Decoding Medical Speak: A Neurosurgeon’s Guide for Lawyers

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Rex Neurosurgery and Spine Specialists
Medical Abbreviations

A accommodation; acetum; angström unit; anode; anterior
a artery
a before
A₂ aortic second sound
aa of each; arteries
AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm
abd abdominal/abdomen
ABG arterial blood gas
ABI ankle-brachial index
ABO three basic blood groups
AC adrenal cortex; air conduction; alternating current; axiocervical
a.c., ac before a meal
acc. accommodation
A/CA accommodative/convergence accommodation ratio
ACE angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACh acetylcholine
AChE acetylcholinesterase
AChR acetylcholine receptor
ACLS advanced cardiac life support
ACTH adrenocorticotropic hormone
AD advance directive
ad to; up to
ADH antidiuretic hormone
ADHD attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder
ADL, ADLs activities of daily living
ad lib. freely; as desired
admov. apply
ad sat. to saturation
AED antiepileptic drug
AF atrial fibrillation
AFB acid-fast bacillus
AFP alpha-fetoprotein
A/G; A-G ratio albumin/globulin ratio
Ag silver; antigen
AGC atypical glandular cells
AgNO₃ silver nitrate
ah hypermetropic astigmatism
AHF antihemophilic factor
AI aortic incompetence; aortic insufficiency
AICD automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator
AIDS acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AK above the knee
AL above the knee
Al aluminum
Alb albumin
ALL acute lymphocytic leukemia
ALP alkaline phosphatase
ALS amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ALT alanine aminotransferase
alt. dieb. every other day
alt. hor. every other hour
alt. noc. every other night
AM morning
Am mixed astigmatism
a.m.a. against medical advice
AMI acute myocardial infarction
AML acute myelogenous (myeloblastic) leukemia
AMLS Advanced Medical Life Support
amp ampule; amputation
ANA antinuclear antibody
anat anatomy or anatomic
ANNA anti-neuronal nuclear antibody
ANP atrial natriuretic peptide
ant. anterior
anti-CCP anticyclic citrullinated peptide
Ao. aorta
A-P anterior-posterior
A&P auscultation and percussion
ap before dinner
APAP acetaminophen
aPTT activated partial thromboplastin
AQ, aq water
aq. dest. distilled water
aq. frig. cold water
ARC AIDS-related complex
ARDS acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARMD age-related macular degeneration
AS ankylosing spondylitis; aortic stenosis; auris sinistra (left ear)
As. astigmatism
ASA acetylsalicylic acid
ASC atypical squamous cells
asc. ascending
ASCA anti-\textit{Saccharomyces cerevisiae} antibody
ASC-US atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance
ASCVD atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASD atrial septal defect
AsH hypermetropic astigmatism
AsM myopic astigmatism
AST aspartate aminotransferase
Ast astigmatism
ATCC American Type Culture Collection
at. wt. atomic weight
Au gold
A-V; AV; A/V arteriovenous; atrioventricular
av. avoirdupois
AVM arteriovenous malformation
AVP arginine vasopressin
B boron; bacillus
Ba barium
BAC blood alcohol concentration
BBB blood-brain barrier; bundle branch block
BBT basal body temperature
BCG bacille Calmette-Guérin
BCLS basic cardiac life support
BCP birth control pills
BD Buerger disease
BE barium enema
Be beryllium
BHS beta-hemolytic streptococci
Bi bismuth
b. bone
bib. drink
b.i.d., bid twice a day
b.i.n. twice a night
bipap bilevel positive airway pressure
BK below the knee
BLS basic life support
BM bowel movement
BMI body mass index
BMR basal metabolic rate
BMS bone marrow suppression
BMT bone marrow transplantation
BNP brain natriuretic peptide
bol. pill
BP blood pressure
B.P. British Pharmacopeia
BPH benign prostatic hyperplasia
bpm beats per minute
BRM biologic response modifier
BROW barley, rye, oats, and wheat
BSA body surface area
BSE breast self-examination
BUN blood urea nitrogen
BW birth weight; body weight
Bx biopsy
C Calorie (kilocalorie); Celsius
c calorie (small calorie)
c with
CA coronary artery
c.a. about; approximately; cancer
CABG coronary artery bypass graft
CaCO₃ calcium carbonate
CAD coronary artery disease
CAH chronic active hepatitis
Cal large calorie
CAP let (the patient) take
cap. capsule
C&S culture and sensitivity
cath catheter
CBC complete blood count
CBI continuous bladder irrigation
CBRNE chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive agents
CBT cognitive behavioral therapy
CC chief complaint
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cc</td>
