

Medical Abbreviations PC.A10.1

Medical Abbreviations (Taber's Encyclopedia)

a before
A Amputation
AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm
abd abdominal/abdomen
ABG arterial blood gas
ABO three basic blood groups
a.c., ac before a meal
ACE angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACLS advanced cardiac life support
ACTH adrenocorticotrophic hormone
ADH antidiuretic hormone
ADHD attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder
ADL, ADLs activities of daily living
ad lib. as desired
AED automated external defibrillator
AF atrial fibrillation
AFB acid-fast bacillus
A/G; A-G ratio albumin/globulin ratio
Ag antigen
AgNO₃ silver nitrate
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
AM morning
a.m.a. against medical advice
AMI acute myocardial infarction
AML acute myelogenous (myeloblastic) leukemia
AMLS Advanced Medical Life Support
amp ampule
ant. anterior
Ao. aorta
A-P anterior-posterior
APAP acetaminophen
aPTT activated partial thromboplastin
ARC AIDS-related complex
ARDS acute respiratory distress syndrome

ASA acetylsalicylic acid
asc. ascending
ASCVD atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASD atrial septal defect
AST aspartate aminotransferase
A-V arteriovenous
Ba barium
BAC blood alcohol concentration
BBB bundle branch block
BCG bacille Calmette-Guérin
BCLS basic cardiac life support
BE barium enema
b.i.d., bid twice a day
bipap bilevel positive airway pressure
BK below the knee
BLS basic life support
BM bowel movement
BMI body mass index
BMR basal metabolic rate
BNP brain natriuretic peptide
BP blood pressure
BPH benign prostatic hyperplasia
bpm beats per minute
BSA body surface area
BUN blood urea nitrogen
Bx biopsy
C Celsius
c with
CA coronary artery
ca. cancer
CABG coronary artery bypass graft
CAD coronary artery disease
cap. capsule
C&S culture and sensitivity
cath catheter
CBC complete blood count
CBI continuous bladder irrigation
CBT cognitive behavioral therapy
CCU coronary care unit; critical care unit
CD4 T-helper cells
CD8 cytotoxic cells
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEA carcinoembryonic antigen
CF cystic fibrosis
cg centigram

CHD coronary heart disease
CHF congestive heart failure
CIS carcinoma in situ
CK creatine kinase
CK-MB serum creatine kinase, myocardial-bound
Cl chlorine
CLL chronic lymphocytic leukemia
cm centimeter
CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CMV cytomegalovirus
CNS central nervous system
CO carbon monoxide
CO₂ carbon dioxide
Co cobalt
c/o complains of
COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
COX-2 cyclooxygenase 2 inhibitors
CP cerebral palsy
CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
CPM continuous passive motion
CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CR controlled release
CRP c. reactive protein
CS culture and sensitivity
CSF cerebrospinal fluid
CT computed/computerized tomography
CV cardiovascular
CVA cerebrovascular accident
CVC central venous catheter
CVP central venous pressure
CXR chest x-ray
D5/0.9 NaCl 5% dextrose and normal saline solution (0.9% NaCl)
D5½ /NS 5% dextrose and half-normal saline solution (0.45% NaCl)
D5W 5% dextrose in water
/d per day
dB decibel
DBP diastolic blood pressure
DI diabetes insipidus
DIC disseminated intravascular coagulation
DJD degenerative joint disease
DKA diabetic ketoacidosis
dL deciliter
DM diabetes mellitus
DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
DNH do not hospitalize DNI do not intubate
DNR do not resuscitate
DOA dead on arrival

DOB date of birth
DOE dyspnea on exertion
DPat diphtheria-acellular pertussis tetanus (vaccine)
DPT diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)
DRE digital rectal examination
DRG diagnosis-related group
DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision
DTR deep tendon reflex(es)
DTs delirium tremens
DVT deep vein thrombosis
Dx diagnosis
D5W dextrose 5% in water
DWI driving while intoxicated
ECF extended care facility
ECG electrocardiogram
ECHO echocardiography
ECT electroconvulsive therapy
ED emergency department
EEG electroencephalogram
EENT eye, ear, nose, and throat
EF ejection fraction
EGD esophagogastroduodenoscopy
EKG electrocardiogram
ELISA enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
elix. elixir
EMG electromyogram, electromyography
EMS emergency medical service
Endo endocrine
ENT ear, nose, and throat
EPS extrapyramidal symptoms
ER extended-release
ERCP endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ESRD end-stage renal disease
ESWL extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy
ETOH, EtOH ethyl alcohol
ext. external
F Fahrenheit
FBS fasting blood sugar
FDA (U.S.) Food and Drug Administration
Fe iron
FEV forced expiratory volume
FFP fresh frozen plasma
FP family practice; family practitioner
FTT failure to thrive
G, g, gm gram
GB gallbladder

