

Abbreviations commonly found in medical records

If you see an abbreviation you do not understand, you may be able to find out what it means here.

Important

Medical staff sometimes use the same abbreviation to mean different things. If you find an abbreviation confusing, contact your healthcare provider.

List of abbreviations

A

#	fracture
A&E	accident and emergency
a.c.	before meals
a.m., am, AM	morning
AF	atrial fibrillation
AMHP	approved mental health professional
APTT	activated partial thromboplastin time
ASQ	ages and stages questionnaire

B

b.d.s., bds, BDS	2 times a day
b.i.d., bid, bd	twice a day / twice daily / 2 times daily
BMI	body mass index
BNO	bowels not open
BO	bowels open

C

c/c	chief complaint
CMHN	community mental health nurse
CPN	community psychiatric nurse
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CSU	catheter stream urine sample
CT scan	computerised tomography
CVP	central venous pressure
CXR	chest X-ray

D

DNACPR	do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation
DNAR	do not attempt resuscitation
DNR	do not resuscitate
Dr	doctor
DVT	deep vein thrombosis
Dx	diagnosis

E

ECG	electrocardiogram
ED	emergency department
EEG	electroencephalogram
EMU	early morning urine sample
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
EUA	examination under anaesthetic

F

FBC	full blood count
FY1 FY2	foundation doctor

G

GA	general anaesthetic
gtt., gtt	drop(s)

H

h., h	hour
h/o	history of
Hb	haemoglobin
HCA	healthcare assistant
HCSW	healthcare support worker
HDL	high-density lipoprotein
HRT	hormone replacement therapy
Ht	height
Hx	history

I (i)

i	1 tablet
ii	2 tablets
iii	3 tablets
i.m., IM	injection into a muscle
i.v., IV	injection directly to a vein
INR	international normalised ratio
IVI	intravenous infusion
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
Ix	investigations

L

LA	local anaesthetic
LDL	low-density lipoprotein
LFT	liver function test
LMP	last menstrual period

M

M/R	modified release
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus
MSU	mid-stream urine sample

N

n.p.o., npo, NPO	nothing by mouth / not by oral administration
NAD	nothing abnormal discovered
NAI	non-accidental injury
NBM	nil by mouth
NG	nasogastric
nocte	every night
NoF	neck of femur
NSAID	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

O

o.d., od, OD	once a day
o/e	on examination
OT	occupational therapist

P

p.c.	after food
p.m., pm, PM	afternoon or evening
p.o., po, PO	orally / by mouth / oral administration
p.r., pr, PR	rectally
p.r.n., prn, PRN	as needed (also pertactin, a key antigen of ac. pertussis vaccine)
p/c	presenting complaint
physio	physiotherapist
POP	plaster of paris
PTT	partial thromboplastin time
PU	passed urine

Q

q.	every
q.1.d., q1d	every day
q.1.h., q1h	every hour
q.2.h., q2h	every 2 hours
q.4.h., q4h	every 4 hours
q.6.h., q6h	every 6 hours
q.8.h., q8h	every 8 hours
q.d., qd	every day / daily
q.d.s., qds, QDS	4 times a day
q.h., qh	every hour / hourly
q.i.d., qid	4 times a day
q.o.d., qod	every other day / alternate days
q.s., qs	a sufficient quantity (enough)

R

RN	registered nurse
RNLD	learning disability nurse
ROSC	return of spontaneous circulation
RTA	road traffic accident
Rx	treatment

S

s.c., SC	injection under the skin
S/R	sustained release
SLT	speech and language therapist
SpR	specialist registrar
stat.	immediately, with no delay, now
STEMI	ST-elevation myocardial infarction

T

t.d.s., tds, TDS	3 times a day
t.i.d., tid	3 times a day
TCI	to come in
TFT	thyroid function test
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse and respiration
TTA	to take away
TTO	to take out

U

U&E	urea and electrolytes
u.d., ud	as directed
UTI	urinary tract infection

V

VLDL	very-low density lipoprotein
VTE	venous thromboembolism

w

wt	weight
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Unable to find a particular abbreviation

Contact your GP practice or pharmacy.