

Appendix: Common Abbreviations in the Hospital Setting

From *Hospital Unit Administration* by Nancy Weatherhead

A		B		C	
AAA	abdominal aortic aneurysm	ATD	admission, transfer, discharge	C7, Chem 7	electrolytes, BUN, Crea, and blood sugar
AAT	activity as tolerated	AU	both ears	C-Diff	<i>Clostridioides difficile</i>
A&P	anatomy and physiology	Ax	axillary	c-spine	cervical spine
abd	abdominal			CA	cancer
ABG	arterial blood gas			CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
a.c.	before meals			CAD	coronary artery disease
ACLS	advanced cardiac life support			cal	calorie
ACU	ambulatory care unit			cap	capsule
AD	right ear, advance directive			CAT	computerized axial tomography
ADL	activities of daily living			cath	catheter
ADR	adverse drug reaction			CBC	complete blood count
ad lib	as desired			CBI	continuous bladder irrigation
adm	admission			cc	cubic centimeters
afeb	afebrile, no fever			CC	chief complaint, calorie count
AFB	acid-fast bacillus			CCU	coronary care unit, critical care unit
AKA	above-the-knee amputation			CDA	Canadian Diabetic Association
alb	albumin			CHD	coronary heart disease
ALC	alternate level of care			CHF	congestive heart failure
AMA	against medical advice			CHO	carbohydrate
amal	amalgam			chol	cholesterol
amb	ambulate, walk			Chole	cholecystectomy
AMI	acute myocardial infarction			circ	circumcision
amt	amount			CLS	child life specialist
ANS	automatic nervous system			CNS	central nervous system
ant	anterior			c/o	complains of
AO	alert and oriented			COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
AOx3	alert and oriented to person, time, and place			CP	chest physio
Ap	apical			CPK	creatine phosphokinase
AP	apical pulse, anterior posterior			CPOE	computer physician order entry
appy	appendectomy			CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
aq	aqueous			C/S	Cesarean section, C-section
ARDS	acute respiratory distress syndrome			CSR	central supply, central supply reserve
AS	left ear				
ASA	aspirin				
asap (ASAP)	as soon as possible				
ASO	automatic stop order				
as tol	as tolerated				

CSF cerebrospinal fluid
CSM circulation, sensation and movement
CT computer tomography, chest
CT tube chest tube
CVA cerebrovascular accident
CVICU cardiovascular intensive care unit
CVU cardiovascular unit
cx cervix
CXR chest X-ray
cysto cystography, cystoscopy

D

d/c discontinue
D&C dilation and curettage
DAT diet as tolerated
DAW dispense as written
DB&C deep breathing and coughing
DC discontinue or discharge
del delivery
Del. Rm. delivery room
DI diagnostic imaging
diff differential
DM diabetes mellitus
DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
DNR do not resuscitate
DOA dead on arrival
DOB date of birth
DPT diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus
DRG diagnosis-related grouping
D/S dextrose in saline
DS double strength; day surgery
DT's delirium tremens
DVT deep vein thrombosis
DW distilled water
D5W 5% dextrose in water
Dx diagnosis

E

EAB elective abortion
EBL estimated blood loss
EC enteric coated
ECG/EKG electrocardiogram
ECHO echocardiogram
ED emergency department, erectile dysfunction
EDC estimated date of confinement
EDD estimated date of delivery
EEG electroencephalogram
EENT eyes, ears, nose, throat
EKG/ECG electrocardiogram
ELOS expected length of stay
EMG electromyogram
Endo endoscopic
ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
est estimated
ER emergency room
ET endotracheal
ETA estimated time of arrival
etiol etiology
ETOH ethyl alcohol, intoxicated
EUA examination under anaesthetic
exam examination
exp exploratory
ext external, extract, extraction

F

FB foreign body
FBOA foreign body obstructed airway
FBS fasting blood sugar
FBW fasting blood work
Fem-pop femoral-popliteal
FeWB feather weight bearing
FF full fluids
FFP fresh frozen plasma
F. Fl force fluids
FH family history
FHS fetal heart sounds

