Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

A ................. assessment
aa .................. of each
AA .................. Alcoholics Anonymous; Aplastic anemia
AAO ............... abdominal aortic aneurysm
AOX3 ........... alert, awake, oriented to time, place & person
AAROM ........... active assistive range of motion
abd .............. abdomen, abdominal, abduction
ABG ............. arterial blood gases
abn .............. abnormal
ABW ............. actual body weight
Abx ............ antibiotics
AC ................ before meals
AD .............. Alzheimer’s Disease,
ADA ........ American Diabetes Association,
Add .............. adduction
Adeq ............ adequate
ADH .......... antidiuretic hormone
ADHD ........ Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder
ADL ............ activities of daily living
ad lib .......... as often as desired
Adm ............ admission
ADR ............ allergic drug reaction
AED ............ automatic external defibrillator
AF .............. atrial fibrillation
afeb .......... afebrile
AIDS .......... acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AKA ........ above the knee amputation
alb ............ albumin
ALD ............ alcoholic liver disease
alk ............. alkaline
alk phos, ALKP .. alkaline phosphatase
ALL ............ acute lymphocytic leukemia
ALOC ........... altered level of conscious
ALS ........ Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ALT .............. alanine amino-transaminase
A.M. ............ before noon
A-Mask .......... aerosol mask
AMA ........ against medical advice, American Medical Association
amb ............. ambulatory
amb care ........ ambulatory care
AMI ........... acute myocardial infarction
AML ............. acute myelogenous leukemia
amp .............. ampule
amt .............. amount
ANA ........... antinuclear antibody
ANC ........... Absolute neutrophil count
ANLL ........ acute non-lymphocytic leukemia
Ant ............. anterior
ante .......... before
A/O ............ alert and oriented
ADOM ........ adult onset diabetes mellitus
AOM ........... acute otitis media
AP & LAT ....... anteroposterior and lateral
A & P Repair .... anterior and posterior repair
approx ........ approximately

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appt ........ appointment
aPTT .......... activated partial thromboplastin time
aq ................ water
aq dist .......... distilled water
ARDS .......... acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARF .......... acute renal failure
ARMD .......... age related macular degeneration
AROM .......... active range of motion
arwy ........... airway
AS ........... aortic stenosis
ASAP ........ as soon as possible
ASCVD .......... arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASHD .......... arteriosclerotic heart disease
as tol .......... as tolerated
AST ........ aspartate amino-transaminase
Astig .......... astigmatism
atr fib .......... atrial fibrillation
AUR ........ acute urinary retention
ax .............. axillary
AV .............. arterioventricular
avg ............ average
AVM .......... arteriovenous malformation
AV node ......... atrioventricular node

B
Ba ............ barium
bact ............ bacteria
Ba. Swallow ... barium swallow
BBB .......... bundle branch block
BC ............ blood culture, bedside commode
BCP .......... birth control pills
BCSW ........ Board Certified Social Worker
BE ............ barium
BG ........... blood glucose
BIPAP .......... Biphasic Positive Airway Pressure
bicarb .......... bicarbonate
bid .......... twice daily
bilat ........... bilateral
bili ............ bilirubin
BK ............ below the knee
BKA ........ below the knee amputation
BLE ........ both lower extremities
Bleph .......... blepharoplasty
BLS .......... Basic Life Support
BM ............ bowel movement
bmd .......... bone mineral density
BMP .......... Basic Metabolic Panel
BMR .......... basal metabolic rate
BMT .......... bone marrow transplant
BOM .......... bilateral otitis media
BPD .......... Bipolar Disorder
BP .......... blood pressure
BPH .......... benign prostatic hypertrophy
bpm .......... beats per minute
BR ............ bed rest

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C

C. centigrade, concentration
C & S culture and sensitivity
Ca+ calcium
CA carcinoma
CABG coronary artery bypass graft
CaCl2 calcium chloride
CAD coronary artery disease
Ca kilocalorie calories, calcium
CAP Cancer of the prostate, capsule
CAPD continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
carb carbohydrate
cat cataract
cath catheter, catheterization, catheterized
CBC complete blood count
cc cubic centimeter
CCA calcium channel antagonist
CCB calcium channel blocker
CCMS clear catch midstream
CCU coronary care unit
CDC Center for Disease Control
CD & L Spine cervical, dorsal and lumbar spine
CDE Certified Diabetes Educator
CDU chemical dependency unit
CE continuing education
CEA carcinoembryonic antigen
CEO chief executive officer
cerv cervical
CETN Certified Enterostomal Therapy Nurse
CF cystic fibrosis
CHD coronary heart disease
chem chemistry
CHF congestive heart failure
chg change
CHL conductive hearing loss
CHO carbohydrate
cholesterol
CHPX chickenpox
chr chronic
CHTN chronic hypertension
Cl cardiac index
CIC clean intermittent catheterization
CIRC circumcision

