

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS IN NURSING

This list will serve as the **only** key for abbreviation quizzes; spelling must be correct.

Abbreviation Quiz 1: a – CPR

a:	before
@:	at
A&P:	anterior and posterior
aa:	of each
abd:	abdomen
ABGs:	arterial blood gases
ac:	before meals
ADA:	American Diabetes Association or American Dietetic Association
ad lib:	as desired or as freely as desired
ADH:	antidiuretic hormone
ADL:	activities of daily living
AF:	atrial fibrillation
AFB:	acid-fast bacillus
Ag:	silver or antigen
AHA:	American Hospital Association or American Heart Association
AHCD:	advanced health care directive
AIDS:	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AKA:	above the knee amputation
ALL:	acute lymphocytic leukemia or acute lymphoblastic leukemia
ALOC:	altered level of consciousness
ALS:	amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
a.m.a.:	against medical advice
A.M.A.:	American Medical Association
AMB or amb:	ambulatory
AMI:	acute myocardial infarction or anterior myocardial infarction
amp:	ampule
ANA:	antinuclear antibody test or American Nurses Association
AP:	apical pulse or anterior and posterior
ARDS:	acute respiratory distress syndrome or adult respiratory distress syndrome
AS:	aortic stenosis
ASA:	aspirin or acetyl salicylic acid
ASD:	atrial septal defect
ASHD:	arteriosclerotic heart disease
AST:	aspartate aminotransferase
AV:	atrio-ventricular or arterio-venous
ax:	axillary
Ba:	barium
BE:	barium enema
bid:	two times a day
BKA:	below the knee amputation
BM:	bowel movement
BMR:	basal metabolic rate
BP:	blood pressure
BPH:	benign prostatic hypertrophy
BR:	bedrest
BRP:	bathroom privileges

BSA:	body surface area
BSC:	bedside commode
BSE:	breast self-examination
BSI:	body substance isolation
BSO:	bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy
BUN:	blood urea nitrogen
bx:	biopsy
c:	with
C:	Centigrade
C&S:	culture and sensitivity
Ca ⁺⁺ :	calcium
CA:	cancer or carcinoma
CABG:	coronary artery bypass graft
CAD:	coronary artery disease
cap:	capsule
CAPD:	continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
CAT:	computed axial tomography
cath:	catheter or catheterize
CBC:	complete blood count
CBI:	continuous bladder irrigation
CBR:	complete bedrest
cc:	cubic centimeter
CCU:	Coronary Care Unit or Critical Care Unit
CC:	chief complaint
CDC:	Centers for Disease Control
CDE:	Certified Diabetes Educator
CEA:	carcinoembryonic antigen
cg:	centigram
CHF:	congestive heart failure
CHO:	carbohydrate
CKD	chronic kidney disease
Cl ⁻ :	chloride or chlorine
cm:	centimeter
CMS:	circulation, movement, sensation or color, movement, sensation
CN:	cranial nerve
CNS:	central nervous system
c/o:	complains of or complaint of
CO:	cardiac output or carbon monoxide
CO ₂ :	carbon dioxide
COPD:	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPK:	creatinine phosphokinase
CPM:	continuous passive motion
CPR:	cardiopulmonary resuscitation

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Abbreviation Quiz 2: CRT – ICU

CRT:	capillary refill time
CSF:	cerebrospinal fluid
CT:	computed tomography or chest tube
CVA:	cerebrovascular accident or costovertebral angle
CVP:	central venous pressure
CXR:	chest x-ray
dc; D/C:	discontinue
D&C:	dilation and curettage
DIC:	disseminated intravascular coagulation
diff:	differential or differential blood count
dil:	dilute or diluent
DKA:	diabetic ketoacidosis
dl:	deciliter
DM:	diabetes mellitus or diastolic murmur
DNR:	do not resuscitate
DOE:	dyspnea on exertion
DSD:	dry sterile dressing
DTR:	deep tendon reflex or deep tendon reflexes
DVT:	deep vein thrombosis
DW:	daily weight
D ₅ W:	5% dextrose in water
dx; DX:	diagnosis
EC:	enteric-coated
ECF:	extracellular fluid
ECG; EKG:	electrocardiogram
ECT:	electroconvulsive therapy
EDB:	estimated date of birth
EDD:	estimated date of delivery
EEG:	electroencephalogram
EGD:	esophagogastroduodenoscopy
elix:	elixir
EMG:	electromyogram
ENT:	ear, nose and throat
EOM:	extra-ocular movements
ER:	extended release or Emergency Room
ESR:	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ESRD:	end-stage renal disease
ESRF:	end-stage renal failure
ET:	enterostomal therapist
ETOH:	ethyl alcohol or ethanol
F:	Fahrenheit
Fe:	iron
FeSO ₄ :	iron sulfate
FHR:	fetal heart rate
FSBS:	fingerstick blood sugar
f/u:	follow up
FUO:	fever of unknown origin
fx; Fx:	fracture or fractional urine test

