

List of Approved Abbreviations
Acronyms and Symbols

A
á before
Ab antibody
abd abdomen | abduction
ABG arterial blood gasses
abn/ABN abnormal
ABO abortion
ABx antibiotic
ac before meals
AC antecubital
ACI after care instructions
ACIS after care instruction sheet
ACL anterior cruciate ligament
ad right ear
add adduction
ADH antidiuretic hormone
ADL activities of daily living
ad lib as desired
AED automatic external defibrillator
afeb afebrile
afib atrial fibrillation
ag antigen
A/G albumin-globulin ratio
AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AK actinic keratosis
aka also known as
AKA above knee amputation
alb albumin
alk phos alkaline phosphatase
ALL acute lymphocytic leukemia
alo alopecia
am morning
AMA against medical advice
amb ambulate
AMI acute myocardial infarction
AML acute myelogenous leukemia | acute myelocytic leukemia
Amox amoxicillin
amp ampule/ampere
amt amount
ANA antinuclear antibody
ann annular
ant anterior
anti HbsAg antibody to hepatitis b surface antigen
A&O alert and oriented
A&O x3 alert and oriented to person, place and time
A/P anterior posterior
A&P abdominal and perineal
approx approximately

appy appendectomy
appt appointment
APVD atherosclerotic peripheral vascular disease
A/R apical/radial
ARDS adult respiratory distress syndrome
AROM active range of motion
art arterial
as left ear
ASA aspirin
ASAP as soon as possible
ASCVD arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASD atrial septal defect
ASHD arteriosclerotic heart disease
ASPVD arteriosclerotic peripheral vascular disease
ATN acute tubular necrosis
ATP adenosine triphosphate
au both ears
AV atrioventricular | acne vulgaris
A/V arterial/venous
A&V atrial & ventricular
AVJ atrioventricular junction
AVM arteriovenous malformation

B
B bilateral
Ba barium
BAD Bipolar Affective Disorder
BAT blunt abdominal trauma
BBB bundle branch block
BCLS basic cardiac life support
BCP birth control pills
BE barium enema
bf boyfriend
BG blood gas / blod glucose
BI brain injury +bullous impetigo
bid/BID twice a day
bil bilateral
bilat bilateral
BK below knee
BKA below knee amputation
bld blood
BLE bilateral lower extremity
blk block/black
BLS basic life support
bm/BM bowel movement
BMR basal metabolic rate
BOM bilateral otitis media
BP blood pressure
bpm beats per minute | breaths per minute
BR bathroom
BRB bright red blood
BRP bathroom privileges
BSA body surface area
bs/BS bowel sounds | breath sounds

BSB breath sounds bilateral
BUE bilateral upper extremity
bul bullae
BUN blood urea nitrogen
B/W or b/w between
bx biopsy

C
C centigrade
c/ c/ with
Ca/CA cancer
Ca++ calcium
CABG coronary artery bypass graft
CAD coronary artery disease
cal calorie
calc calculation
cap capsule/capillary
CAT computerized axial tomography
cath catheter
CBC complete blood count
cc cubic centimeter
CC chief complaint/cervical collar/closed comedones
CDI clean dry intact
cent central
ceph cephalic
CF cystic fibrosis
CHD congenital heart disease
chemo chemotherapy
CHF congestive heart failure
chg change
CHI closed head injury
CHO carbohydrate
chole cholecystectomy
CIN cervical intraepithelial neoplasia
circ circulation/circumcision/circumflex
Cl chloride
CLS clinical laboratory scientist
cm centimeter
CMP comprehensive metabolic panel
cmpd compound
CMV cytomegalovirus
CN cranial nerve
CNS central nervous system
CO cardiac output
c/o / C/O complains of
coag coagulation
comp complete/comprehensive/compensator
con confluent
coniz conization
conj conjunctiva
const constitution
cont continuous/continue/continual
contr contraction
COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

cor coronary
CP cerebral palsy/chest pain/catricial pemphigoid
CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
CPK creatine phosphokinase
CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CR capillary refill
cr/creat creatinine
CRF chronic renal failure
CRP C-reactive protein
cryo cryosurgery
CSHC #1
CSHC #2
C spine cervical spine
CT chest tube/computerized tomography
CTA clear to auscultation
CV cardiovascular
CVA cerebrovascular accident/costovertebral angle
CVAT costovertebral angle tenderness
CW chest wall
c/w consistent with
cx cervix
CXR chest x-ray
cysto cystoscopy
C&S culture and sensitivity
cxc cancel

