

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Purpose of the Table

The following table will help you to find the meaning of abbreviations and symbols commonly used in medical notations.

List of abbreviations and symbols:

@	at
A2	Aortic second sound
aa	Of each
abd	Abdomen
a.c.	Before meals (ante cebum)
acid phos.	Acid phosphates
A.D.	Right ear
ad	Add, let there be added
ad lib	As much as needed, as desired (ad libitum)
adm.	Admission
adv.	Against
AFB	Acid fast bacillus
AK	Above the knee
A.M.	Ante meridian (before noon)
alb	Albumin
alk. phos.	Alkaline phosphates
Approx.	Approximately
AMA	Against medical advice
AMB	Ambulatory
Amt.	Amount
amp.	Ampule
A & P	Anterior and posterior
A & P	Auscultation and percussion
A.S.	Left ear
ASCVD	Arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASHD	Arteriosclerotic heart disease
A.U.	Both ears
Ax.	Axillary
B	Black
b.i.d.	Twice a day (bis in die)
BK	Below the knee
BM	Bowel movement
BMR	Basal Metabolism Rate
BP	Blood pressure
BPH	Benign prostatic hypertrophy
BRP	Bathroom privileges

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
BUS	Bartholin urethral skene
C	Centigrade
c	with (cum)
C-1 C-7	Cervical vertebrae
Ca	Cancer
cap.	Capsule
cath.	Catheter
C & S	Culture and sensitivity
CBC	Complete blood count
CBS	Chronic brain syndrome
CC	Chief complaint
cc.	Cubic centimeter
cg. or cgm.	Centigram
CHF	Congestive heart failure
chol.	Cholesterol
cl.	Centiliter
Cl. Lig.	Clear Liquid
cm.	Centimeter
CNS	Coagulate
Comp.	Compound
c/o	Complaints of
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CR	Cardiorespiratory
CSF	Cerebrovascular fluid
CV	Cardiovascular
CVA	Cardiovascular accident
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
dc or d/c	Discontinue
D & C	Dilation and Curretage
D-1 D-12	Dorsal vertebrae (same as thoracic)
diag., DX	Diagnosis
disch.	Discharged
DJD	Degenerative Joint Disease (Osteoarthritis)
DOA	Dead on arrival
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
dr. or z.	Dram
Dr.	Doctor
DTR	Deep tendon reflex

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

ECF	Extracellular fluid
ECC or EKG	Electrocardiogram
EDC	Expected date of confinement
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EENT	Eyes, ears, nose and throat
EOM	Extra ocular movement
eos	Eosinophiles
E.R.	Emergency Room
et, +, &	And
ETC.	And so on (etcetera)
Exam	Examination
exp.	Expired
Ext.	Extract
F.	Fahrenheit or female
FB	Foreign body
FBS	Fasting blood sugar
Fe	Iron
fl. Or Fld.	Fluid
Ft.	Feet
FUO	Fever of unknown origin
fx.	Fracture
>	Greater than
GB	Gallbladder
GI	Gastrointestinal
gm.	Gram
gr.	Grain
gtt.	Drops
GU	Genitourinary
Gyn.	Gynecology
h. or hr.	Hour
Hct.	Hematocrit
HCVD	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease
hgb.	Hemoglobin
h.s.	At bedtime (hour of sleep)
ht.	Height
H2O	Water

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

I & D	Incision and drainage
I & O	Intake and Output
i.e.	That is
IM	Intramuscular
IPPB	Intermittent positive pressure breathing
IT	Inhalation therapy
I.U.	International Unit
IV	Intravaneous
IVP	Intravaneous pyelogram
kg.	Kilogram
KUB	Kidney, ureter, and bladder
<	Less than
l., lt., or LT	Left
L.	Liter
L-1 L-5	Lumbar vertebrae
L & A	Light and accommodation
L & W	Living and well
lab.	Laboratory
lat.	Lateral
lb.	Pound
LBBB	Left bundle branch block
liq.	Liquid
LK & S	Liver, kidneys, and spleen
LLL	Left lower lobe
LLQ	Left lower quadrant
LMP	Last menstrual period
LOA	Left occiput anterior
LOP	Left occiput posterior
LP	Lumbar puncture
LPN	Licenses Practical Nurse
LUL	Left upper lobe
LUQ	Left upper quadrant
lymphs	Lymphocytes
m.	Meter or minim
mcg.	Microgram
med.	Medicine
meq.	Milliequivalent