CIS carcinoma in situ
ck check, creatine kinase
cl chloride, clearance, contact lens
CLL chronic lymphocytic leukemia
cm centimeter
CML chronic myelogenous leukemia
CMP Comprehensive Metabolic Panel
CMS circulation, movement, sensation
CMV cytomegalovirus
CNP Certified Nurse Practitioner
CNS central nervous system, Clinical Nurse Specialist
CNI, CNII, etc. cranial nerve I, II, etc.
c/o complaining of
COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CO2 carbon dioxide
CP chest pain, cerebral palsy
C & P cystoscopy and pyelogram
CRA chronic renal failure
CRI chronic renal insufficiency
CRNA certified registered nurse anesthetist
CRT certified respiratory therapist
cryo cryosurgery
CS Central Supply
C&S culture & sensitivity
CSF cerebrospinal fluid
CT computer tomography, chest tube
CTA clear to auscultation
cult culture
CV cerebrovascular, cardiovascular
CVA cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
CVL central venous line
CWMS color, warmth, movement, sensation
CXR chest x-ray
Cysto cystoscopy/cystoscopic

D

D. Distance, dose
DBE Diabetic Education
DBP diastolic blood pressure
Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

D/C…………….. discontinue, discharge
D & C……………dilatation and curettage
D & D           diarrhea and dehydration
DDD            degenerative disc disease
decr            decreased
Derm          dermatology, dermatitis
DES          dry eye syndrome
dev          deviation
DHT          dehydration
diam         diameter
diff          differential
Dil           dilute
Dils          dilutions
dis          disease
Disp          disposition
Dist         distance
DJD          degenerative joint disease
DKA        diabetic ketoacidosis
dl          deciliter
DM          diabetes mellitus
DME         Durable Medical Equipment
DNR………….. do not resuscitate
DO           Doctor of Osteopathy
DOB        date of birth
DOE        dyspnea on exertion
DPOA        Durable Power of Attorney
doz         dozen
DPA        Discharge Planning Assessment
DPI        Dry Power Inhaler
dr          dram
drng        drainage
D/T………….. due to
DRE        Digital Rectal Exam
DRG        diagnostic-related group
DRSG        dressing
DT        delirium tremens
DTR        deep tendon reflexes
DU        duodenal ulcer
DUB        dysfunctional uterine bleeding
D & V        diarrhea and vomiting
DVT        deep vein thrombosis
Dx……………..Diagnosis

E
ea            each
EAC        external auditory canal
EBL        estimated blood loss
EBV        Epstein-Barr virus
EC        enteric-coated
ECC        Emergency Care Center
ECCE        extracapsular cataract extraction
ECF        extend care facility
ECG        electrocardiogram
echo        echocardiogram
ECT        electroconvulsive therapy
ED        emergency department

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EEG…………… electroencephalogram
EENT        eyes, ears, nose and throat
EF…………… ejection fraction
e.g.        for example
EGD        esophagogastroduodenoscopy
EHC        Employee Health Clinic
EKG        electrocardiogram
elev        elevation
ELISA      enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
elix        elixir
EMG        electromyogram
EMS        Emergency Medical Services
EMT        Emergency Medical Technician
ENDO      endoscopy
ENT        ears, nose and throat
ENUC      enucleation
EOM        extraocular movement
EPAP      Expiratory Positive Airway Pressure
Epith      epithelium
EPO        erythromycin
EPS        extrapyramidal symptoms
ER        emergency room
ERCP      endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ERT       estrogen replacement therapy
ERV       expiratory reserve volume
ESLD      end stage liver disease
Esoph      esophagus
ESR       erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ESRD      end stage renal disease
EST       electroshock therapy
ET        endotracheal,
ETCO2      end tidal carbon dioxide
etc        and so forth
etio        etiology
Etch        ethanol
ETOH      alcohol
ETT        endotracheal tube, Enterostomal Therapy
ex        excision, exercise
exam        examination
exp        expiration
exp. lap.   exploratory laparotomy
ext        extract, extension, external exam
extr        extremity
Ext. Rot    external rotation