D
D5 dextrose 5%
D5LR dextrose 5% in lactated ringer's
D5W dextrose 5% in water
dB decibels
DBP diastolic blood pressure
d/c / D/C discontinue | discharge
dc/DC discharge | discontinue
D&C dilation and curettage
DDx differential diagnosis
dep/DEP dependent
derm dermatological
DES diethylstilbestrol
DI drug-induced
D&I dry and intact
diam diameter
DIC disseminated intravascular coagulation
diff differential
DIP distal interphalangeal
discrim discrimination
dist distance/distal
DJD degenerative joint disease
DLE discoid lupus erythematosus
DM diabetes mellitus
DMPA Depo-Provera (depo-methylprednisolone)
DN dysplastic nevus
DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
DOB date of birth

DOC doctor on call
DOE dyspnea on exertion
DP dorsalis pedis
dr dram
Dr. doctor
drng drainage
dressing drsg/dsg
DSAP disseminated superficial actinic porokeratosis
DTO danger to others
DTR deep tendon reflexes
DTs delirium tremens
DTS danger to self
DVT deep vein thrombosis
Dx diagnosis
DysE dyshidrotic exzema

E

EBV Epstein-Barr virus
EC epidermoid cyst | extracutaneous / Emergency Contraception
ECF extended care facility
EKG electrocardiogram
ECP emergency contraceptive pill
ECT electroconvulsive therapy
ecz eczematous
ED emergency department
EDC expected date of confinement
EEG electroencephalogram
EJ external jugular
EM erythema multiforme
EMG electromyogram
EMD electromechanical dissociation
EMS emergency medical system
EN erythema nodosum
enc encourage
endo endocrine/endoscopy
ENT ear, nose, throat
EOM extraocular movements
EOS eosinophil
E&R equal and reactive
ERCP endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatogram
ero erosion
ery erythematous
ERY erythromycin
esoph esophagus/esophagoscope
esp especially
ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ETA estimated time of arrival
ETCO2 end tidal carbon dioxide
ETE estimated time enroute
ETOH ethanol, alcohol
exc excision
exp expiratory
expl lap exploratory laparotomy
ext external/extension

