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|  |  | **Medical Terminology** |
|  |  | **Abbreviations with Definitions** |
|  |  |  |  |
| @ |  | at |  |
| A & P |  | anatomy and physiology |  |
| ab |  | abortion |  |
| abd |  | abdominal |  |
| ABG |  | arterial blood gas |  |
| a.c. |  | before meals |  |
| ac & cl |  | acetest and clinitest |  |
| ACLS |  | advanced cardiac life support |  |
| AD |  | right ear |  |
| ADL |  | activities of daily living |  |
| ad lib |  | as desired |  |
| adm |  | admission |  |
| AFB |  | acid-fast bacillus |  |
| AKA |  | above the knee |  |
| alb |  | albumin |  |
| alt dieb |  | alternate days (every other day) |  |
| am |  | morning |  |
| AMA |  | against medical advice |  |
| amal |  | amalgam |  |
| amb |  | ambulate, walk |  |
| AMI |  | acute myocardial infarction |  |
| amt |  | amount |  |
| ANS |  | automatic nervous system |  |
| ant |  | anterior |  |
| AOx3 |  | alert & oriented to person, time, place |  |
| Ap |  | apical |  |
| AP |  | apical pulse |  |
| approx |  | approximately |  |
| aq |  | aqueous |  |
| ARDS |  | acute respiratory distress syndrome |  |
| AS |  | left ear |  |
| ASA |  | aspirin |  |
| asap (ASAP) |  | as soon as possible |  |
| as tol |  | as tolerated |  |
| ATD |  | admission, transfer, discharge |  |
| AU |  | both ears |  |
| Ax |  | axillary |  |
| BE |  | barium enema |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |  |
| bid | twice a day |  |
| bil | bilateral |  |
| BK | below knee |  |
| BKA | below the knee amputation |  |
| bl | blood |  |
| bl wk | blood work |  |
| BLS | basic life support |  |
| BM | bowel movement |  |
| BOW | bag of waters |  |
| B/P | blood pressure |  |
| bpm | beats per minute |  |
| BR | bedrest |  |
| BRP | bathroom privileges |  |
| BS | breath sounds |  |
| BSI | body substance isolation |  |
| BSO | bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy |  |
| BUN | blood, urea, nitrogen |  |
| BVM | bag-valve-mask |  |
| bx | biopsy |  |
| c | with |  |
| C & S | culture and sensitivity |  |
| c-spine | cervical spine |  |
| CA | cancer |  |
| CAD | coronary artery disease |  |
| cal | calorie |  |
| CAT | computerized axial tomography |  |
| cath | catheter |  |
| CBC | complete blood count |  |
| cc | cubic centimeters |  |
| CC | chief complaint |  |
| CCU | coronary care unit |  |
| CHD | coronary heart disease |  |
| CHF | congestive heart failure |  |
| CHO | carbohydrate |  |
| chol | cholesterol |  |
| circ | circumcision |  |
| cl liq | clear liquid |  |
| CNS | central nervous system |  |
| c/o | complains of |  |
| COPD | chronic obstructive pulmonary disease |  |
| CPK | creatine phosphokinase |  |
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| CPR | cardiopulmonary resuscitation |  |
| CPT | chest physical therapy |  |
| CS | central supply |  |
| CSF | cerebrospinal fluid |  |
| CT | computer tomography |  |
| CVA | cerebrovascular accident (stroke) |  |
| CVU | cardiovascular unit |  |
| cx | cervix or complaint of |  |
| CXR | chest x-ray |  |
| cysto | cystography |  |
| d/c | discontinue |  |
| D & C | dilation & curettage |  |
| DAT | diet as tolerated |  |
| DC | discontinue or discharge |  |
| del | delivery |  |
| Del. Rm. | delivery room |  |
| diff | differential |  |
| DNA | deoxyribonucleic acid |  |
| DNR | do not resuscitate |  |
| DOA | dead on arrival |  |
| DOB | date of birth |  |
| DPT | diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus |  |
| DRG | diagnosis-related grouping |  |
| D/S | dextrose in saline |  |
| DT's | delirium tremens |  |
| DW | distilled water |  |
| D5W | 5% dextrose in water |  |
| Dx | diagnosis |  |
| EBL | estimated blood loss |  |
| ECG | electrocardiogram |  |
| ED | emergency department |  |
| EEG | electroencephalogram |  |
| EENT | eye, ear, nose, throat |  |
| EKG | electrocardiogram |  |
| EMG | electromyogram |  |
| EOA | esophageal obturator airway |  |
| ESR | erythrocyte sedimentation rate |  |
| est | estimated |  |
| ER | emergency room |  |
| ET | endotracheal |  |
| ETA | estimated time of arrival |  |
| etiol | etiology |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ETOH | ethyl alcohol, intoxicated |  |
