

Commonly Used Abbreviations and Symbols

Symbol/Abbrev.	Meaning	Symbol/Abbrev.	Meaning
@	At	mg	Milligram
a	Before	mL, ml	Milliliter
ac	Before meals (ante cibum)	mm	Millimeter
ASAP	As soon as possible		
ASHD	Arteriosclerotic heart disease	N/A	Not available/applicable
		Na	Sodium
BM	Bowel movement	Neg, -	Negative
BP	Blood pressure	NPO	Nothing by mouth
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen	NS, N/S	Normal saline
√	Check	O ₂	oxygen
c ⁻	With		
Ca ⁺⁺	Calcium	Path	Pathology
CA, ca	Cancer, carcinoma	pc	After meals (post cibum)
CBC	Complete blood count	Ped(s)	Pediatrics
CBS	Chronic brain syndrome	pH	Hydrogen ion concentration
Cc	Cubic centimeter	+	Positive
Cl	Chloride		
CNS	Central nervous system	q	Every (quaque)
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide	q am	Every morning
C & S	Culture and sensitivity	q d	Every day
CSF	Cerebrospinal	qh, q 1h	Every hour
		q2h	Every two hours
dig	Digoxin	q3h	Every three hours
DOA	Dead on arrival	qns	Quantity not sufficient
Dr	Doctor		
Dx	Diagnosis	RBC, rbc	Red blood cells
		R/O	Rule out
ED	Emergency department	Rx	Take, therapy, prescription
ER	Emergency room		
etc.	And so forth (et cetera)	s ⁻	Without (sine)
		spec	specimen
Fe	Iron	SG, SPG, Sp gr	Specific gravity
		stat	At once, immediately
GI	Gastrointestinal		
g	Gram	TB, TBC	Tuberculosis
GP	General practitioner	TPR	Temperature, pulse, and respiration
GU	Genitourinary	TSH	Thyroid stimulating hormone
GYN	Gynecology	T ₄	Thyroxine (thyroid hormone)
		T ₃	Triiodidine (thyroid hormone)
h, hr	Hour	Tx	Treatment
HCl	Hydrochloric acid		
hct	Hematocrit	U	Unit
Hgb, hgb	Hemoglobin	U/A, UA	Urinalysis
H ₂ O	Water	URI	Upper respiratory infection
Hx	History	UTI	Urinary tract infection
K	Potassium	WBC	White blood cells
kg	Kilogram	WNL	Within normal limits
KOH	Potassium hydroxide		
Lab	Laboratory		
lbs	Pounds		
μg, mcg	Microgram		
m	Meter		
mEq	Milliequivalent		