F
F…………….. Fahrenheit
FB        foreign body, followed by
FBS        fasting blood sugar
FC        foley catheter
FDA        Food & Drug Administration
Fe        iron
FEF        forced expiratory flow
Feb        febrile

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Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

FEM-POP .......... femoral-popliteal
FeSO4 .............. ferrous sulfate
FEV1 ............... forced expiratory volume in one second
FFP ................. fresh frozen plasma
FH .................. family history
FIF ................. forced inspiratory flow
FiO2 ............... fraction of inspired oxygen
fl .................. fluid
fl dr .............. fluid dram
fl oz .............. fluid ounce
Flex ............... flexion
FM .................. face mask
FOB ................. fecal occult blood test
FSBS ............... Finger Stick Blood Sugar
FSH ................. follicle stimulating hormone
FTT ............... failure to thrive
F/U ................ follow-up
FUB ................ functional uterine bleeding
FUO ............... fever, unknown origin
FVC ............... forced vital capacity
FWB ............... full weight bearing
Fx ................ fracture

G

G ................. Gravida, gram
GAD ............... generalized anxiety disorder
GB ............... gallbladder
GB Series ........ gallbladder series
GC ............... gonorrhea, gonococcus
GCS ............. Glasgow Coma Score
gen ............... general
GERD .......... gastroesophageal reflux disease
GFR ............... glomerular filtration rate
GGT ............. gamma glutamyl transferase
GGTP .............. gamma glutamyl transpeptidase
GH ............... growth hormone
GI ................ gastrointestinal
GI Series ........ gastrointestinal tract study
glob .......... globulin
glu ............. glucose
gm .............. gram
GN ............... glomerulonephritis
GP ............... General Practitioner
g ............... grain
GRH .............. growth releasing hormone
GSW .......... gunshot wound
G-Tube ............ gastrostomy tube
gtt ............... drops
GTT ............... glucose tolerance test
GU ............... genitourinary
GVH ............ graft versus host (reaction)
GVHD ........ graft versus host disease
GYN ............ Gynecology

H

HA ............... hearing aide, headache
hal ............. hallucinations
H&P ............. history and physical
HAV .............. Hepatitis A virus
Hb, Hgb .......... hemoglobin
HBIG ........ Hepatitis A immune globulin
HBP .......... high blood pressure
HbsAg .......... hepatitis B surface antigen
HBV .............. Hepatitis B virus
HC ................ home care
HCO3 .............. bicarbonate
Hct ............... hematocrit
HCVD ........ hypertensive Cardiovascular disease
HEENT .......... head, eyes, ears, nose, throat
HEPA ........... high-efficiency particulate air
Heplock .......... heparin lock
HF ............... heart failure
Hg ............... mercury
hgb .......... hemoglobin
HGH ............. human growth hormone
HH .......... hiatal hernia; Home Health
HHC ............. Home Health Care
HNN ............. hand held nebulizer
H&H ........ Hemoglobin & hematocrit
H/I ............. homicidal ideation
Hib .......... hemophilus influenza type B
Hist ........ histoplasmosis
HIV ............. human immunodeficiency virus
HJR ........ Hepatocellular reflux
HL ............. heparin lock; hearing loss
HLA ........ human leukocyte antigen
HO ............ history of
HOB ............ head of bed
HP ............ hot packs
hr ............. hour, heart rate
HRT ........ hormone replacement therapy
h.s .......... at bedtime; hour of sleep
HSV ........ herpes simplex virus
ht ................ height
HTLV-III ...... human T-cell lymphotropic virus type III
HTN ........ hypertensive, hypertension
hx ............. history
HZ ............. herpes zoster
HzV .......... herpes zoster virus
H2O ........ water
ICBG ................ iliac crest bone graft  
ICCE ................ intraocular cataract extraction  
ICF ................... intermediate care facility  
ICH ................... intracranial hemorrhage  
ICP ................... intracranial pressure  
ICS .................. intercostal space  
ICU ................... intensive care unit  
I.D. ........................ Infectious Diseases  
IDDM ................. insulin dependent diabetes mellitus  
Ig ..................... immunoglobulin  
IgG ................... Immunoglobulin G  
IHD ................... ischemic heart disease  
ICP .................. increased intracranial pressure  
IJ ...................... internal jugular  
IM .................... intramuscular  
IMP .................. impression  
Incr ................... increased  
INF ................... interferon  
Inf .................... infiltration  
INR ................... international normalized ratio  
Instr. ................. instructions  
insuff ............... insufficient  
int ................... internal  
Int Med ............ internal medicine  
IOL ................... intraocular lens  
IOP ................... intraocular pressure  
ITO .................. intraocular tension  
IPAP .................. Inspiratory Positive Airway Pressure  
IPPB ............... intermittent positive pressure breathing  
IQ ..................... intelligence quotient  
IR .................... internal rotation  
IRV .................. inspiratory reserve volume  
ISH .................. isolated systolic hypertension  
ISOL ................. isolation  
IV .................... intravenous  
IVC .................. inspiratory vital capacity  
IVDA ................ intravenous drug abuse  
IVF .................. intravenous fluids  
IVP .................. IV push  
K  
K ...................... cornea  
K+.................... potassium  
KA .................. keratoacanthoma  