FNA fine needle aspiration
Foley indwelling 2-way or 3-way catheter
FP family physician
FSH follicle-stimulating hormone
Ft foot
FTT failure to thrive
FU, F/U follow-up
FUO fever of undetermined origin
FWB full weight bearing
FWW front wheeled walker

G

g, gm grams
G&S group and screen
GA general anesthetic, gestational age
GB gallbladder
GCS Glasgow Coma Scale
GI gastrointestinal
GM general medicine
GS general surgery
GU genitourinary
GTT glucose tolerance test
gtt(s) drop(s)
gyn/gyne gynecology

H

H&H hemoglobin and hematocrit
H&P history and physical
HC home care
HCG human chorionic gonadotrophin
hct hematocrit
HDL high-density lipoprotein
Hep hepatitis
hgb hemoglobin
HIM health information management
HIV human immunodeficiency virus

hr (h) hour		L	MRP most responsible physician
HRT hormone replacement therapy	L lumbar		MRSA multiple-antibiotic- or methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
HOB head of bed	L&D, L/D labour and delivery		MS morphine sulfate; multiple sclerosis
HR heart rate	LA local anaesthetic		MSU midstream urine
hs hour of sleep, bedtime	lac laceration		MVA motor vehicle accident
ht height	lab laboratory		MVP mitral valve prolapse
hx history	lap laparoscopic		MVR mitral valve repair
hyst hysterectomy	lat lateral		
	LD last dose, loading dose		N
	LFTs liver function tests		N&V nausea and vomiting
	liq liquid		Na⁺ sodium
	LLQ, LLL left lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)		NaCl sodium chloride
I	LMP last menstrual period		NAI non-accidental Injury
I&D incision and drainage	LOA leave of absence		NAS no added salt
I&O intake and output	LOC level of consciousness, laxative of choice		N/C nasal cannula
IBS irritable bowel syndrome	LP lumbar puncture		neg negative
ICP intracranial pressure	lt left		neuro neurology
ICU intensive care unit	LTC long-term care		NG nasogastric
IDDM insulin dependent diabetes mellitus	LUQ, LUL left upper quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)		NGT nasogastric tube
IM intramuscular	Lytes electrolytes		nitro nitroglycerine
Ing inguinal		M	NICU neonatal intensive care unit
inh inhalation		MA mental age	NKA no known allergies
inj injection		Mammo mammogram, mammography	NM nuclear medicine
INPT inpatient		MARS medication administration records	NOK next of kin
INR international normalized ratio		MCI mass casualty incident	n/p nasal prongs
IOL intraocular lens		MDI metered dose inhaler	NP nurse practitioner
irrig irrigation		MDU medical day unit	NPO nothing by mouth
Isol isolation		Meds medications	N/S normal saline
IT inhalation therapy		mEq milliequivalents	NSAIDs non-steroidal anti-inflammatories
IUD intrauterine device		MI myocardial infarction	nsg nursing
IV intravenous		min minute	NVD nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
IVDU intravenous drug user		ml millilitre	NVS neurological vital signs
IVF in vitro fertilization		MN midnight	NYD not yet diagnosed
IVP intravenous pyelogram, IV push		MOM milk of magnesia	
		MOP minor outpatient	
		MR medical records	
		MRI magnetic resonance imagery	
J, K			
JP Jackson Pratt drain			
K⁺ potassium			
KCl potassium chloride			
KUB kidney, ureter, bladder			

