

77 Nursing Abbreviations Cheat Sheet

ABG - Arterial blood gas
ABX - Antibiotics
a.c. - Before meals
ADH - Antidiuretic hormone
aeb - As evidenced by
AKI - Acute kidney injury
AMA - Against medical advice
b.i.d. - Twice a day
BM - Bowel movement
BP - Blood pressure
BPM - Beats per minute
BUN - Blood urea nitrogen
c̄ ("c" with a bar over it) - With
CABG - Coronary artery bypass graft
CAD - Coronary artery disease
CBC - Complete blood count
CHF - Congestive heart failure
CKD - Chronic kidney disease
CNS - Central nervous system
c/o - Complains of
CO - Cardiac output
COPD - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder
CPK - Creatine phosphokinase
CSF - Cerebrospinal fluid
CVA - Cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
CVP - Central venous pressure
d/c - Discontinue/discharge
DM - Diabetes mellitus
Dx - Diagnosis
EC - Enteric coated
ECG/EKG- Electrocardiogram
EEG- Electroencephalogram
GFR - Glomerular filtration rate

77 Nursing Abbreviations Cheat Sheet

Hgb- Hemoglobin

HR- Heart rate

h.s. - Before bed

HTN - Hypertension

Hx- History

ICP- Intracranial pressure

IM- Intramuscular

IV- Intravenous

IVPB- Intravenous piggyback

LLQ - Left lower quadrant

LMP - Last menstrual period

LOC- Level of consciousness

LR - Lactated ringers

LUQ - Left upper quadrant

MI- Myocardial infarction (heart attack)

NC- Nasal cannula

NG - Nasogastric

NKA or NKDA- "No known allergies" or "no known drug allergies"

NPO- Nothing by mouth

NS - Normal saline

N/V- Nausea/vomiting

OTC- Over the counter

PO- By mouth

POC - Plan of care

PRN - As needed or when necessary

PT - Prothrombin time or physical therapy

PTT - Partial thromboplastin time

Q- Every

RBC - Red blood cell

RLQ - Right lower quadrant

R/O - Rule out

ROM - Range of motion

R/T - related to

77 Nursing Abbreviations Cheat Sheet

RUQ - Right upper quadrant

Rx - Prescription

SC - Subcutaneous

SR- Sustained release

S/S - Signs and symptoms

Stat - Immediately

Sx - Symptoms

t.i.d. - 3 times a day

UTI - Urinary tract infection

VS - vital signs

WBC - White blood count

Other abbreviations I want to remember:

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This cheat sheet is intended for informational purposes only. This is not medical advice and errors may occur. Never treat a patient or make a nursing or medical decision based on the information provided on this study guide. Never practice nursing or medicine unless you have a proper license to do so.

"Do Not Use" List Of Abbreviations

The Joint Commission® has put together a list of medical abbreviations that should not be used. These abbreviations are likely to be mixed up with other abbreviations and cause confusion between patient care providers.

Do not use: U or u

Rationale: It can be confused with "0," "4," or "cc"

What to use instead: Write out "unit" instead

Do not use: IU

Rationale: It can be confused with "IV" or "10"

What to use instead: Write out "International Unit" instead

Do not use: Q.D., QD, q.d., qd

Rationale: They can be confused with each other or with "00" or "1"

What to use instead: Write out "daily" instead

Do not use: Q.O.D., QOD, q.o.d., qod

Rationale: They can be confused with each other or with "00" or "1"

What to use instead: Write out "every other day" instead

Do not use: MS

Rationale: It can mean either magnesium sulfate or morphine sulfate

What to use instead: Write out "magnesium sulfate" or "morphine sulfate"

Do not use: MSO₄, MgSO₄

Rationale: They can be confused with each other

What to use instead: Write out "magnesium sulfate"

Do not use: Trailing zeros when writing numbers with decimals

Rationale: They can be confused with adding zeros to a number (ex. "1.0" vs "10")

What to use instead: Do not include a trailing zero (ex. write "1" instead of "1.0")

Do not use: Leading zero is **missing** when writing numbers with decimals

Rationale: They can be confused with a different number (ex. ".2" vs "2")

What to use instead: Always use a leading zero (ex. write "0.2" instead of ".2")

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This cheat sheet is intended for informational purposes only. This is not medical advice and errors may occur. Never treat a patient or make a nursing or medical decision based on the information provided on this study guide. Never practice nursing or medicine unless you have a proper license to do so.