| exam | examination |  |
| exp | exploratory |  |
| ext | external, extract, extraction |  |
| FBOA | foreign body obstructed airway |  |
| FBS | fasting blood sugar |  |
| FBW | fasting blood work |  |
| FF (F. Fl) | force fluids |  |
| FH | family history |  |
| FHS | fetal heart sounds |  |
| FHT | fetal heart tone |  |
| FIFO | first in, first out |  |
| FSH | follicle-stimulating hormone |  |
| ft | foot |  |
| FUO | fever undetermined origin |  |
| Fx | fracture |  |
| GB | gall bladder |  |
| GI | gastrointestinal |  |
| GU | genitourinary |  |
| GTT | glucose tolerance test (pancreas test) |  |
| gtt(s) | drop(s) |  |
| gyn | gynecology |  |
| H & H | hemoglobin and hemocrit |  |
| HCG | human chorionic gonadotrophin |  |
| hct | hematocrit |  |
| HDL | high-density lipoprotein |  |
| hgb | hemoglobin |  |
| HOB | head of bed |  |
| hr (h) | hour |  |
| HIV | human immuno virus |  |
| HR | heart rate |  |
| hs | bedtime, hour of sleep |  |
| ht | height |  |
| Hx | history |  |
| hypo | hypodermic injection |  |
| hyst | hysterectomy |  |
| I & D | incision and drainage |  |
| I & O | intake and output |  |
| ICP | intracranial pressure |  |
| ICU | intensive care unit |  |
| IM | intramuscular |  |
| ing | inguinal |  |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| inj | injection |  |
| IPPB | intermittent positive pressure breathing |  |
| irrig | irrigation |  |
| IS | intercostal space |  |
| isol | isolation |  |
| IT | inhalation therapy |  |
| IUD | intrauterine device |  |
| IV | intravenous |  |
| IVF | in vitro fertilization |  |
| IVP | intravenous pyelogram |  |
| K+ | potassium |  |
| KCl | potassium chloride |  |
| KUB | kidney, ureter, bladder |  |
| L | lumbar |  |
| L & D | labor and delivery |  |
| lac | laceration |  |
| lab | laboratory |  |
| lap | laparotomy |  |
| lat | lateral |  |
| LD | lethal dose |  |
| LDH | lactic dehydrogenase |  |
| LDL | low-density lipoprotein |  |
| liq | liquid |  |
| LLQ, LLL | left lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung) |  |
| LMP | last menstrual period |  |
| LOC | level of consciousness |  |
| LP | lumbar puncture |  |
| lt | left |  |
| LUQ, LUL | left upper quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung) |  |
| MA | mental age |  |
| MAST | medical antishock trousers |  |
| MCI | mass casualty incident |  |
| meds | medications |  |
| MI | myocardial infarction |  |
| MICU | mobile intensive care unit |  |
| min | minute |  |
| MN | midnight |  |
| MOM | milk of magnesia |  |
| MRI | magnetic resonance imagery |  |
| MS | morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis |  |
| MVA | motor vehicle accident |  |
| NVD | nausea, vomiting, diarrhea |  |
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| Na+ | sodium |  |
| NaCl | sodium chloride |  |
| N/C | nasal cannula, no complaints |  |
| neg | negative |  |
| neuro | neurology |  |
| NG | nasogastric |  |
| NGT | nasogastric tube |  |
| nitro | nitroglycerine |  |
| NKA | no known allergies |  |
| noc (t) | night |  |
| NPO | nothing by mouth |  |
| NS | normal saline |  |
| nsg | nursing |  |
| NSR | normal sinus rhythm |  |
| NVS | neurological vital signs |  |
| O | oxygen |  |
| OB | obstetrics |  |
| OD | right eye, overdose |  |
| oint | ointment |  |
| OOB | out of bed |  |
| OPD | outpatient department |  |
| OR | operating room |  |
| ord | orderly |  |
| ORTH | orthopedics |  |
| ortho | correct, right (bones) |  |
| os | mouth |  |
| OS | left eye |  |
| OT | occupational therapy |  |
| OU | both eyes |  |
| oz | ounce |  |
| \_ |  |  |
| p | after |  |
| P | pulse |  |
| P & A | percussion & auscultation |  |
| PAC | premature atrial contraction |  |
| palp | palpation |  |
| PAR | postanesthesia room |  |
| PAT | paroxysmal atrial tachycardia |  |
| pc | after meals |  |
| pCO2 | partial pressure of carbon dioxide |  |
| PDR | physician's desk reference |  |
| PE | physical exam, pulmonary embolism |  |
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| PEDS | pediatrics |  |
| per | by or through |  |
| PERL(A) | pupils equal & reactive to light (and accommodation) |  |
| PET | positron emission tomography |  |
| PH | past history |  |
