

A assessment
 aa of each
 AAAlcoholics Anonymous; Aplastic anemia
 AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm
 AAOx3alert, 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
 AODM..... adult onset diabetes mellitus
 AOM acute otitis media
 AP & LAT anteroposterior and lateral
 A & P Repair anterior and posterior repair
 approx approximately

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

brat banana, rice cereal, apple sauce, tea
BRP bathroom privileges
BRVO brance retinal vein occlusion
BS bowel sounds, blood sugar
BSA body surface area
BSO..... bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
BSOM..... bilateral serous otitis media
BTL Bilateral Tubal Ligation
BW body weight
Bx biopsy

C

\bar{c} **with**
C..... centigrade, concentration
C & S culture and sensitivity
Ca+ calcium
CA carcinoma
CABG coronary artery bypass graft
CaCl₂ calcium chloride
CAD coronary artery disease
Cal 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
chol cholesterol
CHPX chickenpox
chr chronic
CHTN chronic hypertension
CI 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
c/w consistent with
CO cardiac output
COAG chronic open angle glaucoma
COLD chronic obstructive lung disease
colpo colposcopy
comp..... compound
conc concentrate
conf conference
conj conjunctiva
cont continued, continuous
COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CO₂ carbon dioxide
CP chest pain, cerebral palsy
C & P cystoscopy & pyelogram
CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CPS Chronic Paranoid Schizophrenia
CPT chest physiotherapy
C1,C2,etc. first, second, etc. cervical vertebra
creat creatinine
CRF 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

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 dilate
 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

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..... erythropoietin
 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
 Etoh ethanol
 ETOH alcohol
 ETT endotracheal tube, Enterstomal
 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

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 B immune globulin
HBP **high blood pressure**
 HbsAg hepatitis B surface antigen
 HBV Hepatitis B virus
 HC home care
 HCO₃ bicarbonate
 Hct hematocrit
 HCV Hepatitis C virus
 HCVD hypertensive Cardiovascular disease
 HD Hodgkin's Disease, hemodialysis
 HEENT..... head, eyes, ears, nose, throat
 heme..... hemorrhage
 hemi one side of the body
 HEPA high-efficiency particular air
 Heplock heparin lock
 HF..... heart failure
 Hg mercury
 hgb..... hemoglobin
 HGH..... human growth hormone
 HH hiatal hernia; Home Health
 HHC Home Health Care
 HHN hand held nebulizer
 H&H Hemoglobin & hematocr-it
 H/I homicidal ideation
 Hib hemophilus influenza type B
 Histo histoplasmosis
 HIV..... human immunodeficiency virus
 HJR..... hepatojugular reflux
 HL heplock; 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-IIIhuman T-cell lymphotropic virus type III
 HTN hypertensive, hypertension
hx **history**
 HZ herpes zoster
 HZV herpes zoster virus
H₂O **water**

I

I & D..... incision & drainage
 I & A..... irrigation and aspiration
I & O **intake & output**
 IABP intra-aortic balloon pump
 IBD..... inflammatory bowel disease
 IBW ideal body weight

ICBG iliac crest bone graft
 ICCE intraocular cataract extraction
 ICD-9-CM International Classification of Diseases,
 9th Edition, Clinical Modification
 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
 IICP increased intracranial pressure
 IJ internal jugular
 IM intramuscular
 IMP impression
 Incr increased
 INF interferon
 Inj injection
 INR..... international normalized ratio
 INS..... insurance, inspiration
 Instr. instructions
 insuff insufficient
 int internal
 Int Med internal medicine
 IOL intraocular lens
 IOP intraocular pressure
 IOT 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

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

K cornea
K+..... **potassium**
 KA keratoacanthoma

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
 lat lateral
 LAVH laparoscopic assisted vaginal
 hysterectomy
 lb pound
 LBBB left bundle branch block
 LBP 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
 Li— 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
 LTCF long term care facility
 LUE left upper extremity

LUL left upper lobe
LUQ left upper quadrant

M

M meter
MA Medicaid
MAO monoamine 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**
mEq **milliequivalent**
mEq/L **milliequivalent per liter**
MFB metallic foreign body
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 monocyte
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**
NH **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**
NSA no significant abnormality
NSAIDS **nonsteroidal antiinflammatory 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

