

Medical Abbreviations

The following table lists some medical abbreviations with their intended meaning.

Abbreviation	Meaning
A	atrial fibrillation
A & E	accident and emergency
A & W	alive and well
AAA	abdominal aortic aneurysm, acute anxiety attack
AB	apex beat
Ab	antibody, abortion
ABC	airway, breathing and circulation
Abd	abdomen, abdominal
ABE	acute bacterial endocarditis
ABG	arterial blood gases
ABR	absolute bed rest
ACE	angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACS	acute coronary syndrome
ACTH	adrenocorticotrophic hormone
AD	alzheimer's disease
ADH	antidiuretic hormone
ADHD	attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ADL	activities of daily living
ADR	adverse drug reaction
AED	antiepileptic drug
AF	atrial fibrillation
AFB	acid-fast bacillus
AFP	α -fetoprotein
Ag	antigen
AGL	acute granulocytic leukaemia
AGN	acute glomerular nephritis
AHD	autoimmune haemolytic disease
AI	aortic incompetence, aortic insufficiency
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AJ	ankle jerk
AKA	above knee amputation
AKI	acute kidney injury
AL	acute leukaemia
ALL	acute lymphocytic leukaemia
ALP	alkaline phosphatase
ALT	alanine transaminase
AMA	against medical advice
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
ANA	antinuclear antibody
AOB	alcohol on breath
AP	anteroposterior, alkaline phosphatase, apical pulse
APPT	activated partial thromboplastin time
APSAC	anisoylated plasminogen streptokinase activator complex
AR	aortic regurgitation
A-R	apical-radial pulse
ARDS	adult respiratory distress syndrome
ARF	acute renal failure
AS	anal sphincter, ankylosing spondylitis, aortic stenosis,

	arteriosclerosis
ASAP	as soon as possible
ASB	asymptomatic bacteriuria
ASD	atrial septal defect
AST	aspartate transaminase
ATN	acute tubular necrosis
AV	atrioventricular, aortic valve
AXR	abdominal X-ray (plain)
Ba	barium
BaE	barium enema
BAL	bronchoalveolar lavage
BB	bed bath
BBA	born before arrival
BBB	blood-brain barrier, bundle branch block
BBT	basal body temperature
BCC	basal cell carcinoma
BCG	bacille Calmette-Guerin
BE	barium enema, bacterial endocarditis
BID	brought in dead
BJ	biceps jerk, bones and joints
BJA	below knee amputation
BM	bone marrow, bowel movement
BMI	body mass index
BMR	basal metabolic rate
BNO	bowels not open
BOR	bowels open regularly
BP	blood pressure
bpm	beats per minute
BPH	benign prostatic hypertrophy, benign prostatic hyperplasia
BR	bed rest
BS	bowel sounds, breath sounds, blood sugar
BSA	body surface area
BT	bed time, brain tumour, breast tumour
BUN	blood urea nitrogen
BW	body water, body weight
BWO	bowels well open
Bx	biopsy
C	complement
C & P	cystoscopy and pyelogram
C & S	culture and sensitivity
c/o	complains of
CA	cancer, carcinoma
CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
CAD	coronary artery disease
CAPD	continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
CAT	computer assisted tomography, computed axial tomography, computerised axial tomography
CAVHD	continuous arteriovenous haemodialysis
CBC	complete blood count
CBS	chronic brain syndrome
CC	chief complaint
CCF	congestive cardiac failure
CCU	coronary care unit
CDT	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> toxin
CEA	carcinoembryonic antigen
CF	complement fixation, cystic fibrosis
CFT	complement fixation test
CGL	chronic granulocytic leukaemia
CGN	chronic glomerular nephritis
CHB	complete heart block
CHD	coronary heart disease

