

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

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			