

List of medical abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
#	broken bone (fracture)
A&E	accident and emergency
a.c.	before meals
a.m., am, AM	morning
AF	atrial fibrillation
AMHP	approved mental health professional
APTT	activated partial thromboplastin time (a measure of how long it takes your blood to clot)
ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire (a set of questions about children's development)
b.d.s, bds, BDS	2 times a day
b.i.d., bid, bd	twice a day / twice daily / 2 times daily
BMI	body mass index
BNO	bowels not open
BO	bowels open
BP	blood pressure

Abbreviation	Meaning
c/c	chief complaint
CMHN	community mental health nurse
CPN	community psychiatric nurse
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CSU	catheter stream urine sample
CT scan	computerised tomography scan
CVP	central venous pressure
CXR	chest X-ray
DNACPR	do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation
DNAR	do not attempt resuscitation
DNR	do not resuscitate
Dr	doctor
DVT	deep vein thrombosis
Dx	diagnosis
ECG	electrocardiogram
ED	emergency department

Abbreviation	Meaning
EEG	electroencephalogram
EMU	early morning urine sample
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate (a type of blood test used to help diagnose conditions associated with inflammation)
EUA	examination under anaesthetic
FBC	full blood count (a type of blood test)
FY1 FY2	foundation doctor
GA	general anaesthetic
gtt., gtt	drop(s)
h., h	hour
h/o	history of
Hb	haemoglobin (a substance in red blood cells that moves oxygen around the body)
HCA	healthcare assistant
HCSW	healthcare support worker
HDL	high-density lipoprotein (a type of cholesterol)
HRT	hormone replacement therapy

Abbreviation	Meaning
Ht	height
Hx	history
i	1 tablet
ii	2 tablets
iii	3 tablets
i.m., IM	injection into a muscle
i.v., IV	injection directly to a vein
INR	international normalised ratio (a measure of how long blood takes to clot)
IVI	intravenous infusion
IVP	intravenous pyelogram (an X-ray of your urinary tract)
ix	investigations
LA	local anaesthetic
LDL	low-density lipoprotein (a type of cholesterol)
LFT	liver function test (a type of blood test measuring enzymes and proteins in your liver)
LMP	last menstrual period

Abbreviation	Meaning
M/R	modified release
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MSU	mid-stream urine sample
n.p.o., npo, NPO	nothing by mouth / not by oral administration
NAD	nothing abnormal discovered
NAI	non-accidental injury
NBM	nil by mouth
NG	nasogastric (running between your nose and stomach)
nocte	every night
NoF	neck of femur
NSAID	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
o.d., od, OD	once a day
o/e	on examination
OT	occupational therapist

Abbreviation	Meaning
p.c.	after food
p.m., pm, PM	afternoon or evening
p.o., po, PO	orally / by mouth / oral administration
p.r., pr, PR	rectally
p.r.n., prn, PRN	as needed
p/c	presenting complaint
physio	physiotherapist
POP	plaster of paris
PTT	partial thromboplastin time (a measure of how quickly your blood clots)
PU	passed urine
q.	every
q.1.d., q1d	every day
q.1.h., q1h	every hour
q.2.h., q2h	every 2 hours
q.4.h., q4h	every 4 hours

Abbreviation	Meaning
q.6.h., q6h	every 6 hours
q.8.h., q8h	every 8 hours
q.d., qd	every day / daily
q.d.s, qds, QDS	4 times a day
q.h., qh	every hour, hourly
q.i.d, qid	4 times a day
q.o.d., qod	every other day / alternate days
q.s., qs	a sufficient quantity (enough)
RN	registered nurse
RNLD	learning disability nurse
ROSC	return of spontaneous circulation
RTA	road traffic accident
Rx	treatment
s.c., SC	injection under the skin
S/R	sustained release

Abbreviation	Meaning
SLT	speech and language therapist
SpR	specialist registrar
stat.	immediately, with no delay, now
STEMI	ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction
t.d.s, tds, TDS	3 times a day
t.i.d., tid	3 times a day
TCI	to come in
TFT	thyroid function test
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse and respiration
TTA	to take away
TTO	to take out
U&E	urea and electrolytes
u.d., ud	as directed
UCC	urgent care centre

Abbreviation	Meaning
UTI	urinary tract infection
VLDL	very-low density lipoprotein (a type of cholesterol)
VTE	venous thromboembolism (a blood clot that forms in a vein)
Wt	weight