


 

[CONTACT US](#) | [SITE MAP](#)

- [ABOUT](#)
- [MEDICATION ERRORS](#)
- [RECOMMENDATIONS / STATEMENTS](#)
- [FOR CONSUMERS](#)
- [OPIOIDS RESOURCES](#)

## Dangerous Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Intended meaning	Common Error
U	Units	Mistaken as a zero or a four (4) resulting in overdose. Also mistaken for "cc" (cubic centimeters) when poorly written.
µg	Micrograms	Mistaken for "mg" (milligrams) resulting in an overdose.
Q.D.	Latin abbreviation for every day	The period after the "Q" has sometimes been mistaken for an "I," and the drug has been given "QID" (four times daily) rather than daily.
Q.O.D.	Latin abbreviation for every other day	Misinterpreted as "QD" (daily) or "QID" (four times daily). If the "O" is poorly written, it looks like a period or "I."
SC or SQ	Subcutaneous	Mistaken as "SL"

### ! NAN ALERT

The National Alert Network (NAN) publishes the alerts from the National Medication Errors Reporting Program. NAN encourages the sharing and reporting of medication errors, so that lessons learned can be used to increase the safety of the medication use system.

May 24, 2018  
Safe handling of concentrated electrolyte products from outsourcing facilities during critical drug shortages

[➤ Subscribe](#) [➤ Archive](#)

### POPULAR LINKS

[➤ Definition](#)

[➤ Taxonomy](#)

(sublingual) when poorly written.

➤ Dangerous Abbreviations

T I W

Three times a week

Misinterpreted as "three times a day" or "twice a week."

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

There is no meeting available.

➤ [Previous Meetings](#)

D/C

Discharge; also discontinue

Patient's medications have been prematurely discontinued when D/C, (intended to mean "discharge") was misinterpreted as "discontinue," because it was followed by a list of drugs.

#### REPORT MEDICATION ERRORS

➤ [ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program \(MERP\)](#)

➤ [Go U.S. Food and Drug Administration's MedWatch Reporting Program](#)

HS

Half strength

Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation "HS" (hour of sleep).

cc

Cubic centimeters

Mistaken as "U" (units) when poorly written.

AU, AS, AD

Latin abbreviation for both ears; left ear; right ear

Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation "OU" (both eyes); "OS" (left eye); "OD" (right eye)

IU

International Unit

Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10(ten)

MS, MSO4, MgSO4

Confused for one another

Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate

See the full Council Recommendation, [Recommendations to Enhance Accuracy of Prescription Writing](#).

granted to reproduce information contained herein provided that such reproduction shall not modify the text and shall include the copyright notice appearing on the pages from which it was copied. This copyright statement will change to the new year after the 1st of every year.