GC gonococcus
GERD gastroesophageal reflux disease
GFR glomerular filtration rate
GI gastrointestinal
GnRH gonadotropin-releasing hormone
GP general practitioner
G6PD glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
gr grain
GSW gunshot wound
Gtt, gtt drops
GU genitourinary
GYN gynecology
H hydrogen
hr hour
H&H hematocrit and hemoglobin
HAART highly active antiretroviral therapy
HAV hepatitis A virus
HBV hepatitis B virus
HCP health care professional
HCT, Hct hematocrit
HCV hepatitis C virus
HDL high-density lipoprotein
HDV hepatitis D
HEENT head, eye, ear, nose, and throat
HELLP hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, low platelets
HEPA high-efficiency particulate air
HER2 human EGF (epidermal growth factor) receptor 2
HEV hepatitis E
HF heart failure
Hg mercury
hgb hemoglobin
HGSIL high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
Hib Haemophilus influenzae type B
HIV human immunodeficiency virus
h/o history of
HOB head of bed
H₂O water
H₂O₂ hydrogen peroxide
HPI history of present illness
HPV human papillomavirus
HR heart rate
HRT hormone replacement therapy
HSV herpes simplex virus
HTN hypertension
hx, Hx history
Hz hertz (cycles per second)
I iodine

I&O intake and output
IBW ideal body weight
IC inspiratory capacity
ICD implantable cardioverter defibrillator
ICP intracranial pressure
ICS intercostal space
ICU intensive care unit
IDDM insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IDG Interdisciplinary group
Ig immunoglobulin
IgE immunoglobulin E
IgG immunoglobulin G
IL-1 interleukin 1
IL-8 interleukin 8
IM intramuscular
inj. injection
INR international normalized ratio
int. internal
IOP intraocular pressure
IPPB intermittent positive pressure breathing
IQ intelligence quotient
IRV inspiratory reserve volume
IV intravenous
IVP intravenous pyelogram
J joule
K potassium
kg kilogram
KI potassium iodine
KOH potassium hydroxide
KS Kaposi sarcoma
KUB kidney, ureter, and bladder
kv kilovolt
KVO keep vein open
L liter
lab laboratory
lat lateral
lb pound
LDH lactate dehydrogenase
LDL low-density lipoprotein
LE lower extremity
LFT liver function test
Li lithium
liq. liquid; fluid
LLE left lower extremity
LLL left lower lobe
LLQ left lower quadrant
LOC level/loss of consciousness

Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care

Patient Care Policies and Procedures

LR lactated Ringer (solution)
LUE left upper extremity
LUL left upper lobe
LUQ left upper quadrant
LV left ventricle
LVAD left ventricular assist device
LVH left ventricular hypertrophy
m meter
MAP mean arterial pressure
mcg microgram
MCH mean corpuscular hemoglobin
MCHC mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV mean corpuscular volume
MD Medical Doctor
MDI metered-dose inhaler
med medial
mEq milliequivalent
mEq/L milliequivalent per liter
MgSO₄ magnesium sulfate
mg milligram
MI myocardial infarction
ml milliliter
mm millimeter
mmHg millimeters of mercury
MMSE Mini-Mental Status Examination
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MS multiple sclerosis
MVA motor vehicle accident
N/A not applicable
Na sodium
NG, ng nasogastric
NGT nasogastric tube
NIDDM noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NIH National Institutes of Health
NKA no known allergies
NPO; n.p.o. nothing by mouth
NS normal saline
NSAID nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
NSR normal sinus rhythm
N&V, N/V nausea and vomiting
O₂ oxygen
OCD obsessive-compulsive disorder
OOB out of bed
OR operating room
ORIF open reduction with/and internal fixation
OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OT occupational therapy

