

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY ABBREVIATIONS LIST

Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing
Nursing 101 – Foundations of Nursing
Medical Terminology Abbreviations

A		C	
AAA	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	c	With
ABD	Abdominal	C&S	Culture & Sensitivity
ABG	Arterial Blood Gases	CA	Cancer
ABx	Antibiotics	CABG	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
a.c.	Before meals	CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
ACE	Angiotensive Converting Enzyme	CAT	Computed Axial Tomography
ACLS	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	cath	Catheter/catheterization
ADA	American Diabetes Association	CBC	Complete blood count
ADL	Activities of Daily Living	CBD	Common Bile Duct
ad lib.	As desired	CBI	Continuous Bladder Irrigation
AFB	Acid-fast bacillus	CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
AFib	Atrial Fibrillation	CHO	Carbohydrate
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	CHOL	Cholesterol
AKA	Above the Knee Amputation	cl liq	Clear liquids
AKI	Acute Kidney Injury	CNS	Central Nervous System
Alb	Albumin	C/O	Complains of
AMA	Against Medical Advice	COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
AMB	Ambulate, walk	CPK	Creatine phosphokinase
ant.	Anterior	CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
AP	Apical pulse	CR	Creatinine
ARDS	Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome	CRF	Chronic Renal Failure
ARF	Acute Renal Failure	CSF	Cerebral Spinal Fluid
ASA	Aspirin	CVA	Cerebrovascular Accident
as tol	As tolerated	CX	Culture
ax.	Axillary	CXR	Chest x-ray
B		D	
BID	Two times daily	DBP	Diastolic blood pressure
bilat	Bilateral	D/C	Discontinue; Discharge
BKA	Below the Knee Amputation	DIC	Disseminated Intravascular Coagulopathy
BLS	Basic Life Support	DIFF	Differential
BM	Bowel Movement	DJD	Degenerative Joint Disease
BMR	Basal metabolic rate	DKA	Diabetic Ketoacidosis
BP	Blood pressure	DM	Diabetes Mellitus
BPM	Beats per minute	DNR	Do Not Resuscitate
BR	Bedrest	DOE	Dyspnea on exertion
BRP	Bathroom privileges	DRSG	Dressing
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen	DSD	Dry Sterile Dressing
Bx	Biopsy	DT	Delirium tremens
		Dx	Diagnosis

	E			I
echo	Echocardiogram		IBS	Irritable Bowel Syndrome
ED	Emergency Department		ICP	Intracranial Pressure
EEG	Electroencephalograph		ICU	Intensive Care Unit
EGD	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy		I&D	Incision & Drainage
EKG	Electrocardiograph		IDDM	Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus
ERCP	Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography		IJ	Internal Jugular
			IM	Intramuscular
ESR	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate		incont	Incontinent
ESRD	End-Stage Renal Disease		inj	Injection
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival		I&O	Intake and Output
EtOH	Ethyl alcohol, intoxicated		isol	Isolation
exp	Exploratory		IV	Intravenous
	F		IVF	Intravenous Fluids
°F	degree Fahrenheit		IVP	Intravenous Push Drug
FBS	Fasting Blood Sugar		IVPB	Intravenous Piggy Back
Fe	Iron			J
FeSO ₄	Iron Sulfate		JP	Jackson Pratt
FFP	Fresh Frozen Plasma		J-tube	Jejunostomy tube
FUO	Fever of Unknown Origin		JVD	Jugular venous distention
Fx	Fracture			K
	G		K ⁺	potassium
GB	Gallbladder		KCl	Potassium chloride
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale		kg	Kilogram
GERD	Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease		KUB	Kidney Ureter Bladder
GI	Gastrointestinal		KVO	Keep Vein Open
gtt(s)	Drop(s)			L
GU	Genitourinary		L	Left
GYN	Gynecology		l	Liter
	H		lab	Laboratory
H/A	Headache		L&D	Labor & Delivery
HCO ₃	Bicarbonate		LDH	Lactic Dehydrogenase
Hct	Hematocrit		LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
HDL	High Density Lipoprotein		LE	Lower Extremity
hgb	Hemoglobin		LES	Lower Esophageal Sphincter
H&H	Hemoglobin & Hematocrit		LFTs	Liver Function Tests
H&P	History & Physical		liq.	Liquid
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus		LLL	Left Lower Lobe
HOB	Head of Bed		LLQ	Left Lower Quadrant
HPI	History of Present Illness		LMP	Last Menstrual Period
HR	Heart Rate		LOC	Level of Consciousness
HS	Hour of sleep; bedtime		LP	Lumbar Puncture
HTN	Hypertension		LUL	Left Upper Lobe
Hx	History		LUQ	Left Upper Quadrant