<td>cubic centimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCl4</td>
<td>carbon tetrachloride</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCU</td>
<td>coronary care unit; critical care unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4</td>
<td>T-helper cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD8</td>
<td>cytotoxic cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEA</td>
<td>carcinoembryonic antigen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF</td>
<td>cystic fibrosis; Christmas factor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFTR</td>
<td>cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cg</td>
<td>centigram</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHD</td>
<td>congenital heart disease; coronary heart disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ChE</td>
<td>cholinesterase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>congestive heart failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>cardiac index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>curie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIN</td>
<td>cervical intraepithelial neoplasia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>carcinoma in situ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK</td>
<td>creatine kinase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK-MB</td>
<td>serum creatine kinase, myocardial-bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cl</td>
<td>chlorine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLL</td>
<td>chronic lymphocytic leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cm</td>
<td>centimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.m.s.</td>
<td>to be taken tomorrow morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMT</td>
<td>certified medication technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMV</td>
<td>cytomegalovirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN.</td>
<td>tomorrow night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNS</td>
<td>central nervous system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.n.s.</td>
<td>to be taken tomorrow night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO</td>
<td>carbon monoxide; cardiac output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO2</td>
<td>carbon dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co</td>
<td>cobalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/o</td>
<td>complains of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLD</td>
<td>chronic obstructive lung disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp.</td>
<td>compound; compounded of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMT</td>
<td>catechol-O-methyltransferase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPD</td>
<td>chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COX-2</td>
<td>cyclooxygenase 2 inhibitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>cerebral palsy; cleft palate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPAP</td>
<td>continuous positive airway pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPC</td>
<td>clinicopathologic conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>cephalopelvic disproportion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPHSS</td>
<td>Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPK</td>
<td>creatine phosphokinase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPM</td>
<td>continuous passive motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR</td>
<td>cardiopulmonary resuscitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>conditioned reflex; controlled release; crown-rump length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREST</td>
<td>calcinosis, Raynaud phenomenon, esophageal dysfunction, sclerodactyly, telangiectasia (cluster of features of systemic sclerosis scleroderma)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRP</td>
<td>c. reactive protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRS-R</td>
<td>Conners Rating Scales-Revised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>cardiogenic shock; cesarean section; culture and sensitivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>cerebrospinal fluid; colony-stimulating factor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CSH  combat support hospital
CT  computed/computerized tomography
Cu  copper
CV  cardiovascular
CVA  cardiovascular accident; cerebrovascular accident; costovertebral angle
CVC  central venous catheter
CVP  central venous pressure
CVRB  critical value read back