g; gm; Gm:	gram
GERD:	gastroesophageal reflux disease
GI:	gastrointestinal
gr:	grain
grav I, II, III, etc:	gravida (pregnancy) 1, 2, 3, etc.
GSW:	gunshot wound
gtt:	drop or drops
GTT:	glucose tolerance test
GU:	genitourinary
GYN; Gyn:	gynecological
h:	hour
H ⁺ :	hydrogen ion
H/A:	headache
H/H:	hemoglobin and hematocrit
H&P:	history and physical examination
HAV:	hepatitis A virus
Hb; Hgb:	hemoglobin
HBAg:	hepatitis B antigen
HBV:	hepatitis B virus
HCO ₃ ⁻ :	bicarbonate
Hct; HCT:	hematocrit
HCV:	hepatitis C virus
HEENT	head, eyes, ears, nose and throat
HD:	hemodialysis
Hg:	mercury
HHNS:	hyperglycemic hyperosmolar nonketotic syndrome
HIPAA:	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HIV:	human immunodeficiency virus
h/o:	history of
H ₂ O:	water
HOB:	head of bed
HOH:	hard of hearing
HR:	heart rate
hs:	at bedtime
HTN:	hypertension
I&D:	incision and drainage
I&O:	intake and output
ICD:	implantable cardiac defibrillator
ICF:	intracellular fluid
ICP:	intracranial pressure
ICU:	intensive care unit

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Abbreviation Quiz 3: ID – PHI

ID:	intra	dermal	
Ig:	immuno	globulin	
IHI:	Institute for	healthcare improvement	
IM:	intra	muscular	
INR:	International	Normalized Ratio	
IOM:	Institute of	Medicine	
IOP:	intra	ocular pressure	
IPPB:	intermittent	positive pressure breathing	
IS:	incentive	spirometry	
IV:	intra	venous	
IVDA:	intra	venous drug abuse	
IVP:	intra	venous push or intra	venous pyelogram
JVD:	jugular vein	distention or jugular	venous distention
K ⁺ :	potassium		
Kg:	kilo	gram	
KUB:	kidney, ureters,	bladder	
KVO; kvo:	keep	vein open	
L; l:	liter		
LA:	left atrium or	left atrial	
LBBB:	left bundle	branch block	
LDH:	lactic	dehydrogenase	
LLL:	left	lower lobe	
LLQ:	left	lower quadrant	
LMP:	last	menstrual period	
LOC:	level of	consciousness	
LP:	lumbar	puncture	
LUL:	left	upper lobe	
LUQ:	left	upper quadrant	
LV:	left	ventricle or left	ventricular
LVH:	left	ventricular	hypertrophy
lytes:	electrolytes		
m:	meter		
m; min:	minim		
MAP:	mean	arterial pressure	
M.A.R.:	Medication	Administration Record	
mcg:	micro	gram	
MCV:	mean	corpuscular volume or	mean cell volume
MDI:	metered	dose inhaler	
meq:	milliequivalent		
met(s):	metastasis or	metastases	
mg:	milli	gram	
Mg:	magnesium		
MI:	myocardial	infarction	
MICU:	Mobile Intensive	Care Unit or Medical	Intensive Care Unit
ml:	milli	liter	
mm:	milli	meter	
MR:	mitral	regurgitation	
MRI:	magnetic	resonance imaging	