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

mg.	Milligram
M.I.	Myocardial Infarction
M.I.	Mental Illness
ml.	Milliliter
mm.	Millimeter
MOD	Moderate
Mono	Monocyte
MP	Metacarpophalangeal
MS	Musculoskeletal; Multiple Sclerosis
neg.	Negative
NG	Nasogastric
NM	Neuromuscular
No., or #	Number
noct., or Noc.	At night
NPO	Nothing by mouth
NS	Normal Saline
O ₂	Oxygen
OBS	Organic Brain Syndrome
O.D.	Right eye (oculus dexter)
Oint.	Ointment
O.O.B.	Out of bed
Ophth	Ophthalmology
O.R.	Operating Room
Ortho.	Orthopedics
O.S.	Mouth
O.S.	Left eye (Oculus Sinister)
O.U.	Both eyes (Oculus Uterque)
oz., or z.	Ounce
P	Pulse
P	After
P ₂	Pulmonic second sound
P & A	Percussion and auscultation
Pap.	Papanicolaou smear
PAT	Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
Path	Pathology
PBI	Protein bound iodine
P.C.	After meals (post cebum)
PDR	Physicians Desk Reference

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

P.E.	Physical Examination
Ped.	Pediatrics
PERLA	Pupils equal & react to light & accommodation
P.H.	Past History
P.I.	Present Illness
P.I.D.	Pelvic inflammatory disease
P.I.P.	Proximal interphalangeal joint
P.M.	Post Meridian (after noon)
P.M.I.	Point of maximal impulse
P.N.D.	Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
p.o.	By mouth
pos.	Positive
pp	Postprandial
p.r.n.	Whenever necessary (pro re rata)
Pro. Time, PTT	Prothrombin time
pt.	Patient
P.t.	Physical therapy
PVB	Premature ventricular beat
PVC	Premature ventricular contraction
q.	Every (quaque)
q.d.	Every day
q.h.	Every hour
q.i.d.	Four times a day
q.n.	Every night
q.n.s.	Quantity not sufficient
q.o.d.	Every other day
q.o.h.	Every other hour
q.o.n.	Every other night
q.s.	Quantity sufficient
r.	Respiration or rectal
R, rt.	Right
RBBB	Right bundle branch block
RBC	Red blood cells or count
reg.	Regular
RHD	Rheumatic heart disease
RLL	Right lower lobe
RLQ	Right lower quadrant
R.N.	Registered Nurse
R/O	Rule out
ROM	Range of Motion

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

ROA	Right occiput anterior
ROP	Right occiput posterior
RUL	Right upper lobe
RUQ	Right upper quadrant
Rx	Prescription
S-1 S-5	Sacral Vertebrae
s	Without
SBE	Subacute bacterial endocarditis
sed. rate	Sedimentation rate
S.H.	Social History
sm.	Small
SMR	Submucous resection
s.o.b.	Shortness of breath
sol.	Solution
s/p	Status Post
sp. gr.	Specific gravity
spec.	Specimen
Sq.	Square
ss	Half
s.s.e.	Soap suds enema
Staph	Staphylococcus
S.T.	Speech Therapy
stat	Immediately (statin)
Strep.	Streptococcus Surg.
Surgery Syr.	Syrup
T	Temperature
T-1 T-12	Thoracic vertebrae (same as forsal)
T & A	Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy
T.O.	Telephone Order
ab.	Tablet
TAT	Tetanus Antitoxin
TBSP	Tablespoon
TB	Tuberculosis
T.E.D.'s	Elastic support hose (brand name)
t.i.d.	Three times a day (terin die)
TINCT., TNCT	Tincture
TPR	Temperature, pulse, and respiration
Trach.	Tracheotomy

List of abbreviations and symbols (continued)

Tsp.	Teaspoon
T.U.	Type undetermined
TUR	Transurethral resection
U	Unit
UA	Urinalysis
URI	Upper respiratory infection
Urol	Urology
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
vag.	Vaginal
VD	Venereal disease
V.O.	Verbal Order
V.S.	Vital Signs
W	White
WBC	White blood cells or count
WD, WN	Well developed, well nourished
wt.	Weight
WC	Wheelchair