extr extremities

F

f female

F Fahrenheit/French

FB foreign body

FBS fasting blood sugar

f&c fever & chills

FD fire department

fdg feeding

feb febrile

FEF forced expiratory flow

fem femoral

FEV1 forced expiratory volume exhaled after 1 second

ff / FF force fluids | fundus firm

FH / FHx family history

FHR fetal heart rate

FIV forced inspiratory volume

fl fluid

flex flexion

flu/FLU influenza

FNA fine needle aspiration

foll follicular/folliculitis

fpm family planning method

freq frequency

FROM full range of motion

ft feet/foot

FTSG full-thickness skin graft

F/U / FU follow-up

FUO fever unknown origin

FWB full weight bearing

fx/Fx fracture

G

G gravida

GA gestational age/granuloma annulare

GB gallbladder

gc/c gonorrhea/chlamydia

gf girlfriend

GI gastrointestinal

glob globulin

glu/gluc glucose

Gm gram

GMSz grand mal seizure

gr grain

gtt drop

GTT glucose tolerance test

GU genitourinary

GYN gynecology

H

h hour

HA / H/A headache

HB heart block

HbA1c hemoglobin A1c
H2O water
HBP high blood pressure
HbsAg hepatitis b surface antigen
HCO bicarbonate
Hct/HCT hematocrit
HCV hepatitis C virus
HDL high density lipoprotein
HEENT head, eyes, ears, nose, throat
hep hepatitis
HepP hepatitis panel
heme hematologic | hemoglobin
Hg mercury
Hgb/HGB hemoglobin
HI head injury
HIV human immunodeficiency virus
H&N / H/N head and neck
h/o / H/O history of
H&P history and physical
HPI history of present illness
HPV human papilloma virus
HR heart rate
hr hour
HRT hormone replacement therapy
hs/HS bedtime
HSM hepatosplenomegaly
HSV herpes simplex virus
ht height
Htn/HTN hypertension
Hx history
Hz hertz

I
I independent
IAC internal auditory canals
IB insect bite
IBW ideal body weight
ICS intercostal space
ICU Intensive Care Unit
I&D incision and drainage
idio idiopathic
IF internal fixation
IGG immune gamma globulin
IM intramuscular
immuno immunologic
impt impetigo
incont incontinent
ind induction/independent/induration
inf infections/infectious
ing inguinal
inh inhalation
Inj injection
insp inspiratory
insuff insufficiency

int internal
I&O intake and output
irreg irregular
ITP idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
IUD intrauterine device
IUP interuterine pregnancy
IV intravenous
IVF in vitro fertilization/intravenous fluids
IVP intravenous push
IVPB intravenous piggyback

J
J joule
JI jejunoileal
JVD jugular venous distention

K
K+ potassium
K Cals kilocalories
KCl potassium chloride
Kel keloid
Kg kilogram
KHz kilohertz
KO keep open
KP keratosis pilaris
KUB kidneys, ureters, bladder
Kv kilovolt

L
l/L left/liter
lab laboratory
lac laceration/lacrimal
LAO left anterior oblique
lap laparoscopy/laparotomy
laryn laryngoscopy/larynx
lat lateral
LBP low back pain
LDH lactic dehydrogenase
LDL low density lipoprotein
LE lower extremity/lupus erythematosus
LEEP loop electrocautery excision procedure
LFTs liver function tests
lg large
lich lichenification
lig ligament
liq liquid
LIS low intermittent suction
LLE left lower extremity
LLL left lower lobe
LLQ left lower quadrant
LML left middle lobe
LMP last menstrual period
lmom left message on machine
LN lymph node

LND lymph node dissection
LOA leave of absence
LOC level of consciousness/loss of consciousness
lom left otitis media
LOP left occiput posterior
LOT left occiput transverse
LP lumbar puncture
LPO left posterior oblique
LPp lichen planopilaris
LR Lactated Ringer's
LRI lower respiratory infection
LS lumbosacral
LSB left sternal border
lt left
LUE left upper extremity
LUL left upper lobe
LUQ left upper quadrant
LV left ventricle/left ventricular/livedoid vasculopathy
lytes electrolytes

M
m male
M married
mac macule
manip manipulation
MAP morning after pill
max maximal/maximum
MBC minimum bacteriocidal concentration
MC molluscum contagiosum
mcg microgram
MCL midclavicular line
MCV mean corpuscular value
MD medical doctor
MDD major depressive disorder
MDI metered dose inhaler
MDR multiple drug resistance
ME middle ear
med medicine/medial
mEq milliequivalent
Mg magnesium
mg milligram
MHz megahertz
MI myocardial infarction
MIC minimum inhibitory concentration
mid middle
min minimum | minute
ml milliliter
mm millimeter
mo month
mod moderate | modifying
mono mononucleosis
MP metatarsophalangeal
MR medical record/s

M/R/G murmurs, rubs, and gallops
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus
MS multiple sclerosis
mtg meeting
MU million unit | monitor unit
mul multiple
MVA motor vehicle accident
multip multipara
MVP mitral valve prolapse

