

Abbreviation	Meaning
aa	Of each
a.c.	Before meals
ad	Right ear
ad lib	As desired
amp	Ampule
amt	Amount
aq	Water
ASA	Aspirin
ATC	Around the clock
AU	Both ears
BID	Twice daily
BM	Bowel movement
BP	Blood pressure
BSA	Body surface area
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
cap	Capsule
cc	Cubic centimeter
cf	With food
CHF	Congestive heart failure
CMP	Comprehensive metabolic panel
cr	Cream
CS	Controlled substance
CVA	Stroke
DAW	Dispense as written
d/c	Discontinue
dil	Dilute
disp	Dispense
DM	Diabetes mellitus
D5W	5% dextrose in water
D5NS	5% dextrose in normal saline
DS	Double strength
EC	Enteric-coated
elix	Elixir
ER	Extended release

Abbreviation	Meaning
ETOH	Alcohol
fl	Fluid
g	Gram
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
gtt	Drop
H	Hour
HBP	High blood pressure
Hct	Hematocrit
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HS	At bedtime
ICU	Intensive care unit
ID	Intradermal
IM	Intramuscular
inh	Inhalation
inj	Injection
IP	Intraperitoneal
IV	Intravenous
IVP	IV push
IVPB	IV piggyback
KVO	Keep vein open
LA	Long-acting
Ib	Pound
liq	Liquid
lot	Lotion
LPM	Liters per minute
LR	Lactated Ringer's
mcg	Microgram
mEq	Milliequivalent
mg	Milligram
mL	Milliliter
MMR	Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine
MOM	Milk of magnesia
MRSA	Drug-resistant staph infection
MS	Morphine sulfate

Abbreviation	Meaning
NKA	No known allergies
NKDA	No known drug allergies
NPO	Nothing by mouth
NS	Normal saline
NSR	Normal sinus rhythm
NTG	Nitroglycerin
o.d.	Right eye
o.s.	Left eye
o.u.	Both eyes
OTC	Over the counter
p.c.	After meals
p.m.	Evening
PO	By mouth
PR	Per rectum
PRN	As needed
PT	Patient
q	Every
q2h	Every 2 hours
q4h	Every 4 hours
q6h	Every 6 hours
q8h	Every 8 hours
QHS	Every night at bedtime
QID	Four times daily
qs	Quantity sufficient
Rx	Prescription
SL	Sublingual
sos	If necessary
susp	Suspension
supp	Suppository
tab	Tablet
TID	Three times daily
top	Topical
tsp	Teaspoon
tbsp	Tablespoon

Abbreviation	Meaning
UTD	Use as directed
VO	Verbal order
w/	With
w/o	Without
wt	Weight
yo	Year old
Zn	Zinc