SECTION III

COMMON MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS
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To discuss a therapeutic regimen with a physician you must speak his language. The terminology that will confront you in the patient care areas is different from that to which you have previously been exposed. A typical conversation you might hear at the patient's bedside would go something like, "I hear an S-2 and S-4 with no split sounds or opening snap. Since there has been no history of dyspnea and the ASO was negative, I suspect an ASD or VSD, but we will not know for sure until after the results of the cath." An admission order written by the physician might read "up ad lib, ADA diet (2000 cal), S&A, MOM 30 ml, hs, pm. Lab tests as follows: CBC, Crit., Amylase, CPK, PBI, Blood Gases, BUN, Creatinine, LDH, SGOT, SGPT and Lytes." The language of the physician is oriented toward disease, diagnostic tests and treatment.

The most commonly encountered abbreviations and terminology will be helpful to you as a reference source. If you are not familiar with a term that is used, you should consult a medical dictionary or ask the physician.

### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABE</td>
<td>Acute bacterial endocarditis</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Admitting blood sugar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADA</td>
<td>American Dietetic Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>Acid Fast</td>
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<tr>
<td>ad lib</td>
<td>As desired</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/G</td>
<td>Albumin-globulin ratio</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCA</td>
<td>Agency for Healthcare Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA</td>
<td>Against Medical Advice</td>
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<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Above knee amputation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.L.T.</td>
<td>Alanine Aminotransferase (formerly called SGPT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amb</td>
<td>Ambulant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ant</td>
<td>Anterior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>Antinuclear antibody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASCVD</td>
<td>arteriosclerotic vascular disease (<a href="#">arteriosclerosis</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>Atrial septum defect</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASHD</td>
<td>Arteriosclerotic heart disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASO</td>
<td>Antistreptolysin 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.S.T.</td>
<td>Aspartate Aminotransferase (formerly SCOT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AV</td>
<td>Atrioventricular</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBB</td>
<td>Bundle branch block or blood brain barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBT</td>
<td>Basal body temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>Barium enema</td>
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<tr>
<td>BJ</td>
<td>Bone and joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BKA</td>
<td>Below knee amputation</td>
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<tr>
<td>BM</td>
<td>Bowel movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMR</td>
<td>Basal Metabolic rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>Blood pressure</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BRP  Bathroom privileges
BS  Breath sounds or bowel sounds
BSA  Body surface area
BSP  Bromsulphalein
BUN  Blood urea nitrogen
BW  Body weight
Bx  Biopsy

Ca  Carcinoma
Cal  Calorie
C and S  Culture and sensitivity
CBC  Complete blood count
CC  Chief complaint
Ceph Floc  Cephalin Flocculation
CFT  Complement fixation test
CHF  Congestive heart failure
CHO  Carbohydrate
chr  Chronic
c/o  Complains of
CNS  Central nervous system
COLD  Chronic obstructive lung disease
CONG  Congenital
COPD  Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPK  Creatinine phosphokinase
CSF  Cerebrospinal fluid
CST  Convulsive shock therapy
CT  Circulation time
CV  Cardiovascular
CVA  Cerebrovascular accident
CVD  Cardiovascular disease
CVP  Central venous pressure

D/C  Discontinue
D and C  Dilation and curettage
Derm  Dermatology
diff  Differential blood count
DM  Diabetes mellitus
DOA  Dead on arrival
DOE  Dyspnea on exertion
DTR  Deep tendon reflex
DQA  Division of Quality Assurance
DX  Diagnosis

ECG  Electrocardiogram
ECT  Electroconvulsive therapy
EEG  Electroencephalogram
EENT  Eye, ear, nose and throat
EKG  Electrocardiogram
eg  For example
EMG  Electromyography
EPS  Extra pyramidal syndrome
ER  Emergency room
ESR  Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
EST  Electroshock therapy
Ext  Extremities
FBS  Fasting blood sugar
F and R  Force and rhythm of pulse
FH  Family history
Fld  Fluid
FRC  Functional residual capacity
FTA  Fluorescent treponemal antibody
FUO  Fever of undetermined origin
Fx  Fracture
GB  Gallbladder
Gc  Gonorrhea
GFR  Glomerular filtration rate
GI  Gastrointestinal
G-6-PD  Glucose-6 phosphate dehydrogenase
GSW  Gun shot wound
GTT  Glucose tolerance test
GU  Genitourinary
GYN  Gynecology
H  Hypodermic
h  Hour
Hb  Hemoglobin
HCT  Hematocrit
HCVD  Hypertensive cardiovascular disease
Hgb  Hemoglobin
H and P  History and physical
HPI  History of present illness
HT  Height
HTVD  Hypertensive vascular disease
Hx  History
ICS  Intercostal space
ICU  Intensive care unit
I and D  Incision and drainage
I and O  Input and output
IM  Intramuscular
Imp  Impression
inf  Inferior
int  Interval
Int Med  Internal medicine
IOP  Intraocular pressure  
IP   Intrapertitoneal  
IPPB Intermittent positive pressure breathing  
IV   Intravenous  
IVP Intravenous pyelogram  
IVT Intravenous transfusion  
JVD Jugular Venous distention  

K Potassium  
Kg Kilogram  
KO Keep open  
KUB Kidney, ureter, bladder  
KVO Keep vein open  

lat Lateral  
L and A Light and accommodation (of pupils)  
LBBB Left bundle branch block  
LCM Left costal margin  
LBCD Left border cardiac dullness  
LDH Lactic acid dehydrogenase  
LE Lupus erythematosus  
LLQ Left lower quadrant  
LMD Local medical doctor  
LMP Last menstrual period  
LOA Leave of absence  
LUQ Left upper quadrant  
LP Lumbar puncture  
LVH Left ventricular hypertrophy  
L and W Living and well  

MCH Mean corpuscular hemoglobin  
MCV Mean corpuscular volume  
Med Medicine  
MH Menstrual history  
MI Myocardial infarction  
rnm Millimeter  
MOM Milk of magnesia  
MRXI May repeat times one  
MS Mitral stenosis or multiple sclerosis or morphine sulfate  
MSE Mental status examination  
MMSE Mini Mental Status Exam  

N Normal  
NB Newborn  
Neg Negative  
NM Neuromuscular  
NG Nasogastric tube  
NOS Not Otherwise Specified (used as part of a diagnosis)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>NPN</td>
<td>Nonprotein nitrogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPO</td>
<td>Nothing by mouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/S</td>
<td>Normal saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSR</td>
<td>Normal sinus rhythm</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTP</td>
<td>Normal temperature and pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTG</td>
<td>Nitroglyercin</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYD</td>
<td>Not yet diagnosed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OB</td>
<td>Obstetrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OB-GYN</td>
<td>Obstetrics and gynecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of bed</td>
<td>Operating room</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Occupational therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Pulse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>After</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAC</td>
<td>Premature atrial contraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P and A</td>
<td>Percussion and auscultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para 1</td>
<td>Having born one child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAT</td>
<td>Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBI</td>
<td>Protein - bound iodine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCV</td>
<td>Packed Cell Volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCO₂</td>
<td>Carbon dioxide partial pressure</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Physical examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Post mortem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHC</td>
<td>Post hospital care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMH</td>
<td>Past medical hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Present illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>PID</td>
<td>Pelvic inflammatory disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>By mouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Op</td>
<td>Post operative</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Post partum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPD</td>
<td>Purified protein derivative of tuberculin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPT</td>
<td>Partial prothrombin time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRA</td>
<td>Plasma renin activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre Op</td>
<td>before surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P and R</td>
<td>Pulse and respiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRN</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prog</td>
<td>Prognosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps</td>
<td>Posterior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSP</td>
<td>Phenosulfonphthalein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pt</td>
<td>Patient</td>
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<td>PT</td>
<td>Physical therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>Premature ventricular contraction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
qd      Every day
qh      Every hour
qod     Every other day

R       Right
RA      Agglutinins or right atrium
RBBB    Right bundle branch block
RBC     Red blood cell
RHD     Rheumatic heart disease
RLQ     Right lower quadrant
R/O     Rule out
ROM     Range of motion exercise
RPF     Renal plasma flow
RR      Recovery room
ROS     Review of systems
RV      Right ventricle
RVH     Right ventricular hypertrophy
RUQ     Right upper quadrant
Rx      Treatment
s       Without
S-A     Sino-atrial
SBE     Subacute bacterial endocarditis
SC      Subcutaneous
SGOT    Serum glutamic oxalacetic transaminase
SGPT    Serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
SH      Social history
Sig     Let it be labeled
SOB     Shortness of breath
s/p     Status Post
Sp gr   Specific gravity
SR      Sedimentation rate
STAT    At once
STS     Serologic test for syphilis
sup     Superior
Sx      Symptoms

T       Temperature
T and A  tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
TB      Tuberculosis
TBW     Total body water
TCA's   Tricyclic antidepressants
TIBC    Total iron binding capacity
TP      Total protein
TPN     Total parenteral nutrition
TPR     Temperature, pulse and respiration
TUR     Transurethral resection
TV        Trial visit
Tx        Treatment

URI       Upper respiratory infection
UTI       Urinary tract infection

VC        Vital capacity or vena cava
VD        Venereal disease
VDH       Valvular disease of heart
VDRL      Venereal disease research laboratory
VF        Visual field
vis       Namely
VMA       Vanilmandelic acid
VP        Venous pressure
VS        Vital signs
VSD       Ventricular septal defect

WBC       White blood cells
WNL       Within normal limits
Wt        Weight