J  
JP .................. Jackson-Pratt drain  
Jr ................... junior  
JRA ................ juvenile rheumatoid arthritis  
J Tube ............... Jejunostomy tube  
Juv .................. juvenile  
JVD .................. jugular venous distention  
JVP .................. jugular venous pressure  

K  
kcal ................ kilocalorie  
KCL ................ potassium chloride  
Kel .................. elimination rate constant  
KG .................. kilogram  
k ................... kilometer  
KP04 ................. potassium phosphate  
KUB ................... kidney, ureter, bladder  
KVO .................. keep vein open  
L  
L .................. liter, lower, left  
LA .................. left atrium, left arm  
L & A ................ light and accommodation  
lab .................. laboratory  
lac .................. laceration  
lateral ................ lateral  
LAVH ................ laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy  
lb .................. pound  
LBDB ............... left bundle branch block  
LBPA ................ low back pain  
LDL .................. low density lipoprotein  
LDN .................. Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist  
LE .................. lupus erythematosus, lower extremity  
LES .................. lower esophageal sphincter  
LFT .................. liver function tests  
lg ................... large  
LHC .................. left heart catheterization  
lithium ................ lithium  
LIH .................. left inguinal hernia  
lIq .................. liquid  
LKS ................ liver, kidneys, spleen  
L/L .................. lids and lashes  
LLE .................. left lower extremity  
LLL .................. left lower lobe, left lower lid  
LLQ .................. left lower quadrant  
LLWC ............... long leg walking cast  
LMP .................. last menstrual period  
LN .................. lymph node  
LOA ................ leave of absence  
LOC ................ loss of consciousness, level of consciousness 
LOS ................ length of stay  
LP .................. lumbar puncture  
LPN .................. licensed practical nurse  
LPT .................. licensed physical therapist  
LRT .................. Licensed Respiratory Technician  
LS .................. lumbosacral  
L/S ratio ........... lecithin to sphingomyelin ratio  
LSO .................. left salpingo-oophorectomy  
LSP .................. left sacrum posterior*  
LST .................. left sacrum transverse*  
Lt ................... left  
LTC ................ Long term care  
LTCP ................ long term care facility  
LUE .................. left upper extremity
Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

LUL ................. left upper lobe
LUQ ................. left upper quadrant

M
M ................... meter
MA .................. Medicaid
MAO ............... monamine oxidase
MAP ............... mean arterial pressure; Medical Assistance Program
MAR ............... medication administration record
max ............... maximum
mcg or ug ........ micrograms
MD .................. medical doctor
MDA ............... Muscular Dystrophy Association
MDI ............... metered dose inhaler
MDE ............... Major Depressive Episode
mech .............. mechanical
MED ............... medication, medical, Medicine
max ................. maximum
mg .............. milligram
MI .................. myocardial infarction, mitral insufficiency
micro ............. microcytosis
min ............... minimum, minute
ml ................. milliliter
MM ............... multiple myeloma
mm ................. millimeter
mM ................. millimolar
mm/hr ............. millimeters per hour
MMR .............. measles, mumps and rubella
MMSE ............. mini mental status exam
MN ............... midnight
mod .............. moderate
mono ............. monocye
MRI ............... magnetic resonance imaging
MRM .............. modified radical mastoidectomy
MRND .............. modified radical neck dissection
MRSA ............ methicillin resistant staph aureus
MS ............... musculoskeletal, multiple sclerosis, medical student, morphine sulfate
MSW .............. Master's of Social Work
M.T ............... medical technologist
MTD ............... maximum tolerated dose
mva .............. motor vehicle accident
MVI ............... multivitamin
MVR ............... mitral valve replacement

N
N ................. nitrogen
N & V ............ nausea & vomiting
Na ................ sodium
NA .............. Nursing Assistant, no answer, not applicable
NaCl ............. sodium chloride
NAD ............. no acute distress