CHF	congestive heart failure
CHP	charcoal haemoperfusion
CI	cardiac index
CICr	creatinine clearance (mL/min)
CK	creatine kinase
CKD	chronic kidney disease
CL	clubbing
CLL	chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
CML	chronic myelocytic leukaemia
CMV	cytomegalovirus
CNS	central nervous system
CO	cardiac output
COAD	chronic obstructive airways disease
COD	cause of death
COLD	chronic obstructive lung disease
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPAP	continuous positive airway pressure
CPD	continuous peritoneal dialysis
CPK	creatine phosphokinase
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CRD	chronic renal disease
CRF	chronic renal failure, corticotrophin-releasing factor
CRP	C-reactive protein
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid, colony stimulating factor
CSM	cerebrospinal meningitis
CSU	catheter specimen of urine
CT	circulation time, clotting time, computerised tomography, coronary thrombosis
CV	cardiovascular, central venous cerebrovascular
CVA	cerebrovascular accident
CVD	cardiovascular disease
CVP	central venous pressure
CVS	cardiovascular system
Cx	cervix, cervical
CXR	chest X-Ray
Cy	cyanosis
d	dead, deceased
D	diagnosis
D & C	dilatation and curettage
D & E	dilation and evacuation
D & V	diarrhoea and vomiting
D/W	discussed with
DBP	diastolic blood pressure
DDU	drug dependency unit
DH	drug history
DI	drug information
DIC	disseminated intravascular coagulation
DIP	distal interphalangeal (joint)
DJD	degenerative joint disease
DKA	diabetic ketoacidosis
DM	diabetes mellitus, diastolic murmur
DNA	did not attend (outpatients)
DNC	did not come
DNR	do not resuscitate
DOA	dead on arrival
DOB	date of birth
DOE	dyspnoea on exertion
DST	dexamethasone suppression test
DT	delirium tremens
DTNT	door to needle time
DU	duodenal ulcer

DUB	dysfunctional uterine bleeding
DVT	deep vein thrombosis
Dx	diagnosis
DXT	deep X-ray therapy
EBM	expressed breast milk
EBV	Epstein-Barr virus
ECF	extracellular fluid
ECG	electrocardiogram
ECHO	echocardiogram
ECT	electroconvulsive therapy
EDD	expected date of delivery
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eyes, ears, nose and throat
EFA	essential fatty acids
eGFR	estimated glomerular filtration rate (mL/ min/1.73m ²)
ELBW	extremely low birth weight
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EM	ejection murmur
EMG	electromyogram
ENT	ear, nose and throat
EP	ectopic pregnancy
EPO	erythropoietin
ERCP	endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ERPC	evacuation of retained products of conception
ESM	ejection systolic murmur
ESN	educationally subnormal
ESP	end-systolic pressure
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ESRF	end stage renal failure
ET	endotracheal tube
EtOH	ethyl alcohol
FB	finger breadths, foreign body
FBC	full blood count
FBS	fasting blood sugar
FDP	fibrin degradation products
FEV 1	forced expiratory volume in 1 second
FFA	free fatty acids
FFP	fresh frozen plasma
FH	family history
FHR	foetal heart rate
FiO ₂	fraction of inspired oxygen
FLP	fasting lipid profile
FOB	faecal occult blood
FP	family planning, frozen plasma
FSH	follicle-stimulating hormone
FT4	free thyroxine
FUO	fever of unknown origin
FVC	forced vital capacity
Fx.	fracture
G6PD	glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase
GA	general anaesthesia, general anaesthetic, gastric analysis, granuloma annulare, general appearance
GABA	γ-aminobutyric Acid
GB	gall bladder
GC	gonococcal, gonococcus
GCS	glasgow coma scale
G-CSF	granulocyte colony-stimulating factor
GE	gastroenterology
GFR	glomerular filtration rate (mL/ min/1.73m ²)
g-GT	γ-glutamyl transferase
GH	growth hormone

