failure to Thrive
FUO	Fever of Undetermined Origin
fx	Fracture
G	
GB	Gallbladder
Gest	Gestation
GI	Gastrointestinal
gm	Gram(s)
gr	Grain(s)
grav; G	Gravida

gtt	Drop
GU	Genitourinary
GYN	Gynecology
H	
HA	Headache
HEENT	Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Throat
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
H&P	History and Physical Examination
HPF	High-Power Field
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
hr	Hour

Abbreviation Meaning

HSV	Herpes Simplex Virus
ht	Height
HTN	Hypertension
HV; hv	Home Visit
Hx	History
Hyst	Hysterectomy
H ₂ O	Water
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen Peroxide
I	
ID	Intradermal
I&D	Incision and Drainage
IDDM	Insulin-dependent Diabetes Mellitus
ie	that is
Ig	Immunoglobulin
IM	Intramuscular
IMP	Impression
info	information
ing	Inguinal
I&O	Intake and Output
IPPB	Intermittent Positive Pressure Breathing
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
IUD	Intrauterine Device
IUGR	Intrauterine Growth Retardation
IUP	Intrauterine Pregnancy
IV	Intravenous
IVDU	Intravenous Drug User
IVP	Intravenous Pyelogram
K	
kcal	Kilocalorie
Kg	Kilogram
KS	Kaposi's Sarcoma

L	
L	Left
lab	Laboratory
LAT	Left Anterior Thigh
lb	Pound
LBW	Low Birth Weight
L&D	Labor and Delivery
LDT	Left Deltoid
LE	Lupus Erythematosus
LEEP	Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure
lg	Large
LG	Left Gluteus
LGA	Large for Gestational Age
LGV	Lymphogranuloma Venerum
LLQ	Left Lower Quadrant
LLT	Left Lateral Thigh

Abbreviation Meaning

LMP	Last Menstrual Period
LNMP	Last Normal Menstrual Period
LTC	Long-term Care
LTR	Left Tricep
LUQ	Left Upper Quadrant
L&W	Living and Well
M	
meds	Medications
mEq	Millequivalent
mg	Milligram
MGF	Maternal Grandfather
MGM	Maternal Grandmother
MI	Myocardial Infarction
ml	Milliliter
mm	Millimeter
mo	Month
mod	Moderate
MPC	Mucopurulent Cervicitis
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MS	Multiple Sclerosis
MU	Million Units
multi	Multiple
multip	Multiparous
MVP	Mitral Valve Prolapse
N	
NA	Not Applicable
NB	Newborn
NEG	Negative

NGU	Nongonococcal Urethritis
NIDDM	Noninsulin-dependent Diabetes Mellitus
NKA	No Known Allergies
#	Number
noct	Nocturnal
norm	Normal
NPO	Nothing by Mouth
NS	Normal Saline
nsg	Nursing
NSR	Normal Sinus Rhythm
NSVD	Normal Spontaneous Vaginal Delivery
N&V	Nausea and Vomiting
O	
O ₂	Oxygen
OB	Obstetrics
OBS	Organic Brain Syndrome
OC	Oral Contraceptive
oint	Ointment
OM	Otitis Media

Abbreviation Meaning

O&P	Ova and Parasites
OPD	Outpatient Department
OTC	Over-the-Counter (drugs)
oz	Ounce
P	
p	After
P	Parity
palp	Palpable
pc	After Meals
PCP	Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia
PE	Physical Examination
per	By
PERRLA	Pupils Equal, Round, Reactive to Light and Accommodation
PG	Pregnant
PGF	Paternal Grandfather
PGM	Paternal Grandmother
PID	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
p.m.; PM	After Noon
PMD	Private Medical Doctor
PMH	Past Medical History
PMS	Premenstrual Syndrome
po	By mouth
POS	Positive
pp	Post Partum
ppd	Packs per day

prn	As needed
PROM	Premature Rupture of Membranes
Pt	Patient
PTL	Preterm Labor
Q	
q	Every
qh	Every hour
qid	Four times daily
qns	Quantity not sufficient
qs	Quantity sufficient
R	
R	Right
RAT	Right Anterior Thigh
RDS	Respiratory Distress Syndrome
RDT	Right Deltoid
REF	Refer
Reg	Regular
rehab	Rehabilitation
Resp	Respiration
RG	Right Gluteus
RLQ	Right Lower Quadrant
RLT	Right Lateral Thigh

Abbreviation Meaning

Rm	Room
R/O	Rule Out
ROM	Range of Motion
ROS	Review of Systems
RRR	Regular Rate and Rhythm
RTC	Return to Clinic
RTR	Right Tricep
RUQ	Right Upper Quadrant
Rx	Prescription/Treatment
S	
s	Without
S ₁	First Heart Sound
S ₂	Second Heart Sound
SBE	Self-Breast Exam
subcut	Subcutaneous
SEM	Systolic Ejection Murmur
SGA	Small for Gestational Age
SIDS	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
Sig	Prescription Instructions
sl	Slight
SLEV	St. Louis Encephalitis Virus
sm	Small

SOAP	Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan
SOB	Shortness of Breath
Spon	Spontaneous
SROM	Spontaneous Rupture of Membrane
ss	One Half
S&S	Signs and Symptoms
STAT	At Once
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
Supp	Suppository
SVD	Spontaneous Vaginal Delivery
Sx	Symptom
T	
T&A	Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy
tab	Tablet(s)
TAH/BSO	Total Abdominal Hysterectomy and Bilateral Salpingo-oophorectomy
TB	Tuberculosis
tbsp	Tablespoon
Temp	Temperature
tid	Three Times Daily
TMJ	Temporomandibular Junction/Joint
TOC	Test of Cure
top	Topical
TPR	Temperature, Pulse, Respiration
tr	Trace
TRACH	Tracheostomy

Abbreviation Meaning

TSE	Testicular Self Examination
tsp	Teaspoon
TUR	Transurethral Resection
Tx	Treatment
U	
UGI	Upper Gastrointestinal
unk	Unknown
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
V	
Vag	Vaginal
VD	Venereal Disease
VS	Vital Signs
W	
WC	Wheelchair
WD	Well Developed
W-F	White Female
wk	Week

WIC	Women, Infants and Children (Food Assistance Program)
W-M	White Male
WN	Well Nourished
WNL	Within Normal Limits
wt	Weight
X	
x	Multiplied by
Y	
yo	Year-old
yr	Year