CVS  chorionic villi sampling
CXR  chest x-ray
D  diopter; dose
D5/0.9 NaCl  5% dextrose and normal saline solution (0.9% NaCl)
D5/½ NS  5% dextrose and half-normal saline solution (0.45% NaCl)
D5W  5% dextrose in water
d  density; right
/d per day
D and C  dilatation and curettage
dB  decibel
DBP  diastolic blood pressure
DC  direct current; doctor of chiropractic
dc  discontinue
Derm  dermatology
det.  let it be given
DEXA  dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry
DFV  Doppler flow velocimetry
DHT  dihydrotestosterone
DI  diabetes insipidus
DIC  disseminated intravascular coagulation
dieb. alt.  every other day
dieb. tert.  every third day
dil.  dilute; diluted
dim.  halved
DISIDA (scan)  diisopropyl iminodiacetic acid (cholescintigraphy)
DJD  degenerative joint disease
DKA  diabetic ketoacidosis
dL  deciliter
DM  diabetes mellitus
DMARD  disease-modulating antirheumatic drug
DNA  deoxyribonucleic acid
DNH  do not hospitalize
DNR  do not resuscitate
DOA  dead on arrival
DOB  date of birth
DOE  dyspnea on exertion
DPat  diphtheria-acellular pertussis tetanus (vaccine)
DPT  diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)
dr.  dram
DRE  digital rectal examination
DRG  diagnosis-related group
DSM-IV-TR  Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision
DTR  deep tendon reflex(es)
DTs  delirium tremens
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FISH</td>
<td>fluorescence in situ hybridization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fl.</td>
<td>flexor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fld</td>
<td>fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>family practice; family practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSH</td>
<td>follicle-stimulating hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTT</td>
<td>failure to thrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUO</td>
<td>fever of unknown origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G, g, gm</td>
<td>gram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GABA</td>
<td>gamma-aminobutyric acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GABAB</td>
<td>gamma-aminobutyric acid type B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GABRB3</td>
<td>GABA&lt;sub&gt;B&lt;/sub&gt; receptor gene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garg</td>
<td>gargle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>gallbladder; Guillain-Barré</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>gonococcus or gonorrheal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDM</td>
<td>gestational diabetes mellitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDS</td>
<td>Geriatric Depression Scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERD</td>
<td>gastroesophageal reflux disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>glomerular filtration rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGT</td>
<td>gamma-glutamyl transferase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH</td>
<td>growth hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI</td>
<td>gastrointestinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GnRH</td>
<td>gonadotropin-releasing hormone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>general practitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G6PD</td>
<td>glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gr</td>
<td>grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grad</td>
<td>by degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAS</td>
<td>generally recognized as safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSW</td>
<td>gunshot wound</td>
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<tr>
<td>GTT</td>
<td>glucose tolerance test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gtt, gtt</td>
<td>drops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GU</td>
<td>genitourinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guttat.</td>
<td>drop by drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>GVHD</td>
<td>graft-versus-host disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GYN</td>
<td>gynecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>hydrogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&lt;sup&gt;+&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>hydrogen ion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h, hr</td>
<td>hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;H</td>
<td>hematocrit and hemoglobin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1N1</td>