GI(T)	gastrointestinal (tract)
GN	glomerulonephritis
GnRH	gonadotrophin-releasing hormone
GPA	granulomatosis with polyangiitis
grav.	gravid (pregnant)
GS	general surgery, genital system
GTT	glucose tolerance test
GU	gastric ulcer, genitourinary, gonococcal urethritis
GUS	genitourinary system
Gyn.	gynaecology
H	hypodermic
H & L	heart and lungs
H & P	history and physical
h/o or H/O	history of
HA	haemolytic anaemia
HAV	hepatitis A virus
HB	heart block
Hb	haemoglobin
HbA1	glycosylated haemoglobin
HBD	hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase
HbF	foetal haemoglobin
HBf	hepatic blood flow
HBP	high blood pressure
HBsAg	hepatitis B surface antigen
HBV	hepatitis B virus
HCC	hepatocellular carcinoma
hCG	human chorionic gonadotrophin
Hct.	haematocrit
HCV	hepatitis C virus
HCVD	hypertensive cardiovascular disease
HD	heart disease, Hodgkin's disease
HDL	high-density lipoprotein
HDU	high dependency unit
HDV	hepatitis D virus
hep	hepatitis
HF	heart failure
HHd	hypertensive heart disease
HHT	hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia
HHV	human herpes virus
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HLA	human leukocyte antigen
HMMA	4-hydroxy-3-methoxymandelic acid
HPA	hypothalamus, pituitary, adrenal
HPC	history of present complaint
HPV	human papilloma virus
HR	heart rate
HRT	hormone replacement therapy
HS	heart sounds
HSP	Henoch–Schönlein purpura
HSV	herpes simplex virus
HSVE	herpes simplex virus encephalitis
HT	hypertension
HTVD	hypertensive vascular disease
HUS	haemolytic uraemic syndrome
HVA	homovanillic acid
Hx.	history
IA	intra-amniotic, intra-arterial
IADH	inappropriate antidiuretic hormone
IBC	iron binding capacity
IBD	inflammatory bowel disease
IBS	irritable bowel syndrome

IBW	ideal body weight
ICD	implantable cardioverter defibrillator
ICF	intracellular fluid
ICM	intercostal margin
ICS	intercostal space
ICU	intensive care unit
ID	initial dose, intradermal
IDDM	insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IDL	intermediate-density lipoprotein
IE	infective endocarditis
IF	inspiratory force, interstitial fluid
Ig	immunoglobulin
IHD	ischaemic heart disease
IM	infectious mononucleosis, intramuscular
imp	impression
inf	inferior
INR	international normalised ratio
IOP	intraocular pressure
IP	intraperitoneal, inpatient
IPPB	intermittent positive-pressure breathing
IPPV	intermittent positive pressure ventilation
ISA	intrinsic sympathomimetic activity
IT	intrathecal
ITP	idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
ITT	insulin tolerance test
ITU	intensive therapy unit
IU	international unit
IUD	intrauterine device
IUP	intrauterine pregnancy
IV	intravenous
IVC	inferior vena cava
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
IVSD	interventricular septal defect
IVU	intravenous urography
J	jaundice
JV	jugular vein
JVD	jugular venous distention
JVP	jugular venous pressure, jugular venous pulse
K	Potassium
KJ	knee jerk
KO	keep open, knock out
KUB	kidneys, ureters, bladder
KVO	keep vein open
L	left, lumbar
L & A	light and accommodation
L & W	living and well
L1, L2 ...	lumbar vertebrae 1, 2 ...
LA	left arm, left atrium
lac	laceration
LAD	left axis deviation
Lap	laparotomy
LAT or lat	lateral
LBBB	left bundle branch block
LBW	low birth weight
LCM	left costal margin
LD	lethal dose, liver disease, lactate dehydrogenase
LDH	lactate dehydrogenase
LDL	low-density lipoprotein
LE	lupus erythematosus
LFT	liver function test
LH	left hand, luteinizing hormone

LIF	left iliac fossa
LIH	left inguinal hernia
LKS	liver, kidneys, spleen
LLL	left lower lobe, left lower lid
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LMN	lower motor neurone
LMP	last menstrual period
LMWH	low molecular weight heparin
LN	lymph node
LOM	limitation of movement
LOPS	length of patient's stay
LP	lumbar puncture
LSCS	lower segment caesarian section
LTC	long-term care
LUL	left upper lobe
LUQ	left upper quadrant
LV	left ventricle
LVF	left ventricular failure
LVH	left ventricular hypertrophy
M	male, married, metre, molar, murmur
M1	mitral first sound
MA	menstrual age, mental age
MALT	mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
MAOI	monoamine oxidase inhibitor
MAP	mean arterial pressure
MC&S	microscopy, culture and sensitivity
MCH	mean corpuscular haemoglobin
MCHC	mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration
MCP	metacarpophalangeal (joint)
MCT	medium-chain triglycerides
MCV	mean corpuscular volume
MDI	metered-dose inhaler
MDV	multiple dose vial
ME	myalgic encephalomyelitis
mEq	milliequivalent
met	metastasis
MH	marital history, medical history, menstrual history
MHC	major histocompatibility complex
MI	myocardial infarction, mitral incompetence, mitral insufficiency
MIC	minimum inhibitory concentration
ML	midline
MLD	minimum lethal dose
MM	multiple myeloma
MND	motor neurone disease
MP	menstrual period
MRCP	magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , multiple-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
MS	mitral stenosis, multiple sclerosis
MSL	midsternal line
MSU	midstream urine specimen
MyG	myasthenia gravis
N	normal
N & T	nose and throat
N & V	nausea and vomiting
NAD	no acute distress, no appreciable disease, nothing abnormal detected
NARTI	nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitor
NBM	nil by mouth
NG	nasogastric