NAG ............. narrow angle glaucoma
NaHCO3 .......... sodium bicarbonate
NAO ............. nasal airway obstruction
N/C ............. no complaints, nasal cannula
NED ............. no evidence of disease
neg ............ negative
NEO ............. neosynephrine
NEURO .......... neurology, neurologic
NGT ............. nasogastric tube
NHS ............. Nursing Home
NHL ............. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
NHP ............. Nursing Home Placement
NI ............. no improvement
NIA ............. niacin, niacinamide
NICU ............. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NIDDM .......... non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
NKA ............. no known allergies
NKDA ........... no known drug allergies
nl ............. normal
NMI ............. no middle initial
Noc ............. night
noct ............ night
Norepi .......... norepinephrine
NOS ............. not otherwise specified
NPC ............. nonproductive cough
NPO ........... Nothing by mouth
NPH ............. neutral protamine hagedorn
NR ............. nonreactive
NS ............... normal saline
NSAIDS ........ nonsteroidal antiflammatory drug
NSR ............. normal sinus rhythm
NSS ............. normal saline solution
NST ............. non-stress test
NT/ND ........ non-distended/non-tender
NTS ............. nasotracheal suction
NV ............. neurovascular
nvd ............. neck venous distention, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
NVFCD ........ nausea, vomiting, fever, chills and diarrhea
NWB ........... non-weight bearing

O
O .............. objective/observation
OA ............. osteoarthritis, observation and assessment
OB, OB/GYN ... Obstetrics and Gynecology
obj ............. objective
obl ............. oblique
OBS ............. organic brain syndrome
OCA ............. oral contraceptive agent
occ ............. occasional, occiput
OCD ............. obsessive-compulsive disorder
OCG ............. oral cholecystogram
OCP ............. ova, cysts, parasites
**Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OD</td>
<td>Right eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>Otis externa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Occupational Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OM</td>
<td>Otis media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOB</td>
<td>Out of bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP</td>
<td>Outpatient, operation, occiput posterior, operation, outpatient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O&amp;P</td>
<td>Ova and parasites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPC</td>
<td>Order for protective custody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPD</td>
<td>Outpatient department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPS</td>
<td>Outpatient surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPT</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPV</td>
<td>Oral polio vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.R.</td>
<td>Operating room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orient</td>
<td>Oriented, orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORIF</td>
<td>Open reduction/internal fixation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORT</td>
<td>Orthopaedic, orthopedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Left eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSA</td>
<td>Obstructive sleep apnea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSHA</td>
<td>Occupational Safety and Health Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSU</td>
<td>Oral Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Occupational therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTC</td>
<td>Over the counter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTO</td>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTT</td>
<td>Orotracheal tube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.U.</td>
<td>Each eye, both eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oz</td>
<td>Ounce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O2</td>
<td>Oxygen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O2 sat</td>
<td>Oxygen saturation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Packed cells, post cast, pressure control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDA</td>
<td>Post anesthesia care unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Physician's assistant, pulmonary artery, posterior anterior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAC</td>
<td>Premature atrial contraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA02</td>
<td>Alveolar oxygen tension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PaCO2</td>
<td>Arterial carbon dioxide tension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACO2</td>
<td>Alveolar carbon dioxide tension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACU</td>
<td>Post anesthesia care unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palp</td>
<td>Palpable, palpations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pap</td>
<td>Pancreatic amylase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para</td>
<td>Paraplegic, paralysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAT</td>
<td>Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path</td>
<td>Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paw</td>
<td>Airway pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAWP</td>
<td>Pulmonary artery wedge pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBD</td>
<td>Post burn day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Patient controlled analgesic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCN</td>
<td>Penicillin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Medication Aide Training Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCO2</td>
<td>Partial pressure of carbon dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCP</td>
<td>Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, Primary Care Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDR</td>
<td>Physician's Desk Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Physical examination, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary edema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEP</td>
<td>Positive end expiratory pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEFR</td>
<td>Peak expiratory flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perf</td>
<td>Perforations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERLA</td>
<td>Pupils equal, reactive to light and accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERRLA</td>
<td>Pupils equal, round, reactive to light and accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PET</td>
<td>Positron emission tomography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH</td>
<td>Past history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharm</td>
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<td>PHN</td>
<td>Public health nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>PICC</td>
<td>Peripherally inserted central catheter</td>
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<tr>
<td>PID</td>
<td>Pelvic inflammatory disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIP</td>
<td>Positive inspiratory pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIV</td>
<td>Peripheral intravenous</td>
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<tr>
<td>PK</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.M.</td>
<td>Afternoon or evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMB</td>
<td>Post menopausal bleeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM Flap</td>
<td>Pectoralis major flap</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMH</td>
<td>Past medical history</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMR</td>
<td>Physical medicine and rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>PND</td>
<td>Post nasal drainage, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pos</td>
<td>Positive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poss</td>
<td>Possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post op</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>POAG</td>
<td>Primary open-angle glaucoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>POD</td>
<td>Post operative day</td>
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<tr>
<td>POI</td>
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<tr>
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<td>By mouth</td>
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<tr>
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<td>P.S.</td>
<td>Post operative instructions</td>
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Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