<td>hemagglutinin type 1 and neuraminidase type 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>histamine 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAART</td>
<td>highly active antiretroviral therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAV</td>
<td>hepatitis A virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBV</td>
<td>hepatitis B virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCG</td>
<td>human chorionic gonadotropin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCP</td>
<td>health care professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCT, Hct</td>
<td>hematocrit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV</td>
<td>hepatitis C virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HD</td>
<td>hearing distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDL</td>
<td>high-density lipoprotein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDV</td>
<td>hepatitis D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEENT</td>
<td>head, eye, ear, nose, and throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELLP</td>
<td>hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, low platelets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HEPA high-efficiency particulate air
HER2 human EGF (epidermal growth factor) receptor 2
HEV hepatitis E
HF heart failure
Hg mercury
Hgb hemoglobin
HGSIL high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
Hib Haemophilus influenzae type B
HIDA hepatobiliary iminodiacetic acid (cholescintigraphy)
HIV human immunodeficiency virus
HLA human leukocyte antigen
h/o history of
HOB head of bed
H₂O water
H₂O₂ hydrogen peroxide
hor. decub. bedtime
hor. som, h.s. bedtime
HPI history of present illness
HPV human papillomavirus
HR heart rate
HRT hormone replacement therapy
HSIL high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
HSV herpes simplex virus
HTLV-III human T lymphotropic virus type III
HTN hypertension
hx, Hx history
Hy hyperopia
Hz hertz (cycles per second)
I iodine
¹³¹I radioactive isotope of iodine (atomic weight 131)
¹³²I radioactive isotope of iodine (atomic weight 132)
I&O intake and output
IBW ideal body weight
IC inspiratory capacity
ICD implantable cardioverter defibrillator
ICP intracranial pressure
ICS intercostal space
ICSH interstitial cell-stimulating hormone
ICU intensive care unit
Id. the same
IDDM insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IDM infants of diabetic mothers
IED improvised explosive device
Ig immunoglobulin
IgE immunoglobulin E
IgG immunoglobulin G
IL-1 interleukin 1
IL-8 interleukin 8
IM intramuscular
in d. daily
INF interferon
inf. inferior
inj. injection
INR international normalized ratio
instill. instillation
int. internal
IOP intraocular pressure
IPPP intermittent positive pressure breathing
IQ intelligence quotient
IRV inspiratory reserve volume
I.U. a international unit
IUCD intrauterine contraceptive device
IUD intrauterine device
IUFD intrauterine fetal death
IV intravenous
IVP intravenous pyelogram
J joule
JNC 7 The Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure
JRA juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
jt. joint
K potassium
kg kilogram
KI potassium iodine
KOH potassium hydroxide
KS Kaposi sarcoma
KUB kidney, ureter, and bladder
kv kilovolt
KVO keep vein open
L liter
L&D labor and delivery
lab laboratory
lat lateral
lb pound
LBW low birth weight
LD$50$ lethal dose, median
LDH lactate dehydrogenase
LDL low-density lipoprotein
LE lower extremity; lupus erythematosus
LEEP loop electrosurgical excision procedure
LFT liver function test
LGA large for gestational age
LH luteinizing hormone
Li lithium
lig ligament
liq. liquid; fluid
LLE left lower extremity
LLL left lower lobe
LLQ left lower quadrant
Imp last menstrual period
LOC level/loss of consciousness
LP lumbar puncture
LR lactated Ringer (solution)
LSIL low-grade squamous epithelial lesion
LTD lowest tolerated dose
LUE left upper extremity
LUL left upper lobe
LUQ left upper quadrant
LV left ventricle
LVAD left ventricular assist device
LVH left ventricular hypertrophy
M master; medicine; molar; thousand; muscle
m male; meter; minim; mole; meta; muscle
MA mental age
MAO-B monoamine oxidase-B
man. prim. first thing in the morning
MAP mean arterial pressure
MAT Miller Analogies Test
MBD minimal brain dysfunction
mc; mCi millicurie
mcg microgram
MCH mean corpuscular hemoglobin
MCHC mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV mean corpuscular volume
MD muscular dystrophy
MDI metered-dose inhaler
MED minimum effective dose
med medial