NHL	non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
NICU	neonatal intensive care unit
NIDDM	non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
NKA	no known allergies
NKHA	non-ketotic hyperosmolar acidosis
NL	normal
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
NMS	neuroleptic malignant syndrome
NNRTI	non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor
NNT	number needed to treat
NOF	neck of femur
#NOF	fractured neck of femur
NOK	next of kin
NS	nervous system, normal saline, nephrotic syndrome
NSAID	non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug
NSD	no significant defect
NSFTD	normal spontaneous full-term delivery
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
NSU	nonspecific urethritis
NVD	nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
NYD	not yet diagnosed
O	oedema
O & A	observation & assessment
O & E	observation and examination
O/A	on admission
O/E	on examination
OA	osteoarthritis
OB	occult blood
Obs	obstetrics
OC	oral contraceptive
OD	overdose, right eye
OGD	oesophagoduodenoscopy
OGTT	oral glucose tolerance test
OH	occupational history
OP	outpatient
OPA	outpatient appointment
OPD	outpatient department
OR	operating room
OS	left eye
OT	occupational therapy
OTC	over the counter
OU	both eyes
P	pulse
P & A	percussion and auscultation
P & R	pulse and respiration
PA	pernicious anaemia, pulmonary artery
PaCO ₂	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PAN	polyarteritis nodosa
PaO ₂	partial pressure of oxygen
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
PAWP	pulmonary arterial wedge pressure
PBC	primary biliary cholangitis
PBI	protein bound iodine
PC	present complaint packed cells
PCA	patient-controlled analgesia
PCP	<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PCS	portocaval shunt
PCV	packed cell volume
PE	physical examination, pulmonary embolism, pleural effusion
PEEP	positive end-expiratory pressure

PEFR	peak expiratory flow rate
PEG	percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
PERRLA	pupils equal, round, react to light and accommodation
PET	positron emission tomography
PF	peak flow
PFR	peak flow rate
PFT	pulmonary function test
PH	past history, patient history, personal history, prostatic hypertrophy, pulmonary hypertension
pHa	arterial blood pH
PI	present illness, protease inhibitor
PICC	peripherally inserted central catheter
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
PIP	proximal interphalangeal (joint)
PKU	phenylketonuria
PM	post mortem
PMB	postmenopausal bleeding
PMH	past medical history
PMI	past medical illness
PMN	polymorphonuclear leucocyte
PMR	patient medical record
PMS	postmenopausal syndrome, premenstrual syndrome
PMT	premenstrual tension
PN	percussion note, peripheral neuropathy, peripheral neuropathy
PND	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnoea, postnasal drip
Pnx	pneumothorax
PO	by mouth
PPH	post partum haemorrhage
PPI	proton pump inhibitor
ppm	parts per million
PPTK	partial thromboplastin time kaolin
PR	per rectum
PRL	prolactin
PSA	prostate-specific antigen
Pt	patient
PT	physical therapy, prothrombin time, parathyroid
PTA	plasma thromboplastin antecedent, prior to admission, prothrombin activity
PTH	parathyroid hormone
PTR	prothrombin ratio
PTT	partial thromboplastin time
PTTK	partial thromboplastin time kaolin
PTU	propylthiouracil
PU	peptic ulcer, pass urine, per urethra
PUD	peptic ulcer disease
PUO	pyrexia of unknown origin
PUVA	psoralen and ultraviolet A radiation
PV	per vagina
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
PVD	peripheral vascular disease
PVT	paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
Px	past history, prognosis, pneumothorax
QALY	quality-adjusted life year(s)
R	respiration
RA	renal artery, rheumatoid arthritis, right arm, right atrium
RAD	Right axis deviation
RAST	radioallergosorbent test
RBBB	right bundle branch block
RBC	red blood cell, red blood count
RBF	renal blood flow
RBS	random blood sugar

