



Common Abbreviations Used in Medical Charts

Pharmaceuticals, Dosage, and Units

cap	Capsule
tab	Tablet
q.d.	Take <i>once daily</i>
q.o.d.	Take <i>once every other day</i>
b.i.d.	Take <i>twice (2 times) daily</i>
t.i.d.	Take <i>3 times daily</i>
q.i.d.	Take <i>4 times daily</i>
qAM	Take once each <i>morning</i>
qPM	Take once each <i>evening</i>
q?h	Take once every <i>? hours</i> (where ? can be any number)
a.c.	Take <i>before meals</i>
h.s.	Take <i>at bedtime</i>
qhs	Take once at bedtime
p.o.	Take <i>by mouth (orally)</i>
npo	Take <i>nothing by mouth</i>
p.r.n.	Take <i>as needed</i> (e.g. take pain medication only when it hurts)
ut dict	Take <i>as directed</i> (e.g. take medicine as instructed by the doctor or nurse)
mL	millilitres
L	litres
g	grams
mg	milligrams
mcg	micrograms
cc	cubic centimetres (<i>in lowercase to avoid confusion with Chief Complaint</i>)
IU	International units of quantity
gtt	Drops (<i>in lowercase to avoid confusion with glucose tolerance test</i>)
IM	Intramuscular (<i>through the muscle</i>)
IV	Intravenous (<i>through the vein</i>)
SQ	Subcutaneous (<i>into the fatty tissue under the skin</i>)

Reference Anatomy

LLQ	Left lower quadrant of abdomen
LUQ	Left upper quadrant of abdomen
RLQ	Right lower quadrant of abdomen
RUQ	Right upper quadrant of abdomen
O.D.	Right eye
O.S.	Left eye
O.U.	Both eyes

Vital Signs

BP	Blood pressure
P	Pulse
T	Temperature
VSS	Vital signs stable

Pulmonary

SOB	Shortness of breath
DOE	Dyspnea on exertion (Shortness of breath with activity)

Cardiovascular

BP	Blood pressure
BPM	Beats per minute
CBC	Complete blood count
DBP	Diastolic blood pressure
H&H	Hemoglobin and hematocrit
HR	Heart rate
HTN	Hypertension
SBP	Systolic blood pressure

Urinary

Anuric	Not producing urine
BMP	Basal metabolic panel (electrolytes, creatinine, and glucose)
UTI	Urinary tract infection

Dealing with Patients and Diagnosis

Ad Lib	At liberty (e.g. a patient may move in and out of bed ad lib)
C/O	Complaint of – the patient's expressed concern
CC	Chief complaint – the patient's main concern
D/C or DC	Discontinue or discharge (e.g. D/C drug use)
DDX	Differential diagnosis – the diagnostic possibilities being considered
DNR	Do not resuscitate – specific order not to revive a patient artificially
FX	Fracture
H&P	History and physical examination
H/O or h/o	History of – a past event that occurred
HA	Headache
<i>in vitro</i>	In the laboratory
<i>in vivo</i>	In the body
N/V	Nausea or vomiting
PERRLA	Pupils equal, round, and reactive to light and accommodation
R/O	Rule out – used when figuring out the correct diagnosis
REB	Rebound (e.g. rebound tenderness)
S/P	Status post (e.g. S/P surgery)
Wt	Weight