MELD Model for End-Stage Liver Disease
\( \mu \text{Eq} \) microequivalent
\( m\text{Eq} \) milliequivalent
\( m\text{Eq}/L \) milliequivalent per liter
ME ratio myeloid/erythroid ratio
MG myasthenia gravis
Mg magnesium
MgSO\(_4\) magnesium sulfate
\( \mu \text{g} \) microgram
mg milligram
MI myocardial infarction
MID minimum infective dose
mist. a mixture
ml milliliter
MLD minimum lethal dose
MLF medial longitudinal fasciculus
MM mucous membrane; multiple myeloma
mm millimeter
mm Hg millimeters of mercury
mMol millimole
MMR measles-mumps-rubella (vaccine)
MMSE Mini-Mental Status Examination
Mn manganese
mol wt molecular weight
mor. dict. as directed
mor. sol. as accustomed
MPC maximum permitted concentration
MPN most probable number
mr milliroentgen
MRA magnetic resonance angiography
MRgFUS MR-guided focused ultrasound surgery
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MS mitral stenosis; multiple sclerosis
MV mitral valve
mV millivolt
MVA motor vehicle accident
MW molecular weight
My myopia
N nitrogen
n nerve
N/A not applicable
Na sodium
NAA nucleic acid amplification
NAD no acute distress
n.b. note well
nCi nanocurie
NDC National Drug Code
NG, ng nasogastric
NGT nasogastric tube
NH₃ ammonia
Ni nickel
NICU neonatal intensive care unit
NIDDM noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NIH National Institutes of Health
NK natural killer
NKA no known allergies
NMDA N-methyl D-aspartate
NMJ neuromuscular junction
NMS neuroleptic malignant syndrome
nn nerves
noct. in the night
noct. maneq. night and morning
non rep; n.r. do not repeat
NPN nonprotein nitrogen
NPO; n.p.o. nothing by mouth
NRC normal retinal correspondence
NS normal saline
NSAID nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
NSR normal sinus rhythm
N&V, N/V nausea and vomiting
O pint
O₂ oxygen
OB obstetrics
OC oral contraceptive
OCD obsessive-compulsive disorder
O.D. right eye
ol. oil
om. mane vel noc. every morning or night
omn. hor. every hour
omn. noct. every night
OmPC outer membrane porin C
OOB out of bed
OPD outpatient department
OR operating room
ORIF open reduction with/and internal fixation
O.S. left eye
OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OT occupational therapy
OTC over-the-counter
OU each eye
oz ounce
P, p melting point
p after
P2 pulmonic second sound
P-A; PA; pa placenta abruption; posteroanterior; pulmonary artery
PABA para-aminobenzoic acid (vitamin B10)
Paco2 partial pressure of carbon dioxide in alveolar gas
PACU postanesthesia care unit
PAD peripheral arterial disease
PALS pediatric advanced life support
P-ANCA perinuclear antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody
PAO 2 alveolar oxygen partial pressure
Pap, Pap test Papanicolaou smear
part. vic in divided doses
Pb lead
PBI protein-bound iodine
p.c. after meals
PCA patient-controlled analgesia
Pco2 carbon dioxide pressure
PCOS polycystic ovarian syndrome
PCP Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia; primary care physician; primary care provider
PCR polymerase chain reaction
PCWP pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PD interpupillary distance; Parkinson disease; peritoneal dialysis
pd prism diopter; pupillary distance
PDA patent ductus arteriosus
PDR Physicians’ Desk Reference
PE physical examination; pulmonary embolism
PEEP positive end expiratory pressure
PEFR peak expiratory flow rate
PEG percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
per through or by
PERRLA pupils equal, regular, react to light and accommodation
PET positron emission tomography
PFP, P4P pay for performance
PFT pulmonary function test
pH hydrogen ion concentration
Pharm; Phar. pharmacy
PI present illness; previous illness
PICC peripherally inserted central catheter
PID pelvic inflammatory disease
PIH pregnancy-induced hypertension
pil. pill
PIP proximal interphalangeal
PIPDA (scan) 99mTc-para-isopropylacetanilido-iminodiacetic acid (cholecintigraphy)
PKU phenylketonuria
PM afternoon/evening
PMH past medical history
PMI point of maximal impulse
PMN polymorphonuclear neutrophil leukocytes
PMS premenstrual syndrome
PND paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
PNH paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
PNS peripheral nervous system
PO; p.o. orally
POLST physician orders for life-sustaining therapy
post. posterior
PP placenta previa
PPD purified protein derivative (TB test)
ppm parts per million
p.r. through the rectum
PRBCs packed red blood cells
p.r.n. as needed
pro time/PT prothrombin time
PSA prostate-specific antigen
PSV prostate-specific antigen