MRSA:	methicillin resistant staph aureus
MS:	multiple sclerosis or mitral stenosis
MVA:	motor vehicle accident
MVC:	motor vehicle crash
MW:	molecular weight
N:	nitrogen
Na:	sodium
NaCl:	sodium chloride
neg:	negative
NG:	nasogastric
NICU:	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
NIH:	National Institutes of Health
NKA:	no known allergies
NKDA:	no known drug allergies
NMR:	nuclear magnetic resonance
noc:	night
NPO:	nothing by mouth
NPSG	National Patient Safety Goals
NS:	normal saline
NSAIDS:	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
NSR:	normal sinus rhythm
NWB:	non weight bearing or no weight bearing
O&P:	ova and parasites
O ₂ :	oxygen
OOB:	out of bed
OR:	Operating Room
ORIF:	open reduction and internal fixation
O.T.:	Occupational Therapy or Occupational Therapist
OTC:	over the counter
p:	after
P:	pulse
PA:	pulmonary artery
PACU:	Postanesthesia Care Unit
pc:	after meals
PCA:	patient-controlled analgesia
PCN:	penicillin
PE:	pulmonary embolus or physical examination
PEEP:	positive end expiratory pressure
PEG:	percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
per:	through or by way of
PERRLA:	pupils equal, round, reactive to light and accommodation
PHI	Protected Health Information

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Abbreviation Quiz 4: PICC – wt

PICC:	peripherally inserted central catheter
PID:	pelvic inflammatory disease
PMH:	past medical history
PMI:	point of maximum impulse or point of maximal impulse
PNA:	pneumonia
PND:	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
po:	by mouth
P.O.D.:	post-operative day
pos:	positive
postop:	postoperative or after surgery
PPD:	purified protein derivative
ppd:	packs per day
PPN:	partial parenteral nutrition
preop:	preoperative or before surgery
PRN:	as needed
PSA:	prostate specific antigen
pt; Pt:	patient
PT:	Physical Therapy or Physical Therapist or prothrombin time
PTCA:	percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
PTT:	partial thromboplastin time
PUD:	peptic ulcer disease
PVC:	premature ventricular contraction
PVD:	peripheral vascular disease
q:	every or each
qid:	four times a day
qs:	quantity sufficient
QSEN:	Quality and Safety Education for Nurses
R:	respirations
RA:	rheumatoid arthritis or right atrium
RBC:	red blood cell
RLL:	right lower lobe
RLQ:	right lower quadrant
RML:	right middle lobe
R/O:	rule out
ROM:	range of motion or rupture of membranes
ROS:	review of systems
RRR:	regular rate and rhythm
r/t:	related to
RT:	Respiratory Therapist or Respiratory Therapy
RUL:	right upper lobe
RUQ:	right upper quadrant
RV:	right ventricle or right ventricular
Rx:	treatment or take
s:	without
SBO:	small bowel obstruction
SCD:	sequential compression device
SGOT:	serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase
SL; sl:	sublingual

SLE:	systemic lupus erythematosis
SNF:	Skilled Nursing Facility
S.O.A.P.:	subjective, objective, assessment, plan
SOB:	shortness of breath
sol:	solution
s/p:	status post
SR:	sustained release
s/s:	signs and symptoms
STAT:	immediately
STD:	sexually transmitted disease
Subcut:	subcutaneous
supp:	suppository
susp:	suspension
SVT:	supraventricular tachycardia
sx:	symptoms or signs
T:	temperature
T&C:	type and cross
TAH:	total abdominal hysterectomy
TB:	tuberculosis
TCDB:	turn, cough, deep breathe
TEA:	thromboendarterectomy
THR:	total hip replacement
TIA:	transient ischemic attack
TJC:	The Joint Commission
tid:	three times a day
TKO:	to keep open
TKR:	total knee replacement
TPN:	total parenteral nutrition
TPR:	temperature, pulse, respirations
TSH:	thyroid stimulating hormone
TURP:	transurethral resection of the prostate
UA:	urinalysis
up ad lib:	up as desired or up as freely as desired
URI:	upper respiratory infection
US:	ultrasound
UTI:	urinary tract infection
V.A.C.:	vacuum assisted closure
VS:	vital signs
VTBI:	volume to be infused
W/A:	while awake
WBC:	white blood count or white blood cell
WC:	wheelchair
WNL:	within normal limits
wt:	weight