| pH | hydrogen ion concentration |  |
| PID | pelvic inflammatory disease |  |
| PKU | phenylketonuria |  |
| pm | between noon and midnight |  |
| PNS | peripheral nervous system |  |
| po | by mouth |  |
| post (pos) | posterior |  |
| postop,PostOp | postoperative |  |
| pp (p.p.) | postprandial (after eating) |  |
| pO2 | partial pressure of oxygen |  |
| PPD | purified protein derivative (TB test) |  |
| preop, PreOp | before surgery |  |
| prn | as needed, whenever necessary |  |
| pro time | prothrombin time |  |
| pt | patient, pint |  |
| PT | physical therapy |  |
| PTT | partial prothrombaplastin time |  |
| PVC | premature ventricular contraction |  |
| Px | physical exam, prognosis |  |
| q | every |  |
| qd | every day |  |
| qh | every hour |  |
| q2h, q3h, ... | every two hours, every three hours,... |  |
| qhs | every night at bedtime |  |
| qid | four times a day |  |
| q.\_\_\_m. | every \_\_\_\_ minutes |  |
| qns | quantity not sufficient |  |
| qod | every other day |  |
| qs | quantity sufficient |  |
| r (R) | rectal |  |
| R (resp) | respirations, rectal |  |
| RAIU | radioactive iodine uptake study |  |
| RBC | red blood cell/count |  |
| RDA | recommended daily allowance |  |
| reg | regular |  |
| REM | rapid eye movement |  |
| Rh | rhesus |  |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| RK | radial keratotomy |  |
| RL | ringer's lactate |  |
| RLQ, RLL | right lower quadrant (abdomen), lobe (lung) |  |
| RML | right middle lobe (lung) |  |
| RO | reality orientation |  |
| R/O | rule out |  |
| ROM | range of motion |  |
| R.R. | recovery room |  |
| RUQ, RLL | right upper quadrant, lobe |  |
| rt | right |  |
| RV | residual volume |  |
| Rx | take (prescription) |  |
| \_ |  |  |
| s | without |  |
| S & S | signs & symptoms |  |
| ss | 1/2 |  |
| SA | sinoatrial |  |
| SB | small bowel |  |
| sc | subcutaneous |  |
| SGOT | serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase |  |
| SGPT | serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase |  |
| SIDS | sudden infant death syndrome |  |
| Sig: | label/write |  |
| SL | sublingual |  |
| SMAC | sequential multiple analysis computer |  |
| SOB | shortness of breath |  |
| spec | specimen |  |
| sp. gr. | specific gravity |  |
| SQ, sub q | subcutaneous |  |
| SSE | soap suds enema |  |
| stat | immediately |  |
| STD | sexually transmitted disease |  |
| STH | somatotropic hormone |  |
| SVD | spontaneous vaginal delivery |  |
| SVN | small volume nebulizer |  |
| SVT | supraventricular tachycardia |  |
| Sx | symptoms |  |
| T | temperature, thoracic |  |
| T & A | tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy |  |
| tab | tablet |  |
| TAH | total abdominal hysterectomy |  |
| TB | tuberculosis |  |
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| --- | --- | --- |
| TCDB | turn, cough, deep breath |  |
| temp (T) | temperature |  |
| TH | thyroid hormone |  |
| TIA | transient ischemic attack |  |
| tid | three times a day |  |
| TLC | tender loving care |  |
| TMJ | temporomandibular joint |  |
| tol | tolerated |  |
| TPN | total parenteral nutrition |  |
| TPR | temperature, pulse, respirations |  |
| tr | tincture |  |
| trach | tracheotomy, tracheostomy |  |
| TSH | thyroid-stimulating hormone |  |
| TT | tetanus toxiod |  |
| TUR | transurethral resection |  |
| TV | tidal volume |  |
| TVH | total vaginal hysterectomy |  |
| TWE | tap water enema |  |
| TX | traction |  |
| UA | urinalysis |  |
| umb | umbilicus |  |
| unc. | unconscious |  |
| ung | ointment |  |
| unk | unknown |  |
| ur | urine |  |
| URC | usual, reasonable, customary |  |
| URI | upper respiratory infection |  |
| US | ultrasonic |  |
| USP | United States Pharmacopeia |  |
| UTI | urinary tract infection |  |
| V fib | ventricular fibrillation |  |
| V tach | ventricular tachycardia |  |
| vag | vaginal |  |
| VC | vital capacity |  |
| VD | venereal disease |  |
| vit | vitamin |  |
| vo | verbal order |  |
| vol | volume |  |
| V/S | vital signs |  |
| WA | while awake |  |
| WBC | white blood cell/count |  |
| w/c | wheelchair |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WNL | within normal limits |
| wt | weight |
| y/o | year(s) old |