PRE ................ progressive resistance exercise
preop................ preoperative
prep .................. prepare
prn .................. as often as necessary
procto .............. proctoscopic
Pro .................. protein
PROM .............. passive range of motion
PSA ............... prostate specific antigen, Poly-Substance Abuse
PSC ............... posterior subcapsular cataract
PSH ................ past surgical history
PSVT ............... paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
PSY ................ Psychiatry
pt .................. patient
pt. ed. .............. patient education
P.T ................... physical therapy
PTA.............. prior to admission, physical therapy assistant
PTCA ............... percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
PTH ............... parathyroid hormone
PT/PTT ........... prothrombin time/partial thromboplastin time
PU ................ pressure ulcer
PUD ................ peptic ulcer disease
Pulm ............. pulmonary
Pulv ............... powder
PVD ............... peripheral vascular disease, posterior vitreous detachment
PWB ............... partial weight bearing
Pyelo ............ pyelonephritis
PZI ............... protamine zinc insulin
Q
q ................... every
qam ................ every morning
qh ................... every hour
q2h,q3h .......... every 2 hours, every 3 hours
qhs .............. every bedtime (hour of sleep)
qid .............. four times a day
QL ................ quality of life
qpm ................ every evening
qs ............... every shift, sufficient quantity
qt .............. quart
quad ............ quadriplegic, paralysis of all four extremities
qual ............. qualitative
quant .......... quantitative
R
RA ................ rheumatoid arthritis, right arm, right atrium, room air
rad ............ reactive airway disease, Radiology
RAE .......... right atrial enlargement
RBBB ........ right bundle branch block
RBC ............. red blood cells
RCA ............ right coronary artery
RD ............. retinal detachment, Registered Dietician
RDA ............. recommended daily allowance
RDS ............. respiratory distress syndrome
re .............. regarding, concerning
readm .......... readmission
rec’d .......... received
ref ............. referred
refrax .......... refraction
reg. .............. regular
REHAB .......... rehabilitation
REM ............. rapid eye movements
rep ............. repeat
req ............. request
Resp. .......... respiration
RF ............. rheumatoid factor, renal failure, Rheumatic fever
RFA .......... right forearm, reason for admission
RHD ............. rheumatic heart disease
Rh neg .......... Rhesus factor negative
Rh pos .......... Rhesus factor positive
RHC ............. right heart catheterization
RK ............. radial keratometry
RLE ............. right lower extremity
RLL ............. right lower lobe, right lower leg
RLQ ............. right lower quadrant
RML ............. right middle lobe
RN ............. Registered Nurse
RNA ............. ribonucleic acid
RN,App .......... Registered Nurse, applicant
RNP .......... Registered Nurse Practitioner
R/O ............. rule out
ROM ............. range of motion
RPG .......... retrograde pyelogram
R.Ph. .......... Registered Pharmacist
RPM ............. revolutions per minute
RPT .......... Registered Physical Therapist
RQ ................ respiratory quotient
RR .......... recovery room, respiratory rate
RRR .......... regular rate and rhythm
RRT .......... Registered Respiratory Therapist
RRP .......... radical retropubic prostatectomy
RSO .......... right salpingo-oophorectomy
RT .......... recreational therapy, radiation therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Registered Technologist
RTC .......... return to clinic
RU ............. residual urine
RUE .......... right upper extremity
RUG .......... retrograde urethrogram
RUL .......... right upper lobe
rupt. .......... ruptured
RUQ .......... right upper quadrant
RV .......... rectovaginal, right ventricle, residual volume

