

N301 Prep Packet

Every health care institution has a list of approved abbreviations. To be safe, be familiar with this list.

Abbreviations and symbols commonly used by Health Practitioners

Activities:

Amb ambulatory
BRP bathroom privileges
CBR complete bedrest
OOB out of bed
PWB partial weight bearing
ROM range of motion
TDWB touch down weight bearing
ad lib as desired

Assessment:

abd abdomen
BP blood pressure
bx biopsy
C Celsius (centigrade)
cc chief complaint
CDI clean, dry, intact
CNS Central Nervous System
c/o complains of
CTA clear to auscultation
CVP central venous pressure
DBP diastolic blood pressure
DOE dyspnea on exertion
Dx diagnosis
ECF extracellular fluid
F Fahrenheit
GI gastrointestinal
GU genitourinary
GYN gynecological
h/o history of
H & P history and physical exam
HPI history of present illness
HR heart rate
Ht height
Hx history
Imp impressions
I & O intake and output
ICP intracranial pressure
L, lf. left
LLL left lower lobe
LLQ left lower quadrant
LMP last menstrual period
LOC level of consciousness
LUL left upper lobe
LUQ left upper quadrant
MAE moves all extremities
NAD no apparent distress
NKA no known allergies
NKDA no known drug allergies

Assessment (continued):

N/V nausea and vomiting
Neg negative

P pulse
PE physical exam
PERRLA pupils equally round react to light and accommodate
PMH past medical history
RLL right lower lobe
RML right middle lobe
R/O rule out
RUL right upper lobe
RUQ right upper quadrant
R respirations
RR respiratory rate
RRR regular rate and rhythm
SBP systolic blood pressure
SOB shortness of breath
S/P status post
S/S signs and symptoms
Sx symptom
T temperature
TLC total lung capacity
TPR temperature, pulse, respirations
VC vital capacity
VS vital signs
WNL within normal limits
wt weight

Symbols:

↑ increase
↓ decrease
2° secondary to
= equal to
♀ female
♂ male

Diagnostic Studies:

ABG arterial blood gases
BE barium enema
CBC complete blood count
CO₂ carbon dioxide
C&S culture and sensitivity
CPK creatine phosphokinase
CT computed tomography
CXR chest x-ray
diff differential blood count
ECG (EKG) electrocardiogram
ECT electroconvulsive therapy
ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
FSBS finger stick blood sugar
GTT glucose tolerance test
HAV hepatitis A virus
Hb hemoglobin
HBAG hepatitis B antigen

HBV	hepatitis B virus
Hct., HCT	hematocrit
Hgb	hemoglobin
Ig	immunoglobulin
KUB	kidney, ureters and bladder (radiograph)
LP	lumbar puncture
lytes	electrolytes
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
pH	hydrogen ion concentration
PKU	phenylketonuria
PT	prothrombin time
PTT	partial thromboplastin time
RBC	red blood cells
Rh+	positive Rh factor
Rh-	negative Rh factor
Sp. Gr.	specific gravity
SR	sedimentation rate
TG	triglyceride
TIBC	total iron binding capacity
UA	urinalysis
UGI	upper GI
WBC	white blood cells

Diseases and Conditions:

ACS	acute coronary syndrome
AKA	above knee amputation
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ARF	acute renal failure
ASCVD	arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease
ASHD	arteriosclerotic heart disease
BKA	below knee amputation
BPH	benign prostatic hypertrophy
CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
CA	cancer
CAD	coronary artery disease
CHF	congestive heart failure
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CVA	cerebral vascular accident
DIC	disseminated intravascular coagulation
DM	diabetes mellitus
DJD	degenerative joint disease
EBV	Epstein-Barr virus
ESRD	end stage renal disease
CRF	chronic renal failure
FTT	failure to thrive
FUO	fever unknown origin
Fx	fracture
HF	heart failure
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HTN	hypertension
HSV	herpes simplex virus
IDDM	insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
MG	myasthenia gravis
MI	myocardial infarction
MS	multiple sclerosis
NIDDM	non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
ORIF	open reduction, internal fixation
OA	osteoarthritis
PE	pulmonary embolism

PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
PMS	premenstrual syndrome
PND	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
PVD	peripheral vascular disease
RDS	respiratory distress syndrome
RA	rheumatoid arthritis
RHD	rheumatoid heart disease
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
STD	sexually transmitted disease
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
TAH	total abdominal hysterectomy
TB	tuberculosis
THR	total hip replacement
TKR	total knee replacement
TURP	transurethral resection of prostate
TIA	transient ischemic attack
VD	venereal disease
VSD	ventricular septal defect

