



Section: Standards for Medical Documentation
Subject: ACCEPTABLE MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS
Section #: 360.02
Issue Date: February 1, 2012
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Approved By: 

Page 1 of 2

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- The following is a list of acceptable medical abbreviations for use on HCFR medical documentation.

Medical Abbreviations			
A+Ox3	alert and oriented to person, place, time	N/A	not applicable
AMI	acute myocardial infarction	NKA	no known allergies
ARDS	acute respiratory distress syndrome	NKDA	no known drug allergies
a.m.a.	against medical advice	NS	normal saline
BSA	body surface area	NTG	nitroglycerin
c/o	complains of	N/V	nausea & vomiting
CC, c/c	chief complaint	O₂	oxygen
CA	cancer	OTC	over-the-counter
CAD	coronary artery disease	PA O₂	partial pressure of oxygen
cath.	Catheter, catheterize	PE	pulmonary embolism
CAO	conscious, alert, oriented	PEEP	positive end-expiratory pressure
CHF	congestive heart failure	PERRL	pupils equal, round, and reactive to light
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	PSVT	paroxysmal supra ventricular tachycardia
CP	chest pain	PVC	Premature ventricular contraction
CVA	cerebral vascular accident	pVT	Pulseless ventricular tachycardia
D.I.B.	difficulty in breathing	R/O	Rule out
DNRO	Do Not Resuscitate Order	RBBB	Right bundle branch block
Dx, dx	diagnosis	Rx	Prescription
Fx, fx	fracture	s/s	Signs & symptoms
GYN, Gyn	gynecological	SpO₂	Pulse Oximetry
H/A	headache	SSN	Social security number
H&P	history & physical exam	Sz	Seizure
HTN	hypertension	TB	Tuberculosis
Hx, h/o	history, history of	TIA	Transient ischemic attack
ICP	intracranial pressure	TKO	To keep open
IDDM	insulin dependent diabetes mellitus	Tx	Treatment
JVD	Jugular venous distention	URI	Upper respiratory infection
LBBB	left bundle branch block	UTI	Urinary tract infection
LMP	last menstrual period	VF	ventricular fibrillation
LR	lactated ringers	VS	vital signs
LSB	long spine board	VT	ventricular tachycardia
LZ	landing zone	WNL	within normal limits
MI	Myocardial Infarction	WPW	Wolf-Parkinson-White syndrome
MS	multiple sclerosis	y/o	Year old (## y/o female)

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Page 2 of 2

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2. In addition to those listed in the table, the following guidelines should be followed:
 - a. If there is any question as to whether or not you will be able to remember what an approved abbreviation stands for when asked in a Court of Law, DON'T USE IT.
 - b. Abbreviations used to name medical procedures or drug classifications are acceptable (MRI, CAT scan, MAO inhibitor, etc.)
 - c. Units of measure may be abbreviated (mL, mmHg, etc.)
 - d. Routes of drug delivery may be abbreviated (IV, IO, etc.)
 - e. Anatomical locations may be abbreviated (AC, LLQ, abd, etc.)