



Approved Medical Abbreviations

The following is a list of approved medical abbreviations. In general, the use of abbreviations should be limited to this list.

A&O x 3	- alert and oriented to person, place and time
A&O x 4	- alert and oriented to person, place, time and event
A-FIB	- atrial fibrillation
AAA	- abdominal aortic aneurysm
ABC	- airway, breathing, circulation
ABD	- abdomen (abdominal)
ACLS	- advanced cardiac life support
AKA	- above the knee amputation
ALS	- advanced life support
AMA	- against medical advice
AMS	- altered mental status
AMT	- amount
APPROX	- approximately
ASA	- aspirin
ASSOC	- associated
BG	- blood glucose
BILAT	- bilateral
BKA	- below the knee amputation
BLS	- basic life support
BM	- bowel movement
BP	- blood pressure
BS	- breath sounds
BVM	- bag-valve-mask
C-SECTION	- caesarean section
C-SPINE	- cervical spine
C/O	- complaint of (complains of)
CA	- cancer
CABG	- coronary artery bypass graft
CAD	- coronary artery disease
CATH	- catheter
CC	- chief complaint
CEPH	- cephalic
CHF	- congestive heart failure
CNS	- central nervous system
COPD	- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP	- chest pain
CPR	- cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CSF	- cerebrospinal fluid
CT	- cat scan
CVA	- cerebrovascular accident (stroke)



Approved Medical Abbreviations

D5W	- 5% dextrose in water
DKA	- diabetic ketoacidosis
DNR	- do not resuscitate
DOA	- dead on arrival
DT	- delirium tremens
Dx	- diagnosis
ECG	- electrocardiogram
EEG	- electroencephelogram
ET	- endotracheal
ETOH	- ethanol (alcohol)
ETT	- endotracheal tube
EXT	- external (extension)
FB	- foreign body
FLEX	- flexion
Fx	- fracture
g	- gram(s)
GI	- gastrointestinal
GSW	- gunshot wound
gtts	- drops
GU	- gastrourinary
GYN	- gynecology (gynecological)
H/A	- headache
HEENT	- head, eyes, ears, nose, throat
HR	- heart rate (hour)
HTN	- hypertension
Hx	- history
ICP	- intracranial pressure
ICU	- intensive care unit
IM	- intramuscular
IV	- intravenous
JVD	- jugular vein distension
kg	- kilogram
KVO	- keep vein open



Approved Medical Abbreviations

L-SPINE	- lumbar spine
L/S-SPINE	- lumbar sacral spine
L&D	- labor and delivery
LAT	- lateral
lb	- pound
LLQ	- left lower quadrant
LMP	- last menstrual period
LOC	- level of consciousness (loss of consciousness)
LR	- lactated ringers
LUQ	- left upper quadrant
MAST	- military anti-shock trousers
mcg	- microgram(s)
MED	- medicine
mg	- milligram(s)
MI	- myocardial infarction (heart attack)
min	- minimum / minute
MS	- mental status
MS	- mental status change
MSO4	- morphine
MVC	- motor vehicle crash
N/V	- nausea/vomiting
N/V/D	- nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
NAD	- no apparant distress
NC	- nasal cannula
NEB	- nebulizer
NKDA	- no known drug allergies
NRB	- non-rebreather
NS	- normal saline
NSR	- normal sinus rhythm
OB/GYN	- obstetrics/gynecology
PALP	- palpation
PAC	- premature atrial contraction
PE	- pulmonary embolus
PEARL	- pupils equal and reactive to light
PMHx	- past medical history
PO	- orally
PRB	- partial rebreather
PRN	- as needed
PT	- patient
PVC	- premature ventricular contraction



Approved Medical Abbreviations

RLQ	- right lower quadrant
RUQ	- right upper quadrant
Rx	- medicine
RXN	- reaction
S/P	- status post
SOB	- shortness of breath
SQ	- subcutaneous
ST	- sinus tachycardia
SVT	- supraventricular tachycardia
Sx	- symptom
SZ	- seizure
T-SPINE	- thoracic spine
T	- temperature
TIA	- transient ischemic attack
TKO	- to keep open (refers to IV's - same as KVO)
Tx	- treatment
UOA	- upon our arrival
URI	- upper respiratory infection
UTI	- urinary tract infection
VF	- ventricular fibrillation
VS	- vital signs
VT	- ventricular tachycardia
WAP	- wandering atrial pacemaker
WNL	- within normal limits
YO (YOA)	- years old (years of age)
M or ♂	- male
F or ♀	- female
+	- positive
-	- negative
?	- questionable
Ψ	- psychiatric
~	- approximately
>	- greater than
<	- less than
=	- equal



Approved Medical Abbreviations

↑	- upper (increased)
ā	- before
p̄	- after
c̄	- with
s	- without
Δ	- change
L	- left
R	- right
↓	- lower (decreased)
1°	- primary
2°	- secondary