N
N nitrogen
na/NA not applicable
n/a / N/A not applicable
Na sodium
NAD no acute distress
NBS normal bowel sounds
NC | N/C nasal cannula
ND non-distended
NE numular eczema
NED no evidence of disease
neg negative
NG nasogastric
NHL non-hodgkin's lymphoma
NIH National Institute of Health
NKA no known allergies
NKDA no known drug allergies
nl normal
NLD necrobiosis lipoidica diabetorum
NLF nasolabial fold
nml normal
no./# number
noc night
NOS not otherwise specified
NP nurse practitioner | new patient
NPO nothing by mouth
NS normal saline
NSR normal sinus rhythm
NSSC normal size, shape and consistency
NT / N/T nasotracheal | not tested | non-tender
NTG nitroglycerine
N/V nausea and vomiting
N/V/D nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
NWB non weight bearing
nys nystagmus

O
O no / not
O2 oxygen
obs/obstr obstruction
OC oral cavity | open comedones / oral contraceptives
od right eye
OD overdose

OGTT oral glucose tolerance test
oint ointment
OM otitis media
onyc onychomycosis
OP / O/P outpatient | occiput posterior | oropharynx
ophth ophthalmic
opp opposite | oppose
OPV oral polio vaccine
os left eye
OT occupational therapy / occupational therapist / occiput transverse
ou both eyes
oz ounce
O&P ova and parasites

P
p after
P pulse | para
PA pulmonary artery | physician assistant
PAC premature atrial contraction
palp palpation
pap papule / pap smear
PAT paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
path pathology
PBI protein-bound iodine
pc after meals
PC phone call
pcn penicillin
PCP pneumocystic carinii pneumonia
PCR polymerase chain reaction
PCV packed cell volume
PE physical examination | pulmonary embolism | pemphigus erythematosus
PEA pulseless electrical activity
pedi pediatric
pet petechiae
PE tubes polyethylene tubes
periph peripheral
PERRLA pupils equal, round, react to light and accommodation
PFT pulmonary function test
PH pulmonary hypertension
photocoag photocoagulation
PI present illness
PID pelvic inflammatory disease
pigm pigmentation
+pigm hyperpigmentation
-pigm hypopigmentation
PIP proximal interphalangeal
plt platelet
PKU phenylketonuria
pm afternoon
PMD private medical doctor
PMH past medical history
PMP previous menstrual period
PND paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
pneumo pneumothorax

po/PO orally | by mouth | postoperative
PO4 phosphate
pop popliteal
port portable
poss possible
post posterior
postop postoperative
PP postpartum | palpable purpura / post prandial
PPD purified protein derivative | prep, position, drape
PR per rectum | pityriasis rosea
preop preoperative
prep prepare | preparation
primip primipara
prn/PRN as needed
pro/Pro protein
Pro/KCal protein/kilocalorie
prob probable | problem
PROM premature rupture of membranes | passive range of motion
pt patient
PT physical therapy | physical therapist | protime
P&T Pharmacy and Therapeutics
PT/OT physical therapy/occupational therapy
PTT partial thromboplastin time
PTU propylthiouracil
P/U pick-up
pulm pulmonary
pur purpura
pus pustule(s)
PUVA soralen ultraviolet A
PV per vagina
PVC premature ventricular contraction
PWB partial weight bearing
pyo pyoderma

Q
q/Q every
qd/QD every day | daily
qh/QH every hour
qhs/QHS every night
qid/QID four times a day
qns quantity not sufficient
qod/QOD every other day
qs quantity sufficient

R
r/R right | rectal
RA / R/A rheumatoid arthritis | right atrial | right atrium
rad radical
RBC red blood cells
rec recovery
re/ recheck
recons reconstruction
reg regular
rem removal

req requisition
retic reticulocyte
retro retrograde
rev revision
RLE right lower extremity
RLL right lower lobe
RLQ right lower quadrant
rm room
RML right middle lobe
r/o / R/O rule out
ROM range of motion / right otitis media
ros rosacea
ROS review of systems
RRR regular rate and rhythm
RSR regular sinus rhythm
rt right
RT radiologic technologist
rtc/RTC return to clinic | round the clock
RTW return to work
RUE right upper extremity
RUL right upper lobe
rupt ruptured
RUQ right upper quadrant
Rx prescription | therapy | treatment