Avera Education & Staffing Solutions
Medication Aide Training Program

8 1/9/2020
Rx .......................... prescription
S
s .......................... without
SA .......................... sinoatrial
SAH .......................... subarachnoid hemorrhage
SAO2 .......................... arterial oxygen saturation
SBE .......................... subacute bacterial endocarditis
SBO .......................... small bowel obstruction
SBP .......................... systolic blood pressure
SBS .......................... small bowel study
SCCA .......................... squamous cell carcinoma
SCLC .......................... small cell lung cancer
scop .......................... scopolamine
Scr .......................... serum creatinine
seb derm .......................... seborrheic dermatitis
sec .......................... seconds (exposure time)
segs .......................... segments
SEM .......................... systolic ejection murmur
sens .......................... sensitivity
serv .......................... service
SG .......................... specific gravity
SH .......................... social history, suicidal/homicidal ideation
SK .......................... seborrheic keratosis
SLP .......................... Speech and Language Pathology
S/I .......................... supervision/instruction, suicidal ideation
SIADH .......................... syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone
SIC .......................... self-intermittent catheterization
SICU .......................... surgical intensive care unit
sig .......................... label (prescriptions)
SIMV .......................... synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation
SIRS .......................... systematic inflammatory response Syndrome
SK .......................... seborrheic keratosis
SL .......................... sublingual
SLE .......................... systemic lupus erythematosus
SNHL .......................... sensorineural hearing loss
SO .......................... salpingo-oophorectomy
SOAP .......................... subjective, objective data, assessment and plan
SOB .......................... shortness of breath
sol .......................... solution
solv .......................... dissolve
sono. .......................... sonogram
S/P .......................... suprapubic, status post
SPF .......................... sun protection factor
spec .......................... specimen
SPG .......................... specific gravity
SSI .......................... Sliding scale insulin
STAT .......................... immediately
STEMI .......................... ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction
T
T or temp .......................... temperature
T&A .......................... tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
T. Bili .......................... total bilirubin
tab .......................... tablet
tachy .................... tachycardia
TAH .......................... total abdominal hysterectomy
TAH BSO .......................... total abdominal hysterectomy and Bilateral salpingo oopherectomy
TB .......................... tuberculosis
TBSE .......................... total body skin exam
tbsp .......................... tablespoon
TCA .......................... tricyclic antidepressant
TCN .......................... tetracycline
TCollar .......................... trach collar
TE .......................... tracheoesophageal
temp .......................... temperature
TENS .......................... transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
TFT .......................... thyroid function test
TG .......................... triglyceride
THR .......................... total hip replacement (Total hip arthroplasty)
TIA .......................... transient ischemia attack
TIBC .......................... total iron binding capacity
tid .......................... three times a day
TKA .......................... total knee arthroplasty
tko .......................... to keep open
TKR .......................... total knee replacement
TL .......................... total laryngectomy
TLC .......................... total lung capacity
TLP .......................... total laryngopharyngectomy
TLV .......................... total lung volume
TM .......................... tympanic membrane
TMJ .......................... temporomandibular joint
TMPSMX .............. trimethoprim sulfamethoxazine
TNTC .................. too numerous to count
TO .......................... telephone order
Tol .......................... tolerated
TP .......................... total protein
TPN .......................... total parenteral nutrition
TPR .......................... temperature, pulse and respiration
tr ...................... tincture
trach .......................... tracheostomy
TSH .......................... thyroid stimulating hormone
tsp ..................... teaspoon
TSP .......................... total serum protein
TSS .......................... toxic shock syndrome
TTP .......................... thrombolytic thrombocytopenia
TUR .......................... transurethral resection
TURN .................. Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor
TURP .......................... Transurethral Resection of Prostate
TV .......................... television, tidal volume
TVH .......................... transvaginal hysterectomy
Tx .......................... treatment, traction
T1/2 .................. half life
### Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