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Patient Care Policies and Procedures

OTC over-the-counter
oz ounce
p after
Paco2 partial pressure of carbon dioxide in alveolar gas
p.c. after meals
PCA patient-controlled analgesia
Pco2 carbon dioxide pressure
PCP Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia; primary care provider
PCR polymerase chain reaction
PCWP pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PD Parkinson disease
PDR Physicians' Desk Reference
PE pulmonary embolism
PEEP positive end expiratory pressure
PEFR peak expiratory flow rate
PEG percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
per through or by
PERRLA pupils equal, regular, react to light and accommodation
PET positron emission tomography
PFT pulmonary function test
pH hydrogen ion concentration
Pharm; Phar. pharmacy
PI previous illness
PICC peripherally inserted central catheter
PM afternoon/evening
PMH past medical history
PMI point of maximal impulse
PND paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
PNS peripheral nervous system
PO; p.o. orally
POLST physician orders for life-sustaining therapy
post. posterior
ppm parts per million
p.r. through the rectum
PRBCs packed red blood cells
p.r.n. as needed
pro time/PT prothrombin time
PSA prostate-specific antigen
PT prothrombin time; physical therapy
Pt patient
PTT partial thromboplastin time
PVC premature ventricular contraction
q every
q.h. every hour
q.2h. every 2 hours
q.3h. every 3 hours
q.4h. every 4 hours

Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care

Patient Care Policies and Procedures

q.i.d. a four times a day
qt quart
RA rheumatoid arthritis
RBC red blood cell; red blood count
RDA recommended daily/dietary allowance
RDS respiratory distress syndrome
RE right eye
REM rapid eye movement
RFT renal function test
Rh rhesus factor; rhodium
RLE right lower extremity
RLL right lower lobe
RLQ right lower quadrant
R/O rule out
ROM range of motion
RQ respiratory quotient
RR respiratory rate
RT respiratory therapy
R/T related to
RUE right upper extremity
RUL right upper lobe
RUQ right upper quadrant
s without
S/A; SA sinoatrial
SAD seasonal affective disorder
SARS severe acute respiratory syndrome
SB small bowel
SBP systolic blood pressure
SCI spinal cord injury
Sed rate sedimentation rate
SIADH syndrome of inappropriate diuretic hormone
Sig. write on label
SLE systemic lupus erythematosus
SLP speech-language pathology
SNF skilled nursing facility
SOB shortness of breath
sol solution, dissolved
S/P no change after
SPECT single-photon emission computed tomography
sp gr specific gravity
SPF skin protection factor
sph spherical
spt. spirit
subcut. subcutaneous(ly)
Staph Staphylococcus
stat. immediately
STD sexually transmitted disease

Strep Streptococcus
sup. superior
SVC superior vena cava
Sx symptoms
syr. syrup
T temperature
T3 triiodothyronine
T4 tetraiodothyronine; thyroxine
T&A tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
TAH total abdominal hysterectomy
TB tuberculin; tuberculosis; tubercle bacillus
TENS transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
THR total hip replacement
TIA transient ischemic attack
t.i.d. three times a day
tinct., tr tincture
TKR total knee replacement
TLC total lung capacity
TMJ temporomandibular joint
TNF tumor necrosis factor
TNF-I tumor necrosis factor inhibitor
TNM tumor-node-metastasis
top. topically
TPN total parenteral nutrition
TPR temperature, pulse, and respiration
Treg regulatory T cell
TSE testicular self-examination
TSH thyroid-stimulating hormone
TUR transurethral resection
TURP transurethral resection of the prostate
Tx treatment
UA urinalysis
UC ulcerative colitis
UE upper extremity
ung. ointment
URI upper respiratory infection
US ultrasound
UTI urinary tract infection
UV ultraviolet
VC vital capacity
VD venereal disease
VF ventricular fibrillation
VLDL very low density lipoprotein
vol. volume
vol % volume percent
VORB verbal order read back
V/Q ventilation/perfusion

Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care

Patient Care Policies and Procedures

VS vital signs

VSD ventricular septal defect

VT ventricular tachycardia

WBC white blood cell; white blood count

WNL within normal limits

wt. weight

x multiplied by

yo years old

yr year

Zn zinc