

Common Medical Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Interpretation |
|--|------------------------------|
| Route by which drug is administered | |
| IM | Intramuscular |
| IV | Intravenous |
| SL | Sublingual, under the tongue |
| ID | Intradermal |
| SUBCUT | Subcutaneously |
| GT | Gastronomy tube |
| NG | Nasogastric tube |
| NJ | Nasojejunal tube |
| PO | By mouth; orally |
| pr | Per rectum; rectally |
| pr subcut | Rectally subcutaneous |
| Frequency of administering a drug | |
| ac | Before meals |
| pc | After meals |
| Ad lib | As desired; freely |
| prn | When necessary |
| stat | Immediately; at once |
| BID | Twice a day |
| TID | Three times a day |
| QID | Four times a day |
| min | Minute |
| h/hr | Hour |
| qh/qhr | Every hour |
| q2h | Every 2 hours |
| q3h | Every 3 hours |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| q4h | Every 4 hours |
| q6h | Every 6 hours |
| q8h | Every 8 hours |
| q12h | Every 12 hours |
| General abbreviations | |
| q | Every |
| NPO | Nothing by mouth |
| gtt | Drop |
| tab | tablet |

| Abbreviations that should NOT be used | | |
|--|---|--|
| Abbreviation | Meaning | Correction |
| U | Unit | Use "unit" |
| IU | International unit | Use "unit" |
| QD | Every day | Use "daily" |
| QOD | Every other day | Use "every other day" |
| OD | Every day | Use "every day" |
| D/C | Discharge | Use "discharge" |
| cc | Cubic centimetre | Use "mL" |
| µg | microgram | Use "mcg" |
| @ | at | Use "at" |
| < > | Less than Greater than | Use "less than" or "lower than" Use "greater than" or "more than" |
| Trailing zero | x.0 mg | Use "x mg". Drop all trailing zeroes! |
| Lack of leading zero | .x mg | Use "0.x mg" Always use a zero before a decimal point. |