O	PI process intervention, patient information screen	qns quantity not sufficient
O2 oxygen	PICC peripherally inserted central catheter	qod/q2d every other day
OB obstetrics	PICU pediatric intensive care unit	qs quantity sufficient
O/C on call	PID pelvic inflammatory disease	R
OCP oral contraceptive pills	PKU phenylketonuria	r (R) rectal
OD right eye, overdose	PLT platelet	R (resp) respirations, rectal
OE order entry	PMS premenstrual syndrome	RAIU radioactive iodine uptake study
oint ointment	PNS peripheral nervous system	RBC red blood cell/count
OOB out of bed	po by mouth	RBS, GLUR random blood sugar (not fasting)
O/P outpatient	POD postoperative day	reg regular
OPD outpatient department	poss possible	RL ringer's lactate
OR operating room	post (pos) posterior	RLQ, RLL right lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung)
ORIF open reduction, internal fixation	postop, PostOp postoperative	RML right middle lobe (lung)
ORTH/Ortho orthopedics	pp (p.p.) postprandial (after eating), pedal pulse	RN registered nurse
os mouth	PR per rectum	R/O rule out
OS left eye	PRBC packed red blood cells	ROI release of information
OT occupational therapy	preop, PreOp before surgery	ROM range of motion
OTC over-the-counter	prn as needed, whenever necessary	RPN registered practical nurse
OU both eyes	PSA prostate surface antigen	rpt repeat
oz ounce	PSC Presurgical Clinic	R.R. recovery room; respiratory rate
P	PSW personal support worker	RT respiratory therapy, respiratory therapist
p after	pt patient	RUQ, RLL right upper quadrant, lobe
P pulse	PT physical therapy, prothrombin time	rt right
P & A percussion and auscultation	PTT partial thromboplastin time	RV residual volume
PA physician assistant	PV per vagina	Rx prescription
PACS picture archiving and communication system	PVR post-void residual	S
PACU post-anesthetic care unit	PWB partial weight-bearing	s without
palp palpation	Px physical exam; prognosis	S&S signs and symptoms
pc after meals	PXR portable X-ray	SAB spontaneous abortion
PCA patient-controlled anesthesia	Q	Sats oxygen/blood saturation level
PE physical exam, pulmonary embolism	q every	SA sinoatrial
PEDS pediatrics	qd every day	SB small bowel
per by or through	qh every hour	SBO small bowel obstruction
PET positron emission tomography	q2h, q3h, ... every two hours, every three hours, ...	sc subcutaneous
PFT pulmonary function test	qhs every night at bedtime	s/c subcutaneous
PH past history	qid four times a day	

SCI spinal cord injury	T	U
Scope arthroscopy	T temperature; thoracic	UC urine culture
SD straight drainage	T & A tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy	UGI upper GI series
SDC surgical daycare	tab tablet	UGI & SBFT upper GI with small bowel follow through
SDM substitute decision-maker	tachy tachycardic	Umb umbilicus
SGOT serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase	TAH total abdominal hysterectomy	unc. unconscious
SGPT serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase	TB tuberculosis	ung ointment
SIDS sudden infant death syndrome	TEE transesophageal echocardiogram	unk unknown
Sig label/write	temp (T) temperature	ur urine
SL sublingual	TFF thickened full fluids	URI upper respiratory infection
S/L saline lock	THA total hip arthroplasty	US ultrasound, ultrasonic
SNAT suspected non-accidental trauma	TIA transient ischemic attack	UTI urinary tract infection
SOAP subjective, objective, assessment, plan	Tid three times a day	V
SOB shortness of breath	TKA total knee arthroplasty	V fib ventricular fibrillation
spec specimen	TMJ temporomandibular joint	V tach ventricular tachycardia
SQ, sub q subcutaneous	tol tolerated	Vag vaginal
SSE soap suds enema	TNA total nutritional admixture, total knee arthroplasty	VC vital capacity
stat immediately	TPN total parenteral nutrition	vit vitamin
STD/STI sexually transmitted disease	TPR temperature, pulse, respirations	vo verbal order
STSG split-thickness skin graft	tr tincture	vol volume
Supp suppository	trach tracheotomy, tracheostomy	VRE Vancomycin-resistant enterococci
susp suspension	TSH thyroid-stimulating hormone	V/S vital signs
SVD spontaneous vaginal delivery	TT tetanus toxoid	VSA vital signs absent
SVT supraventricular tachycardia	TTWB touch-toe weight-bearing	VSS vital signs stable
SW social work	TUR transurethral resection	WA, w/a while awake
Sx symptoms, surgery	TURBT transurethral resection bladder tumour	WBAT weight bearing as tolerated
	TURP transurethral resection prostate	WBC white blood cell/count
	TV tidal volume	w/c wheelchair
	TVH total vaginal hysterectomy	WNL within normal limits
	TWE tap water enema	wt weight
	TX traction	X, Y, Z
		y/o year(s) old