M		P	
mcg	Microgram	PCXR	Portable Chest X-ray
mEq	Milliequivalent	PE	Pulmonary Embolism
mg	Milligram	PEG	Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy
MI	Myocardial infarction	PEJ	Percutaneous Endoscopic Jejunostomy
ml	Milliliter	PERLA	Pupils equal, reactive to light and accommodation
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	PET	Positron Emission Tomography
MRSA	Methicillin-Resistant Staph Aureus	pH	Hydrogen ion concentration
MS	Multiple Sclerosis	PICC	Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter
MVI	Multivitamin	PMH	Past Medical History
N		PMI	Point of Maximum Impulse
N/A	Not Applicable	PNS	Peripheral Nervous System
Na ⁺	Sodium	p.o.	By mouth
NaCl	Sodium Chloride	POD	Postoperative Day
NAD	No Active Disease	POS	Positive
NC	Nasal Cannula	Postop	Postoperatively
NEB	Nebulizer	PPN	Peripheral Parental Nutrition
NEG	Negative	PRBC	Packed Red Blood Cells
NG	Nasogastric	preop	Preoperatively
NIDDM	Non-insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus	p.r.n.	As necessary
NKA	No Known Allergies	pt	Patient
NKDA	No known Drug Allergies	PT	Physical Therapy/Prothrombin time
NOC	Night	PTA	Prior to Admission
NPO	Nothing by mouth	PTT	Partial Thromboplastin Time
NS	Normal Saline	PVD	Peripheral Vascular Disease
NSAIDS	Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs	Q	
NSG	Nursing	QA	Quality Assurance
NSR	Normal Sinus Rhythm	QI	Quality Improvement
N&V	Nausea & Vomiting	QID	Four times daily
O		R	
O ₂	Oxygen	R	Right or Rectal
OD	Right eye	RA	Room Air/Rheumatoid Arthritis
OOB	Out of Bed	RBC	Red Blood Count
OR	Operating Room	RDS	Respiratory Distress Syndrome
ORIF	Open Reduction and Internal Fixation	REG	Regular
ortho	Orthopedics	rehab	Rehabilitation
OS	Left Eye	REM	Rapid Eye Movement
OT	Occupational Therapy	RLL	Right Lower Lobe
OU	Both eyes	RLQ	Right Lower Quadrant
P		RML	Right Middle Lobe
p	After/post	R/O	Rule out
P	Pulse	ROM	Range of Motion
PACU	Post Anesthesia Care Unit	RR	Respiratory Rate
p.c.	After meals	RUL	Right Upper Lobe
PCA	Patient Controlled Analgesia	RUQ	Right Upper Quadrant
PCEA	Patient Controlled Epidural Analgesia	Rx	Prescription
PCP	Primary Care Provider		

S		U	
s	Without (or WO)	UA	Urinalysis
S	Saline	UAP	Unlicensed assistive personnel
SAT	Saturation	UE	Upper Extremity
S/Sx	Signs and Symptoms	UES	Upper Esophageal Sphincter
SBO	Small Bowel Obstruction	UGI	Upper Gastrointestinal
SBP	Systolic Blood Pressure	umb	Umbilicus
SDS	Same Day Surgery	UNK	Unknown
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility	URI	Upper Respiratory Infection
SOB	Shortness of Breath	US	Ultrasound
S/P	Status Post	UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
SR	Sinus Rhythm	V	
STAT	Immediately	VC	Vital Capacity
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease	v fib	Ventricular Fibrillation
subl	Sublingual/under the tongue	VIT	Vitamin
subq	Subcutaneous	VO	Verbal Order
susp	Suspension	vol	Volume
SVT	Supraventricular tachycardia	VS	Vital Signs
Sx	Symptoms	V tach	Ventricular Tachycardia
T		W	
T	Temperature	WA	While Awake
T&A	Tonsillectomy & Adenoidectomy	WBC	White Blood Count
tab.	Tablet	WC	Wheelchair
tachy	Tachycardia	WNL	Within Normal Limits
TAH	Total Abdominal Hysterectomy	WT	Weight
TB	Tuberculosis	X	
T&C	Type & Cross Match		
TCDB	Turn, Cough, Deep Breathe	Y	
TEDS	Thromboembolic Disease Stockings	YO	Year(s) old
TEE	Transesophageal Echocardiogram		
tele	Telemetry		
TF	Tube Feeding		
THR	Total Hip Replacement		
TIA	Transient Ischemic Attack		
TID	Three times daily		
TKR	Total Knee Replacement		
TO	Telephone Order		
tol	Tolerated		
TORB	Telephone Order Readback		
TPN	Total Parental Nutrition		
TPR	Temperature Pulse Respirations		
TURP	Transurethral Resection of Prostate		
Tx	Treatment		