Common Pharmacy:

a	before
a.c.	before meals
AM	morning
amp	ampule
b.i.d.	twice a day
c	with
cap	capsule
cm	centimeter
g, gm, Gm	gram
gr	grain
gtts	drops
HHN	hand held nebulizer
hr	hour
IM	intramuscular
inj	injection
IV	intravenous
IVP	intravenous push
kg	kilogram
L	liter
liq	liquid
mcg	microgram
mg	milligram
ml	milliliter
OTC	over the counter
Oz	ounce
p.c.	after meals
PM	afternoon, evening
p.o.	by mouth
p.r.	by rectum
p. vag	by vagina
p.r.n.	as needed
q, Q	every
q2hr	every 2 hours
q4hr	every 4 hours
q12hr	every 12 hours
q.i.d.	four times a day
Rx	prescription
SL	sublingually
ss	one-half

susp suspension
t.i.d. three times a day
tinct tincture

Miscellaneous:

ADA American Diabetic Association
ADLs activities of daily living
AMA against medical advice
BM bowel movement
BMR basal metabolic rate
BSC bedside commode
CCU critical care unit
CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CHO carbohydrate
D5W 5% dextrose in water
DNR do not resuscitate
Dsg dressing
dx diagnosis
HOB head of bed
I & O intake and output
ICU intensive care unit
IPPB intermittent positive pressure breathing
IS incentive spirometer
NC nasal cannula
NICU neonatal intensive care unit
NG nasogastric
NPO nothing by mouth
NS normal saline
O2 oxygen
OT occupational therapy
PACU post anesthesia care unit
PCA patient controlled analgesia
PD postural drainage
PM postmortem
PPN peripheral parental nutrition
postop postoperative
preop preoperative
prep preparation
PT physical therapy
RDA recommended daily allowance
SCD sequential compression device
SICU surgical intensive care unit
SL saline lock
S/P status post
STAT immediately
TF tube feeding
T/L teaching learning
TKO to keep open
TO telephone order
TPN total parenteral nutrition
Tx treatment
VO verbal order
VS vital signs
WA while awake
X times

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) has determined the use of certain abbreviations, acronyms and symbols have been an issue in patient safety. They have developed a “Do not use” list. This list is as follows with recommended verbiage.

Do not use list:

1. U = Write “unit”
2. IU = Write “international unit”
3. Q.D., QD, q.d., qd = Write “daily”
4. Q.O.D., QOD, q.o.d., qod = Write “every other day”
5. Trailing zero (X.0 mg)=Never write a zero by itself after a decimal
Instead, write (X mg)
6. Always write a zero before a decimal point (0.X mg)
7. MS=Write “morphine sulfate”
8. MSO4= Write “morphine sulfate”
9. MgSO4= Write “magnesium sulfate”

In addition, to the above list, the following items should also be considered when health care institutions are expanding the “Do not use” list.

Suggested Do not use items:

1. ug=Write “mcg”
2. H.S. Write “half–strength”
3. q.H.S.=Write “at bedtime”
4. T.I.W.= Write “3 times weekly”
5. S.C.=Write “subcutaneously”
6. S.Q.=Write “Sub-Q” or subQ”
7. D/C=Write “discharge” when referring to a patient
8. D/C=Write “discontinue” when referring to a medication
9. cc=Write “ml”
10. A.S.=Write “left ear”
11. A.D.=Write “right ear”
12. A.U.= Write “both ears”
13. > = Write “greater than”
14. < = Write “less than”
15. @ = Write “at”
16. Drug name abbreviations= Write drug names in full
17. Apothecary units = Use metric units instead

(Updated 3-5-09)

Math Review for Nursing 301

Common Conversions

grain (gr) 1 = 60 mg - 65 mg

gr $\frac{1}{2}$ = 30 mg

gr $\frac{1}{4}$ = 15 mg

gr 2 = 120 mg

gr 15 = 1000 mg (or 1 gram)

1 liter (L) = 1000 milliliter (ml)

1 ounce (oz) = 30 ml

1 tablespoon (T) = 15 ml

1 teaspoon (t) = 5 ml

1kilogram (kg) = 1000 grams

1 gram = 1000 mg

1 milligram (mg) = 1000 microgram (mcg)

When converting from large to small, move the decimal to the right.

When converting from small to large, move the decimal to the left.

Example:

7 mg = 7000 mcg

160 mg = 0.16 grams

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N301 PRACTICE MATH TEST

CONVERT: SHOW ALL WORK.

1. gr $\frac{1}{6}$ = _____ mg

2. 1.5 mg = _____ mcg

3. 35 g = _____ mg

4. 1 T = _____ ml

5. 1.5 L = _____ ml

6. 0.5 g = _____ mg

7. 3 oz = _____ ml

EXPRESS IN DECIMAL FORM:

8. two and a half milligrams _____

9. one half of a kilogram _____

10. one quarter of a gram _____