



Approved Medical Abbreviations

The following is a list of approved medical abbreviations. Providers should use only these abbreviations in medical documentation or other agency specific approved abbreviations.

Most commonly used abbreviations:

(list most common abbreviations used in your agency for quick reference)

Agency specific hospital/ facilities abbreviations:

(list medical facilities (hospitals, offices, rehabilitation, skilled nursing facilities, etc. used in your agency)



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The following is a list of approved medical abbreviations. Providers should use only these abbreviations in medical documentation or other agency specific approved abbreviations.

A:

AAA	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
AAL	Anterior Axillary Line
ABC	Airway, Breathing, Circulation
ABD	Abdomen or Abdominal
ABCH	Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Hemorrhage
AC	Antecubital fossa
ACLS	Advanced Cardiac Life Support
ACV	Assist-Control Volume
ACP	Assist-Control Pressure
A/O x 3	Alert and oriented to person, place, and time
A/O x 4	Alert and oriented to person, place, time, and situation
AED	Automated External Defibrillator
AEMT	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
AFIB	Atrial Fibrillation
AFLT	Atrial Flutter
AFIBRVR	Atrial Fibrillation with Rapid Ventricular Response
AFLTRVR	Atrial Flutter with Rapid Ventricular Response
AI	Adrenal Insufficiency
AICD	Automated Internal Cardioverter – Defibrillator
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficient Syndrome
AIVR	Accelerated Idioventricular Rhythm
AKA	Above Knee Amputation
ALS	Advanced Life Support
AOSTF	Arrived on scene to find
AM	Morning
AMA	Against Medical Advice
AMB	Ambulance
AMI	Anterior Myocardial Infarction
AMS	Altered Mental Status
AMT	Amount
APGAR	Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, Respiratory
APPROX or ~	Approximately



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The following is a list of approved medical abbreviations. Providers should use only these abbreviations in medical documentation or other agency specific approved abbreviations.

A:

ASA	Aspirin
ASSOC	Associated or Association
AVB	AV Block / Atrioventricular Block
AVPU	Alert, Responsive to Verbal, Responsive to Pain, Unresponsive

B:

BB	Beta-blockers
BBS	Bilateral Breath Sounds
BILAT or B/L	Bilateral
BIAD	Blind Insertion Airway Device
BI-VAD	Bi-Ventricular Assist Device
BG or BGL	Blood Glucose
BKA	Below Knee Amputation
BL	Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure
BLS	Basic Life Support
BM	Bowel Movement
BP	Blood Pressure
BPM	Breaths per Minute or Beats per Minute
BS	Breath Sounds
BSI	Body Substance Isolation
BVM	Bag-Valve-Mask

C:

CA	CANCER
CABG	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
CATH	Catheter
Cap refill	Capillary refill
CBG	Capillary Blood Glucose
CC or C/C	Chief Complaint



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C:

CCP	Casualty Collection Point
CCU	Coronary Care Unit
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
CHI	Closed Head Injury
CKD	Chronic Kidney Disease
CNA	Certified Nursing Assistant
CNS	Central Nervous System
COMM	Command
COMMP	Command Post
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
C/O	Complains Of
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CP	Chest Pain
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CVA	Cerebrovascular Accident (Stroke)
CS	Cervical Spine
CSIC	Cervical Spine Immobilization Collar
CSF	Cerebrospinal Fluid
C-SECT	Cesarean Section
CT	Cat Scan
CTA	Clear to Auscultation

D:

D5W	5% Dextrose in Water
D5NS	5% Dextrose in Normal Saline
D5LR	5% Dextrose in Lactate Ringers
D10	10% Dextrose in Water or 10% Dextrose
D50	50% Dextrose



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D:	
D25	25% Dextrose
DBP	Diastolic Blood Pressure
DC or D/C	Discontinue
DCAPBTLS	Deformities, contusions, abrasions, penetrations, burns, tenderness, lacerations and swelling
Defib	Defibrillation
DKA	Diabetic Ketoacidosis
DL	Direct Laryngoscopy
DNEB	DuoNeb
DNI	Do Not Intubate
DNR	Do Not Resuscitate
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
DOA	Dead on Arrival
DOB	Date of Birth
DOE	Dyspnea on Exertion
DAA	Drug Assisted Airway
DT	Delirium Tremens
DVT	Deep Venous Thrombosis
DX or Dx	Diagnosis
E:	
EBL	Estimated Blood Loss
ECG or EKG	Electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency Department
eFAST	Enhanced Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EGA	Extra-glottic Airway
EJ	External Jugular
eKit	Emergency (Hospice) Kit
EQ or =	Equal



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E:

EMD	Emergency Medical Dispatcher
EMR	Emergency Medical Responder
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ePCR	Electronic Patient Care Report
ESRD	End Stage Renal Disease
ET	Endotracheal
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
ETCO2	End-Tidal Carbon Dioxide
ETT	Endotracheal Tube
ETOH	Ethanol or Alcohol
EXT	External or Extension