S

s without

SA sinus arrhythmia / sexually active

SAB spontaneous abortion

sat/Sat saturation

SB stand-by

SBE subacute bacterial endocarditis

SC supraclavicular

scl sclerotic | sclerosis

sed rate sedimentation rate

SEP separated

SG specific gravity

SGOT (AST) serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase

SGPT (ALT) serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase

SH social history | seborrheic hyperplasia

S/H suicidal/homicidal

sic sexual intercourse

sig let it be marked

SJS Steven-Johnson syndrome

SK seborrheic keratosis

skel skeletal | skeleton

sl slight

SL sublingual | slit lamp |solar lentigo/lentigines

SLE s systemic lupus erythematosus

SLR straight leg raises

sm small

S/M/W/SEP single, married, widowed, separated

so / s/o suggestive of

SOAP subjective, objective, assessment, plan

SOB short of breath | shortness of breath
sol solution | solitary
S/P status post
SPE/SPEp serum protein electrophoresis
spec specimen
sq/SQ subcutaneous
S&S signs and symptoms
ST sinus tachycardia
stat at once | medical emergency
std standard
STD sexually transmitted disease
STI sexually transmitted infection
str straight
STS serologic test for syphilis
subcu subcutaneous
supp suppository
surg surgery
SV supraventricular | seminal vesicles
SVT supraventricular tachycardia
Sx or sx signs | symptom | suction
sym symmetrical
sz seizure

T

T temperature
tab tablet
TAB therapeutic abortion
TB tuberculosis
TBA to be admitted
TBI traumatic brain injury | total body irradiation
Tbsp tablespoon
TC throat culture
TCorp tinea corporis
TCru tinea cruris
temp temperature
TFT thyroid function test
TG triglyceride
TIA transient ischemic attack
tib tibial
tid/TID three times a day
tiw/TIW three times a week
TKO to keep open
TM tympanic membrane
TO telephone order
TOF Tetralogy of Fallot
tol tolerated
TPR temperature, pulse and respiration
tsp teaspoon
TWB total weight bearing
tx/Tx traction | therapy | treatment | transfer
tymp tympanic | tympanogram
T&A time and amount | tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
T&C type and cross-match

U
U unit (prefer "unit" written to reduce errors)
UA urinalysis
UE upper extremity
UGI upper gastrointestinal
unk unknown
umb umbilical
ung ointment
URI upper respiratory infection
urt urticaria
US ultrasound | Unit Secretary
UTD up to date | unable to determine
UTI urinary tract infection
UVL ultraviolet light

V
V visit | vein
vag vaginal
VarV varicose veins
VC vital capacity
VE viral exanthema
ves vesicle
Vfib ventricular fibrillation
vit vitamin | vitiligo
VO verbal order
VPla verruca planus
VPlt verruca plantaris
vs. versus
VS vital signs
VT ventricular tachycardia
VV varicose vein/s
Vvul verruca vulgaris
VZV varicella zoster virus
VZVI varicella zoster virus infection

W
w/ w with
W white
w/a / W/A when awake | while awake
WBAT weight bearing as tolerated
WBC white blood cell
W/C wheelchair
W&D / W/D warm and dry
WD/WN well-developed/well-nourished
wf with food
wk week
wnl/WNL within normal limits
WNWD well nourished, well developed
w/o / W/O without | wide open
wt weight

X
X / x times | except

Y
yrs years
Y/O years old

Symbols

@ at
D change
• increase (d)
• decrease (d)
3 check
> greater than | more than
< less than
" seconds
' minutes
o hours or degree
∅ angle
50-60/p palpation blood pressure
\ therefore
² secondary | second degree
x times
Æ negative, nothing
+ plus or positive
- minus
" approximately
¹ not equal
= equals
& and
supine | lying
standing
sitting