

Common Medical Documentation Abbreviations & Symbols

Abdomen	Abd	Abdominal aortic aneurysm	AAA
Acute myocardial infarction	AMI	Adult respiratory distress syndrome	ARDS
After		Against medical advice	AMA
Alcohol, Ethanol	ETOH	Alert and oriented	A/O
Alcohol on breath	AOB	Anterior	Ant
Approximate	≈	As needed	prn
At	@	Automated external defibrillator	AED
Arterial blood gas	ABG	Advanced life support	ALS
Bag-valve-mask	BVM	Basic life support	BLS
Before (ante)		Before eating	a.c.
Blood sugar	BS	Body surface area	BSA
Bilateral	bilat		
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	CPR	Cardiovascular	CV
Celsius	C°	Change	Δ
Chest X-ray	CXR	Chief Complaint	CC
Central Nervous System	CNS	Cerebrovascular accident	CVA
Cerebrospinal fluid	CSF	Clear	cl
Complains/Complaining of	c/o	Continuous positive airway pressure	CPAP
Cubic centimeter	cc	Cerebral Palsy	CP
Centimeter	cm	Central venous pressure	CVP
Chest Pain	CP		
Date of birth	DOB	Deciliter	dL
Dead on arrival	DOA	Dead on scene	DOS
Decreased	↓	Diagnosis	Dx
Do not resuscitate	DNR	Drop(s)	gtt(s)
Drops per minute	gtts/min	Dyspnea on exertion	DOE
Ear, Nose, & Throat	ENT	Electrocardiogram	ECG
Electroencephalogram	EEG	Endotracheal tube	ETT
Estimated time of arrival	ETA	Estimated date of confinement	EDC
Every	q	Extremity	ext
Female	♀	Four times per day	qid
Fracture	fx		
Gastrointestinal	GI	Genitourinary	GU
Gram	g or gm	Grain	gr
Gunshot wound	GSW	Glasgow coma scale	GCS
Gynecological	GYN		

Common Medical Abbreviations

Headache	HA or H/A	Head, eyes, ears, nose & throat	HEENT
Heart rate	HR	Hemoglobin	Hgb
Heart sounds	HS	History	Hx
History & Physical	H&P	Hour	h, hr,
Hydrogen ion concentration	pH	hypertension	HTN
Increased	↑	Inferior	Inf
Intracardiac	IC	Inspiratory	Insp
Intramuscular	IM	Intravenous	IV
Intraosseous	IO	Intravenous push	IVP
Irregular	irreg		
Joint	jt	Jugular venous distention	JVD
Joules	J, j		
Kilogram	kg	Keep vein open	KVO
Laceration	Lac	Level of consciousness	LOC
Left		Less than	<
Left Lower Quadrant	LLQ	Left ventricle	LV
Long spine board	LSB	Liter	L
Liters per minute	LPM, L/min	Left Ventricular Hypertrophy	LVH
Male	♂	Microgram	mcg, µg
Medications	Med or Meds	Milligram	mg
Milliequivalent	mEq	Millimeter	mm
Milliliter	ml	Minute	min
Millimeters of mercury	mm Hg	More than	>
Moderate	Mod.		
Nasal cannula	NC	Nasogastric	NG
Nausea & vomiting	N/V	No, not, none	∅
No known allergies	NKA	No known drug allergies	NKDA
Normal range of motion	NROM	Not applicable	N/A
Nothing by mouth	NPO		
Obstetrical	OB	Oropharyngeal airway	OPA
Occasional	Occ	Overdose	OD
Orally	po	Oxygen	O ₂
Pain	Pn or Px	Palpation	Palp
Pedestrian	ped	Past medical history	PMH
Patient	Pt	Physical Exam	PE
Point of maximal impulse	PMI	Pupils equal and reactive to light	PEARL

Common Medical Abbreviations

Positive end expiratory pressure	PEEP	Pounds per square inch	psi
Primary or first degree	1	Posterior	Post.
Prior to arrival	PTA	Pulmonary Embolism	PE
Private Medical Doctor	PMD	Privately owned vehicle	POV
Radiates to	→	Regarding	re
Range of motion	ROM	Right upper quadrant	RUQ
Respiratory or Respirations	Resp	Right lower quadrant	RLQ
Right		Rule out	R/O
Secondary to	2	Superior	Sup.
Semi-reclined		Sitting	
Shortness of breath	SOB	Subcutaneous	SC, SQ
Signs and Symptoms	S&S or S/S	Standing	
Sublingual	SL	Supine	
Temporomandibular joint	TMJ	Therapy or Treatment	Rx
Three times per day	tid	To keep open	TKO
Times (multiply)	X	Transport or Transmit	Tx
Third degree	3	Transient ischemic attack	TIA
Treatment	Tx	Tuberculosis	TB
Two times per day	bid		
Unknown	unk	Urinary tract infection	UTI
Upper respiratory infection	URI	Unconscious	Unc
Vital Signs	VS		
Warm and dry	W/D	Well-developed/well-nourished	WD/WN
Weight	Wt	Year-old	y/o
With		Within normal limits	WNL
Without			