PT prothrombin time; physical therapy
Pt platinum; patient
pt pint
PTT partial thromboplastin time
Pu plutonium
PUBS percutaneous umbilical blood sampling
PUVA psoralen ultraviolet A
p.v. through the vagina
PVC premature ventricular contraction
PVR peripheral vascular resistance
q every
q.d.† every day
QFT-G QuantiFERON-TB Gold
q.h. every hour
q.2h. every 2 hours
q.3h. every 3 hours
q.4h. every 4 hours
q.i.d. a four times a day
q.l. as much as wanted
qns quantity not sufficient
q.o.d. a every other day
q.p. as much as desired
q.s. as much as needed
qt quart
q.v. as much as you please
RA rheumatoid arthritis
Ra radium
rad radiation absorbed dose
SIADH syndrome of inappropriate diuretic hormone
SIDS sudden infant death syndrome
Sig. write on label
SJS Stevens-Johnson syndrome
SLE systemic lupus erythematosus
SLP speech-language pathology
Sn tin
SNF skilled nursing facility
SNRI serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor
SNS sympathetic nervous system
SOB shortness of breath
sol solution, dissolved
s.o.s. if necessary
S/P no change after
SPECT single-photon emission computed tomography
sp gr specific gravity
SPF skin protection factor
sph spherical
spt. spirit
s.q. subcutaneous(ly)
Sr strontium
ss a half
SSRI selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
SSS sick sinus syndrome
st. let it/them stand
Staph Staphylococcus
stat. immediately
STD sexually transmitted disease
Strep Streptococcus
STS serologic test for syphilis
STU skin test unit
sup. superior
supf. superficial
SV stroke volume; supraventricular
SVC superior vena cava
Sx symptoms
syr. syrup
T temperature
T₃ triiodothyronine
T₄ tetraiodothyronine; thyroxine
T₆ thoracic nerve pair 6
TA toxin-antitoxin
Ta tantalum
T&A tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
TAH total abdominal hysterectomy
TAT thematic apperception test
T.A.T. toxin-antitoxin
TB tuberculin; tuberculosis; tubercle bacillus
Tb terbium
t.d.s. to be taken three times daily
Te tellurium; tetanus
TEE transesophageal echocardiogram
TEN toxic epidermal necrolysis
TENS transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
TG thyroglobulin
Th thorium
THR total hip replacement
TIA transient ischemic attack
TIBC total iron-binding capacity
t.i.d. three times a day
t.i.n. three times a night
tinct., tr tincture
TKR total knee replacement
TI thallium
TLC, tlc tender loving care; thin layer chromatography; total lung capacity
TM tympanic membrane
TMJ temporomandibular joint
TN trigeminal nerve
TNF tumor necrosis factor
TNF-1 tumor necrosis factor inhibitor
TNF-α tumor necrosis factor alpha
TNM tumor-node-metastasis
TNT trinitrotoluene
TNTM too numerous to mention
top. topically
TORB telephone order read back
TPI Treponema pallidum immobilization test for syphilis
TPN total parenteral nutrition
TPO thyroid peroxidase
TPR temperature, pulse, and respiration
tr, tinct. tincture
TRAP criteria tremor, rigidity, akinesia or postural instability bradykinesia, and postural instability
Treg regulatory T cell
trit. triturate, grind
TSD time since death
TSE testicular self-examination
TSH thyroid-stimulating hormone
ttTG antittransglutaminase
TUMA transurethral microwave antenna
TUR transurethral resection
TURP transurethral resection of the prostate
Tx treatment
U a uranium; unit a
UA urinalysis
UC ulcerative colitis
UE upper extremity
UHF ultrahigh frequency
ult. praes. the last ordered
Umb; umb umbilicus
ung. ointment
URI upper respiratory infection
US ultrasonic, ultrasound
USAN United States Adopted Name
USP United States Pharmacopeia
ut. dict. as directed
UTI urinary tract infection
UV ultraviolet
v vein
VA visual acuity
VC vital capacity
VD venereal disease
VDRL Venereal Disease Research Laboratories
VF ventricular fibrillation
VF field of vision
VLBW very low birth weight
VLDL very low density lipoprotein
VMA vanillylmandelic acid
VOE VistA-Office Electronic Health Record
vol. volume
vol % volume percent
VORB verbal order read back
V/Q ventilation/perfusion
VS volumetric solution; vesicular sound; vital signs
VSD ventricular septal defect
VT ventricular tachycardia
vv veins
VZIG varicella zoster immune globulin
W tungsten
w watt
WAIS Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale
WAP written action plan
WBC white blood cell; white blood count
WDWN well-developed, well-nourished
WF/BF white female/black female
WH well-hydrated
WM/BM white male/black male
WN well-nourished
WNL within normal limits
wt. weight
w/v. weight in volume
x multiplied by
y yocto-
yo years old
yr year
Z atomic number
Zn zinc

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