OD	Right eye	PCO2	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
OE	otitis externa	PCP	Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, Primary Care Provider
OH	Occupational Health	PDR	Physician's Desk Reference
OM.....	otitis media	PE	physical examination, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary edema
OOB	out of bed	PEEP	positive end expiratory pressure
op	outpatient, operation, occiput posterior, operation, outpatient	PEF	peak expiratory flow
O & P	ova and parasites	PEFR	peak expiratory flow rate
OPC.....	Order for protective custody	PEG.....	Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
OPD.....	Outpatient department	perf	perforations
OPS.....	outpatient surgery	PERLA.....	pupils equal, reactive to light and accommodation
OPT	ophthalmology	PERRLA	pupils equal, round, reactive to light and accommodation
OPV.....	oral polio vaccine	PET	positron emission tomography
O.R.	operating room	pH	hydrogen ion concentration, acid/base index
Orient	oriented, orientation	PH	past history
ORIF	open reduction/internal fixation	pharm	pharmacy
ORT	orthopaedic, orthopedic	PharmD.....	Doctor of Pharmacy
os	mouth	phos	phosphatase
OS	left eye	PHP	phosphorus
OSA.....	obstructive sleep apnea	PHN	public health nurse
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	PICC.....	peripherally inserted central catheter
OSU.....	Oral Surgery	PID.....	pelvic inflammatory disease
OT.....	occupational therapy	PIP.....	positive inspiratory pressure
otc	over the counter	PIV.....	peripheral intravenous
OTO	Otolaryngology	PK	pharmacokinetics
OTT	oro-tracheal tube	p.m.	afternoon or evening
O.U.	each eye, both eyes	PMB	post menopausal bleeding
oz	ounce	PM Flap	pectoralis major flap
O2	oxygen	PMH	past medical history
O2 sat	oxygen saturation	PMR	physical medicine and rehabilitation
P		PND	post nasal drainage, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
p	after, pulse	po	by mouth
P	pain, para, pulse, percussion, plan, pressure	Post op	post operative
P&T	peak and trough	POA.....	power of attorney
PA.....	physician's assistant, pulmonary artery,posterior anterior	POAG	primary open-angle glaucoma
PAC	premature atrial contraction	POD.....	post operative day
PA02	alveolar oxygen tension	POI	post operative instructions
PaC02	arterial carbon dioxide tension	pos	positive
PACO2.....	alveolar carbon dioxide tension	poss	possible
PACU.....	post anesthesia care unit	Post.	posterior
palp	palpable, palpations	post op	postoperative
Pap	pananicoaou smear	po2.....	partial pressure of oxygen
para	paraplegic, paralysis	po4.....	phosphate
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia	POX	pulse oximetry
path	pathology	PP	postprandial (after eating)
paw	airway pressure	PPBG	postprandial blood glucose
PAWP.....	pulmonary artery wedge pressure	ppd.....	packs per day
PBD	post burn day	PPD	purified protein derivative (tuberculin)
PC	packed cells, post cast, pressure control after meals , posterior chamber	PPN	peripheral parenteral nutrition
PCA	patient controlled analgesic	pr	per rectum
PCN	penicillin,	PRBC	packed red blood cells

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 rthritis, 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 keratotomy
 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

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)
 sed rate sedimentation rate
 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 temptemperature**

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 oophorectomy
 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
 TMPMX trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole
 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
 TURBT Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumor
 TURP Transurethral Resection of Prostate
 TV television, tidal volume
 TVH transvaginal hysterectomy
Tx treatment, traction
 T1/2 half life

U

U/A Urinalysis
 UE upper extremity
 UGI upper gastrointestinal
 ULQ upper left quadrant
Ung **ointment**
 unilat unilateral
 UOQ upper outer quadrant
 UOP..... urine output
 UP upright
 UR Utilization Review,urine
 URI upper respiratory infection
 URO..... Urology
 URQ..... upper right quadrant
 US ultrasound
 USG..... ultrasonography
 USI urinary stress incontinence
USP **United States Pharmacopeia**
Ut dic **as directed**
 UTI Urinary Tract Infection
 UV ultraviolet
 va visual acuity, Veteran’s Administration
 Vacc vaccine, vaccination
 VC vocal cord, vital capacity
 VD venereal disease
 VE expired minute volume
 vent ventilation, ventilator, ventricular
 VER visual evoked response
 VF or V-fib ventricular fibrillation
 V-flutter ventricular flutter
 V/H visual hallucinations
vit **vitamin,vitreous**
 VHLA vaginal hysterectomy laparoscopically assisted
 VMA vanillylmandelic acid
 V-mask venturi-mask (oxygen mask)
VO **verbal order**
 VOD..... veno-occlusive disease
vol **volume**
 vp venous pressure
 V/Q ventilation/perfusion
 VSD Ventricular Septal Defect
VS **vital signs, volume support**
VSS **vital signs stable**
 VT ventricular tachycardia
 VUR Vesoureteral Reflux
w/ **with**
WA **while awake**
 WBAT weight bearing as tolerated
 WBC..... White Blood Count
W/C **wheelchair**
W/D **warm and dry**
 WD & WN well developed & well nourished
 weak weakness
 WF..... white female

WFL within functional limits
 Whp whirlpool
wk **week, weak**
 WM..... white male
 Wt..... weight
x **except**
 x-rays roentgen rays
 XRT radiation therapy
 y/o years old
 yr year
 Zn0..... zinc oxide

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

∅	none
⊖	with no
♀	female
♂	male
↑	increase
↓	decrease
#	number
%	percent
Δ	change
∞	infinity
1°	primary or first degree
2°	secondary or second degree
3°	tertiary or third degree

÷	divided by or division
~	approximately
(-)	negative
(+)	positive
°	degree
=	equals
≠	not equal to
X	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

XIX	Nineteen
XX	Twenty
L	Fifty
C	One Hundred
D	Five Hundred
M	One Thousand

Abbreviations of Measurements

- 1 gram = 1000 milligrams (mg)
- 1 cubic centimeter (cc) = 1 milliliter (mL)
- 5 cc = 1 teaspoon; 100 cc = 20 teaspoons
- 15 cc = 1 tablespoon
- 30 cc = 1 ounce
- 1000 cc = 1 litre
- 8 oz = 1 cup
- 2 cups = 1 pint
- 2 pints = 1 quart
- 4 quarts = 1 gallon

† One of something ii, iii two, three of something

Symbol and Definition (cont.)

- ℥ ounce
- ʒ dram
- gr. grain

Roman Numeral and Numeric Value

I	One
II	Two
III	Three
IV	Four
V	Five
VI	Six
VII	Seven
VIII	Eight
IX	Nine
X	Ten
XI	Eleven
XII	Twelve
XIII	Thirteen
XIV	Fourteen
XV	Fifteen
XVI	Sixteen
XVII	Seventeen
XVIII	Eighteen

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.**