RCT	randomised control trial
RDS	respiratory distress syndrome
RDW	red cell distribution width
REM	rapid eye movement
RES	reticuloendothelial system
RF	renal failure, rheumatic fever, rheumatoid factor
RFT	respiratory function test
Rh factor	rhesus factor
RHD	rheumatic heart disease
RIF	right iliac fossa
RLD	related living donor, right lateral decubitus
RLL	right lower lobe (lung)
RLQ	right lower quadrant
ROM	range of motion
RP	radial pulse
RQ	respiratory quotient
RR	respiratory rate
RR & E	round regular and equal (pupils)
RRT	renal replacement therapy
RS	respiratory system
RSF	rheumatoid serum factor
RSR	regular sinus rhythm
RSV	respiratory syncytial virus
RTA	road traffic accident
rt-PA	recombinant tissue-type plasminogen activator
RUL	right upper lobe
RUQ	right upper quadrant
RV	residual volume, right ventricle
RVF	Right ventricular failure
RVH	right ventricular hypertrophy
s	without
S/B	seen by
SA	sinoatrial, surface area
SALT	speech and language therapist
SB	seen by, shortness of breath
SBE	subacute bacterial endocarditis, shortness of breath on exertion
SBO	small bowel obstruction
SBP	spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
SC	sickle cell, subcutaneous
SCBU	special care baby unit
SH	social history
SI	small intestine
SIADH	syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
SL or sl	sublingual
SLE	systemic lupus erythematosus
SOA	swelling of ankle(s)
SOAP	subjective, objective, assessment, plan
SOB	shortness of breath
SP	systolic pressure
SpO ₂	saturation of peripheral oxygen (%)
SR	sinus rhythm, sustained release
SSRI	selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
SSS	sick sinus syndrome
ST	sinus tachycardia
stat.	immediately
STD	sexually transmitted disease
SV	stroke volume
SVC	superior vena cava
SVT	supraventricular tachycardia

Sx	symptoms
T	temperature
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
T & X	type and crossmatch
T3	triiodothyronine
T4	thyroxine
TB	tuberculosis
TBA	to be administered, to be arranged
TBG	thyroid binding globulin
TBS	total body surface
TBW	total body water, total body weight
TCA	tricyclic antidepressant
TD	tardive dyskinesia, transverse diameter
TDI	total dose infusion
TDM	therapeutic drug monitoring
TENS	transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation
TFT	thyroid function test
TG	triglyceride
TH	thyroid hormone
THR	total hip replacement
TIA	transient ischaemic attack
TIBC	total iron-binding capacity
TKO	to keep open
TL	tubal ligation
TLC	tender loving care, total lung capacity
TM	tympanic membrane
TNF	tumour necrosis factor
TOF	tracheo-oesophageal fistula
TOP	termination of pregnancy
TOPS	take off pounds sensibly
TP	thrombophlebitis, total protein
t-PA	tissue plasminogen factor
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
TRH	thyrotropin-releasing hormone
TSH	thyroid-stimulating hormone
TTA	to take away
TTO	to take out
TTP	thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
TUR	transurethral resection
TURB	transurethral resection of the bladder
TURP	transurethral resection of the prostate
TV	trichomonas vaginalis, tidal volume
Tx.	treatment
U & E	urea & electrolytes
UA	uric acid, urine analysis
UC	ulcerative colitis, urinary catheter
UCG	urine chorionic gonadotropin
UCO	urinary catheter out
UDV	unit dose vial
UFH	unfractionated heparin
UMN	upper motor neurone
UK	unknown
UO	urinary output
URI	upper respiratory infection
URTI	upper respiratory tract infection
US	ultrasound
UTI	urinary tract infection
VB	venous blood
VC	vena cava, visual cortex, vital capacity, vulvovaginal candidiasis

VD	venereal disease
VDG	venereal disease gonorrhoea
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory
VE	vaginal examination
VF	ventricular fibrillation
VHF	viral haemorrhagic fever
VLBW	very low birth weight
VLDL	very low-density lipoprotein
VP	venous pressure
VS	vital signs
VT	ventricular tachycardia
VTE	venous thromboembolism
WB	whole blood
WBC	white blood cell, white blood count
WBS	whole body scan
WCC	white cell count
WPW	Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome
wt	weight
XX	female chromosome type
XY	male chromosome type
ZES	Zollinger–Ellison syndrome