

### 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 <sub>2</sub> | oxygen                              |
| c <sup>-</sup>   | With                           |                |                                     |
| Ca <sup>++</sup> | 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 <sub>2</sub>  | 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 <sup>-</sup> | 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 <sub>4</sub> | Thyroxine (thyroid hormone)         |
|                  |                                | T <sub>3</sub> | Triiodidine (thyroid hormone)       |
| h, hr            | Hour                           | Tx             | Treatment                           |
| HCl              | Hydrochloric acid              |                |                                     |
| hct              | Hematocrit                     | U              | Unit                                |
| Hgb, hgb         | Hemoglobin                     | U/A, UA        | Urinalysis                          |
| H <sub>2</sub> 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                |                |                                     |