



Vocational Nursing Program Common Abbreviations

Abbreviation	English Meaning	Do Not Use
>	Greater than	
<	Less than	
ac	Before meals	
ADLs	Activities of daily living	
ad lib	At will	
bid	Twice a day	
BM	Bowel movement	
BP	Blood pressure	
BRP	Bathroom privileges	
C () over top	with	w/
C/O	Complain of	
CBC	Complete Blood Count	
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	
CSF	Cerebral spinal fluid	
Δ	Change	
Dc, D/C	Discontinue or discharge	
DNR	Do not resuscitate	
DX	diagnosis	
Fr	French-size of certain catheters	
H&P	History and physical	
HS	Hour of sleep	
ICU	Intensive care unit	
I&D	Incision and drainage	
IM	intermuscular	
IV	intravenous	
KVO	Keep vein open	
LLL	Left lower lobe of the lungs	
LLE	Left Lower Extremity	
LLQ	Left lower quadrant	
LUE	Left Upper Extremity	
LUL	Left upper lobe of the lungs	
LUQ	Left upper quadrant	
ml	milliliter	cc
n/a	Not applicable, not assessed	
NICU	Neonatal intensive care unit	
NKA	No known allergies	
NPO	Nothing by mouth	
OOB	Out of bed	
O ₂	Oxygen	
OT	Occupational therapy	
PA	Physical assessment, physician's assistant	
pc	After meals	

PMH	Past Medical History	
po	By mouth	
prn	As needed	
PT	Physical therapy	
Pt	patient	
RUE	Right Upper Extremity	
RUL	Right upper lobe of the lungs	
RLQ	Right lower quadrant of the abdomen	
RLE	Right Lower Extremity	
r/o	Rule out	
RUL	Right upper lob of the lungs	
RLQ	Right lower quadrant of the abdomen	
Rx	Prescription or order by physician	
S (---) over top	without	
S/sx or s/s	Signs and symptoms	
SOB	Shortness of breath or side of bed	
Stat	immediately	
TID	Three times a day	
UA	urinalysis	
VS	Vital signs	
WC	Wheelchair	



Vocational Nursing Program Abbreviations of Common Medical Conditions

Abbreviation	Meaning in English	Do not use
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Disorder	
AKA	Above Knee Amputation	
ARDS	Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome	
BA	Below Knee Amputation	
CA	Cancer	
CF	Cystic fibrosis	
CHD/CAD	Coronary Artery Disease	
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure	
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	
CVA	Cardiovascular accident	
DT's	Delirium Tremens (tremors)	
FUO	Fever of unknown origin	
HCAP	Healthcare Acquired Pneumonia	
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	
HTN	Hypertension	
MI	Myocardial infarction	
MS	Multiple Sclerosis	
PID	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	
PVD	Peripheral Vascular Disease	
RDS	Respiratory Distress Syndrome	
T&A	Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy	
TIA	Transient Ischemic Attack	
TURP	Transurethral Resection of the Prostate	
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection	
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection	