

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation Meaning

a	before
aa	of each
A&OX3	alert & oriented to person, place, and time
A&OX4	alert & oriented to person, place, time and situation
ABC	airway, breathing, circulation
abd	abdomen
Ab	abortion
ac	before meals
ACLS	advanced cardiac life support
admin	administration
A-fib	atrial fibrillation
A-flut	atrial flutter
ALS	advanced life support
AMA	against medical advice
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
AMPS	ampules
ant	anterior
AP	anteroposterior
ARDS	adult respiratory distress syndrome
ASA	aspirin
ASCVD	arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASHD	atherosclerotic heart disease
A-tach	atrial tachycardia
AV	atrioventricular
BBB	bundle branch block
BBS	bilateral breath sounds
bid	twice a day
BM	bowel movement
BP	blood pressure
BPM	beats per minute
BS	breath sounds
BSA	body surface area
BVM	bag-valve-mask
c	with
Ca	cancer
Ca++	calcium
CAB	coronary artery bypass
CACL	calcium chloride
CAD	coronary artery disease
Caps	capsule
Cath	catheter
CBC	complete blood count
CBG	capillary blood glucose
cc	cubic centimeter
CC	chief complaint
C/C	chief complaint
CCU	coronary care unit
CHF	congestive heart failure
Cl-	chloride
cm	centimeter

CNS	central nervous system
c/o	complains of
CO	carbon monoxide
COD	codeine
CO2	carbon dioxide
cont.	continue
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
C-spine	cervical spine
C-section	cesarean section
CTA	clear to auscultation
CVP	central venous pressure
CXR	chest x-ray
D/C	hospital discharge
D & C	dilatation and curettage
detox	detoxification
dig	digitalis
DM	diabetes mellitus
DNR	do not resuscitate
DOA	dead on arrival
DOE	dyspnea on exertion
DPT	diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus vaccine
DT's	delirium tremens
D5W	dextrose 5% in water
D50W	dextrose 50% in water
Dx	diagnosis
ECG	electrocardiogram
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eye, ear, nose and throat
EMD	electromechanical dissociation
EMS	emergency medical services
ENT	ear, nose, and throat
EOA	esophageal obturator airway
epi	epinephrine
ER/ED	emergency department
ET	endotracheal
EtCO2	End tidal CO2
ETT	endotracheal tube
ETA	estimated time of arrival
ETOH	ethyl alcohol
exam	examination
F	female
F	Fahrenheit
fib	fibrillation
fl	fluid
ft	foot
fx	fracture
g	grams
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale
GI	gastrointestinal
gr	grain

ABBREVIATIONS

GSW	gunshot wound	min	minute
gtts	drops	misc	miscellaneous
GU	genitourinary	ml	milliliter
GYN	gynecologic	mm	millimeter
hr	hour	MS	morphine sulfate
Hgb	hemoglobin	MVC	motor vehicle crash
Hct	hematocrit	n/a	not applicable
HEENT	head, eyes, ears, nose & throat	Na+	sodium
Hg	mercury	NaCl	sodium chloride
H & P	history and physical	NaHCO ₃	sodium bicarbonate
HPI	history of present illness/injury	NC	nasal cannula
ht	height	neg	negative
Hx	history	neuro	neurologic
H ₂ O	water	NG	nasogastric
ICP	intracranial pressure	NIDDM	non-insulin dependant Diabetes Mellitus
ICU	intensive care unit	NKA	no known allergies
IDDM	Insulin dependant Diabetes Mellitus	npo	nothing by mouth
i.e.	that is	NS	normal saline
IM	intramuscular	NSR	normal sinus rhythm
IO	intraosseous	NSTEMI	non ST elevation MI
IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breath	NTG	nitroglycerine
IVP	intravenous push	N/V	nausea/vomiting
IVPB	IV piggyback	O ₂	oxygen
J	joules	OB	obstetrics
JVD	jugular vein distention	OBS	organic brain syndrome
K+	potassium	OD	overdose
kg	kilogram	OR	operating room
KVO	keep vein open	ortho	orthopedics
Lt	left	p	after
l	liter	P&N	pulses and neuros
lac	laceration	PAC	premature atrial contraction
lb	pound	PARA	number of births
LBBB	left bundle branch block	PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
liq	liquid	PCN	penicillin
LLL	left lower lobe of lung	PE	pulmonary emboli
LLQ	left lower quadrant of abdomen	PEA	pulseless electrical activity
LOC	level (or loss) of consciousness	peds	pediatrics
LPM	liters per minute	PER	by or through
LR	lactated Ringer's	PERL	pupils equal and reactive to light
LUL	left upper lobe of lung	PERRLA	pupils equal round, reactive to light and accommodation
LUQ	left upper quadrant of abdomen	PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
M	male	PJC	premature junctional contraction
m	meter	PMH	past/pertinent medical history
mA	milliamperes	PND	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
MAE	moves all extremities	po	by mouth
mcg	microgram	pos	positive
MCL 1	modified chest lead 1	post	posterior
MD	medical doctor	PPE	personal protective equipment
meds	medication	premi	premature
MEq	milliequivalent	prn	as needed
µg	microgram	psi	pounds per square inch
Mg++	magnesium	psych	psychiatric
MI	myocardial infarction		
MICU	medical intensive care unit		

ABBREVIATIONS

PSVT paroxysmal supraventricular
 tachycardia
 pt patient
 PTA prior to arrival
 PVC premature ventricular contraction
 q every
 qh every hour
 qid four times a day
 qod every other day
 RBBB right bundle branch block
 RBC red blood count
 resp respiration
 RLL right lower lobe of lung
 RLQ right lower quadrant of abdomen
 R/O rule out
 ROM range of motion
 RT right
 RUL right upper lobe of lung
 RUQ right upper quadrant of abdomen
 Rx medication
 s without
 SA sino-atrial
 sec second
 SGW shotgun wound
 SICU surgical intensive care unit
 SIDS sudden infant death syndrome
 SL sublingual
 SNT soft non-tender
 SOB shortness of breath
 soln solution
 S/S symptoms/signs
 SQ subcutaneous
 stat immediately
 STEMI ST elevation MI
 SVT supraventricular tachycardia
 Sx symptoms or signs
 tach tachycardia
 TB tuberculosis
 tbspoon tablespoon
 temp temperature
 TIA transient ischemia attack
 tid three times a day
 TKO to keep open
 tsp teaspoon
 Tx treatment
 U unit
 URI upper respiratory infection
 UTD unable to determine
 UTI urinary tract infection
 VD venereal disease
 V-fib ventricular fibrillation
 via by way of
 vol volume
 VS vital signs

V-tach ventricular tachycardia
 WBC white blood count
 wc wheelchair
 w/s watt/second
 wt weight
 y/o year old
 ≈ APPROXIMATE
 @ at
 ↑ increased, elevated
 ↓ decreased, depressed
 = equal
 ≠ not equal
 → going to or leading to
 ∅ none
 μ micro
 X 2 times two
 / per; and or
 > greater than
 < less than
 ? questionable
 ⊕ positive
 — negative
 Δ change
 1° primary, first degree
 2° secondary, second degree
 ∴ therefore