F:

F or ♀	Female
FAST	Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma
FB	Foreign body
FF	Firefighter
FiO2	Fraction of Inspired Oxygen Concentration
FR	First Responder
FSBS	Finger Stick Blood Sugar
FLEX	Flexion
FX	Fracture

G:

g	Gram(s)
G	Gravida
gtts	Drops
>	Greater
≥	Greater than or equal to



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G:

GCS	Glasgow Coma Score
GI	Gastrointestinal
GIB	Gastrointestinal Bleed (ing)
GSW	Gunshot wound
GU	Genitourinary
GYN	Gynecology or Gynecological

H:

HA	Headache
HazMat	Hazardous Material(s)
HCPOA	Health Care Power of Attorney
HEENT	Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Throat
HD	Hemodialysis
HI	Homicidal Ideation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HOB	Head of Bed
HOSP	Hospital
HR	Heart rate
HTN	Hypertension
HTX	Hemothorax
HX	History

I:

IABP	Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump
ICP	Intracranial pressure
ICS	Incident Command System
ICU	Intensive care unit
I:E	Inspiratory to Expiratory Ratio
IM	Intramuscular
IN	Intranasal



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I:

IO	Intraosseous
IU	International Unit
IUD	Intrauterine Device
IV	Intravenous
IVP	Intravenous Push
IVR	Idioventricular Rhythm
IVPB	IV Piggy Back
IOP	Intraosseous Push

J:

J	Joules
JVD	Jugular Vein Distension

K:

KED	Kendrick Extrication Device
Kg or kg	Kilogram
KTD	Kendrick Traction Device
KVO	Keep Vein Open

L:

L	Liter
LAC	Laceration
LBBB	Left Bundle Branch Block
LEO	Law Enforcement Officer
<	Less
≤	Less than or equal to
LKW	Last Known Well
L-SPINE	Lumbar spine
LS	Lumbosacral spine
L&D	Labor and delivery



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L:

LAT	Lateral
Lbs.	Pound or Pounds
LLE	Left Lower Extremity
LLQ	Left Lower Quadrant
LUE	Left Upper Extremity
LMA	Laryngeal Mask Airway
LMP	Last Menstrual Period
LOC	Level of Consciousness
LPN	Licensed Practical Nurse
LR	Lactated ringers
LS	Lumbar Spine
LSB	Long Spine Board
LSN	Last Seen Normal
LUQ	Left Upper Quadrant
LVAD	Left Ventricular Assist Device

M:

M or ♂	Male
MAE	Moves All Extremities
MAP	Mean Arterial Pressure
MCI	Mass Casualty Incident
MCL	Mid Clavicular Line
mcg	Microgram(s)
MDI	Metered Dose Inhaler
ME	Medical Examiner
MED	Medicine
MERT	Medical Emergency Response Team
mEq	Milliequivalent
Mg or mg	Milligram(s)
mg/dL	milligrams per deciliter



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M:

MI	Myocardial Infarction (heart attack)
min	Minute
mL	Milliliter
MOI	Mechanism of Injury
MOST	Medical Order for Scope of Treatment
mm	Millimeter
MS	Mental status
MSC	Mental status change
msec	Miliseconds
MV	Mechanical Ventilation
MVC	Motor Vehicle Crash

N:

N/A	Not applicable
N/V	Nausea/Vomiting
N/V/D	Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
NAD	No Apparent (or Acute) Distress
NAEMSP	National Association of EMS Physicians
NC	Nasal Cannula
NCCEP	North Carolina Chapter of Emergency Physicians
NCOEMS	North Carolina Office of EMS
NEB	Nebulizer
NEG or -	Negative
NGT	Nasogastric Tube
NH	Nursing Home
NIPPV	Non-Invasive Positive Pressure Ventilation
NKDA	No Known Drug Allergies
NO	Nitrous Oxide
NPO	Nothing by Mouth
NPA	Nasopharyngeal Airway



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N:

NRB	Non-rebreather Face Mask
NREMT	National Registry of EMT
NS	Normal Saline
NSAID	Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug
NSR	Normal Sinus Rhythm
NSTEMI	Non ST-Segment Myocardial Infarction
NTG	Nitroglycerin
NTI	Nasotracheal Intubation

O:

O2	Oxygen
OBGYN	Obstetrics and Gynecology
OHCA	Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest
OD	Overdose
OGT	Orogastric Tube
OME	Oral Morphine Equivalents
OPA	Oropharyngeal Airway
OPO	Organ Procurement Organization
OTI	Orotracheal Intubation
OTC	Over-the-counter (medications)
OZ	Ounces

P:

P	Para
PA	Physician Assistant
PALP	Palpation
PAC	Premature Atrial Contraction
PBW	Predicted Body Weight
PCI	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
PCP	Primary Care Provider
PCR	Patient Care Report



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P:	
PD	Peritoneal Dialysis
PE	Pulmonary embolus
PEA	Pulseless Electrical Activity
PEEP	Positive End Expiratory Pressure
PEARL	Pupils equal and reactive to light
PICC	Peripheral Inserted Central Catheter
PIP	Peak Inspiratory Pressure
PJC	Premature Junctional Contraction
PMH	Past Medical History
PM	Evening
PMS	Pulse, Motor, Sensory
PO	Oral or By Mouth
POCUS	Point of Care Ultrasound
POS or +	Positive
POV	Privately Owned Vehicle
PP	Plateau Pressure
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPH	Post partum Hemorrhage
PRN	As needed
PSVT	Paroxysmal Supraventricular Tachycardia
PSY or Ψ	Psychiatric
PT	Patient
PTA	Prior to Arrival
PTX	Pneumothorax
PVC	Premature Ventricular Contraction
Q:	
q	Every
QRV	Quick Response Vehicle
QUES or ?	Question or questionable



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R:

RBBB	Right Bundle Branch Block
ROM	Range of Motion
RLE	Right Lower Extremity
RLQ	Right Lower Quadrant
RUE	Right Upper Ex
ROSC	Return of Spontaneous Circulation
RN	Registered Nurse
RR	Respiratory Rate
RSA	Rapid Sequence Airway
RSI	Rapid Sequence Intubation
RT or RCP	Respiratory Therapist or Respiratory Care Provider
RTF	Rescue Task Force
RUQ	Right Upper Quadrant
RVAD	Right Ventricular Assist Device
RXN	Reaction

S:

SA	Sinus Arrhythmia
SBP	Systolic Blood Pressure
SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Appartus
S/P	Status Post
sec	Seconds
SGA	Supraglottic Airway
SI	Suicidal Ideation
SIx	Shock Index
SIMV	Synchronized Intermittent Mandatory Ventilation
SL	Sublingual
SOB	Shortness of Breath
SQ	Subcutaneous
SNF	Skill Nursing Facility



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S:

SOG	Standard Operating Guideline(s)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure(s)
SPO2	Pulse Oximetry
SMR	Spinal Motion Restriction
SSB	Short Spine Board
SSN	Social Security Number
SSS	Sick Sinus Syndrome
ST	Sinus Tachycardia
STEMI	ST Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction
SVD	Spontaneous Vaginal Delivery
SVT	Supraventricular Tachycardia
SWAT	Special Weapons and Tactics Team
SX or Sx	Symptom(s)
Sync	Synchronized
SZ or Sz	Seizure

T:

T	Temperature
TAH	Total Artificial Heart
TBSA	Total Body Surface Area
TCP	Transcutaneous Pacing
TFCPR	Team Focused Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
TIA	Transient Ischemic Attack
TK or TQ	Tourniquet
TKO	To Keep Open
TOB	Time of Birth
TOD	Time of Death
TOI	Time of Ingestion
TOO	Time of Onset
TOR	Termination of Resuscitation



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T:

tPA	Tissue Plasminogen Activator
T-POD	Trauma Pelvic Orthotic Device
TS	Thoracic Spine
TTP	Targeted Temperature Management
TV	Tidal Volume
TX or Tx	Treatment
TXA	Tranexamic Acid

U:

UOA	Upon Our Arrival
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection
US	Ultrasound
USIV	Ultrasound IV
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection

V:

VAD	Ventricular Assist Device
VF	Ventricular Fibrillation
VL	Video Laryngoscopy
VS or V/S	Vital Signs
VSS	Vital Signs Stable
VT	Ventricular Tachycardia

W:

WAP	Wandering Atrial Pacemaker
WCD	Wearable Cardio-Defibrillator Vest
WMD	Weapon of Mass Destruction
WNL	Within Normal Limits
WPW	Wolf Parkinson White syndrome
W/S	Watts per Second



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The following is a list of approved medical abbreviations. Providers should use only these abbreviations in medical documentation or other agency specific approved abbreviations.

W:

WT or Wt Weight

Y:

Y/O Year(s) Old

YOF Year Old Female

YOM Year Old Male

YONB Year Old Nonbinary

Y:

Y/O Year(s) Old

YOF Year Old Female

YOM Year Old Male

YONB Year Old Nonbinary

Z:

ZED Zee Extrication Device

Symbol Chart:

~	Approximate, approximately, approximation
&	And
@	At
Δ	Change
°	Degree (s)
=	Equal (s)
♀	Female
>	Greater than
≥	Greater than or equal to
<	Less than
≤	Less than or equal to
♂	Male
-	Negative
#	Number
%	Percent, percentage
+	Positive
ψ	Psychiatry, psychiatric
?	Question, questionable