#### U

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U/A</td>
<td>Urinalysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UE</td>
<td>upper extremity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGI</td>
<td>upper gastrointestinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULQ</td>
<td>upper left quadrant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ung</td>
<td>ointment</td>
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<tr>
<td>unilat</td>
<td>unilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td>UOQ</td>
<td>upper outer quadrant</td>
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<td>UOP</td>
<td>urine output</td>
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<td>UP</td>
<td>upright</td>
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<td>UR</td>
<td>Utilization Review, urine</td>
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<td>URI</td>
<td>upper respiratory infection</td>
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<td>URO</td>
<td>Urology</td>
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<td>URQ</td>
<td>upper right quadrant</td>
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<td>US</td>
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<td>USG</td>
<td>ultrasonography</td>
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<td>USI</td>
<td>urinary stress incontinence</td>
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<td>USP</td>
<td>United States Pharmacopeia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ut dic</td>
<td>as directed</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTI</td>
<td>Urinary Tract Infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>UV</td>
<td>ultraviolet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>va</td>
<td>visual acuity, Veteran's Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacc</td>
<td>vaccine, vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC</td>
<td>vocal cord, vital capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>VD</td>
<td>venereal disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VE</td>
<td>expired minute volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>vent</td>
<td>ventilation, ventilator, ventricular</td>
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<tr>
<td>VER</td>
<td>visual evoked response</td>
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<td>VF or V-flb</td>
<td>ventricular fibrillation</td>
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<td>V-flutter</td>
<td>ventricular flutter</td>
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<td>V/H</td>
<td>visual hallucinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>vit</td>
<td>vitamin, vitreous</td>
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<tr>
<td>VHLA</td>
<td>vaginal hysterectomy laparoscopically assisted</td>
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<tr>
<td>VMA</td>
<td>vanillymandelic acid</td>
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<tr>
<td>V-mask</td>
<td>venturi-mask (oxygen mask)</td>
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<td>VO</td>
<td>verbal order</td>
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<td>VOD</td>
<td>veno-occlusive disease</td>
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<td>vol</td>
<td>volume</td>
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<td>vp</td>
<td>venous pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>V/Q</td>
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<td>VSD</td>
<td>Venticular Septal Defect</td>
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<td>VS</td>
<td>vital signs, volume support</td>
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<td>VSS</td>
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<td>VT</td>
<td>ventricular tachycardia</td>
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<td>VUR</td>
<td>Vesiousenteral Reflux</td>
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<td>w/</td>
<td>with</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>while awake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBAT</td>
<td>weight bearing as tolerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td>White Blood Count</td>
</tr>
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<td>W/C</td>
<td>wheelchair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W/D</td>
<td>warm and dry</td>
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<td>WD &amp; WN</td>
<td>well developed &amp; well nourished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weak</td>
<td>weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>white female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFL</td>
<td>within functional limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whp</td>
<td>whirlpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wk</td>
<td>week, weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM</td>
<td>white male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wt</td>
<td>weight</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>except</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x-rays</td>
<td>roentgen rays</td>
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<td>XRT</td>
<td>radiation therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y/o</td>
<td>years old</td>
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<tr>
<td>yr</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn0</td>
<td>zinc oxide</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### BE CAREFUL WITH DECIMALS

Errors in drug strength and dosage have occurred with decimals due to the use of a trailing zero (1.0 mg) or absence of a leading zero (.5 mg). A terminal or trailing zero should NEVER be used after a decimal and a leading zero should always precede a decimal expression of less than one. If questions, check with nurse.

#### NEED TO CHANGE AN ORDER?

Correcting errant orders correctly is important. The nurse should cross out the entire order, initial/date it, and then REWRITE IT. The nurse should not add additional information to the order, making it unclear. If questions, check with nurse.

#### NEED TO DISCONTINUE AN ORDER?

Every action on a MAR requires an order. If an action such as discontinuation is required, the nurse should write it out the entire word, ‘Discontinue’, date and initial it. The MedAide must have a written order on the MAR in order to administer the med. If questions, check with nurse.

### Symbol and Definition

- \(\varnothing\)  
  - none
- \(\hat{O}\)  
  - with no
- \(\hat{\varphi}\)  
  - female
- \(\varphi\)  
  - male
- ↑  
  - increase
- ↓  
  - decrease
- #  
  - number
- %  
  - percent
- \(\Delta\)  
  - change
- \(\infty\)  
  - infinity
- 1°  
  - primary or first degree
- 2°  
  - secondary or second degree
- 3°  
  - tertiary or third degree
Terminology, Abbreviations, and Symbols

÷ divided by or division
~ approximately
(-) negative
(+) positive
° degree
= equals
≠ not equal to
× times
@ at
✓ check or checked
< less than
≤ less than or equal to
> greater than
≥ greater than or equal to
& and
µg microgram
ā before
β beta

PLEASE NOTE:
This list contains abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols that have been commonly used in the medical world to save time and space while writing in a resident/patient medical record. As various specialties have evolved, each has developed a collection of commonly used abbreviations within its practice, which may not be recognizable to those not working within the same field. According to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices and The Joint Commission, errors and harm have occurred due to use of abbreviations and symbols. Strictly follow your facility policy and procedure related to use of abbreviations and symbols.