

Medical Terminology

Abx—Antibiotics

AIDS—Acquired Immunodeficiency disease

A & P anatomy and physiology

Ab abortion

Abd abdominal

ABG—arterial blood gas

a.c.—before meals

AD—right ear

afeb—afebrile or no fever

AKA—above the knee

am—morning

AMA—against medical advice

AMI—acute myocardial infarction

AOx3—alert and oriented to person, time, and place

ARDS—acute respiratory distress syndrome

AS—left ear

ASA—aspirin

asap or ASAP—as soon as possible

AU—both ears

bid—twice a day

bil, bilateral—both sides

BKA—below the knee amputation

BLS—basic life support

B/P—blood pressure

bpm—beats per minute

BUN—blood, urea, nitrogen levels

Bx—biopsy

C & S—culture and sensitivity

c-spine—cervical spine

CA—cancer

CAD—coronary artery disease

CAT—computerized axial tomography

cath—catheter

CBC—complete blood count

cc—cubic centimeters

CC—chief complaint

CCU—coronary care unit or critical care unit

CHF—congestive heart failure

chol—cholesterol

CNS—central nervous system

c/o—complaining of

COPD—chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

CPK—creatine phosphokinase (Enzymes)

CPR—cardiopulmonary resuscitation

CSF—cerebrospinal fluid

CT—computer tomography

CVA—cerebrovascular accident
CXR—chest X ray
D & C—dilation and curettage
DNA—deoxyribonucleic acid
DNR—do not resuscitate
DOA—dead on arrival
DOB—date of birth
DPT—diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (Vaccine for)
DRG—diagnosis related group
D/S—dextrose in saline
D5W 5%—dextrose in water
Dx—diagnosis
ECG—electrocardiogram
ED—emergency department
EEG—electroencephalogram
EENT—eyes, ears, nose, throat
EKG—electrocardiogram
EMG—electromyogram
ER—emergency room
ETA—estimated time of arrival
etiol—etiology
ETOH—ethyl alcohol, intoxicated
exam—examination
FBO—foreign body obstructed airway
FHx—family history
FIFO—first in, first out
FSH—follicle-stimulating hormone
FUO—fever of unknown origin
Fx—fracture
GI—gastrointestinal
GU—genitourinary
gyn—gynecology
H & H—hemoglobin and hematocrit
HCG—human chorionic gonadotrophin
hct—hematocrit
HDL—high-density lipoprotein
hgb—hemoglobin
HIV—human immunodeficiency virus
H&P—history and physical
HR—heart rate
Hx—history
hyst—hysterectomy
IBS—irritable bowel syndrome
I & D—incision and drainage
I & O—intake and output
ICU—intensive care unit
IM—intramuscular
inj—injection
IUD—intrauterine device

IV—intravenous
K+—potassium
KCl—potassium chloride
KUB—kidney, ureter, bladder
L & D—labor and delivery
lab—laboratory
LDH—lactic dehydrogenase (Enzymes)
LDL—low-density lipoprotein
liq—liquid
LLQ—left lower quadrant (abdomen)
LMP—last menstrual period
lt—left
LUQ—left upper quadrant
meds—medications
MI—myocardial infarction
min—minute
MRI—magnetic resonance imaging
MVA—motor vehicle accident
NVD—nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Na+—sodium
NaCl—sodium chloride
neuro—neurology
NGT—nasogastric tube
nitro—nitroglycerine
NKA—no known allergies
NPO—nothing by mouth
NSR—normal sinus rhythm
O₂—oxygen
OB—obstetrics
OD—right eye
OR—operating room
ORTH—orthopedics
ortho—correct, right (bones)
OS—left eye
OT—occupational therapy
OU—both eyes
palp—palpation
pCO₂—carbon dioxide partial pressure
PDR—physician's desk reference (Book)
PE—physical exam
PE—pulmonary embolism
PEDS—pediatrics
PERRLA—pupils equal round, reactive to light and accommodation
PET—positron emission tomography
PHx—past history
PID—pelvic inflammatory disease
po—by mouth
post—posterior
postop—postoperative

pp or p.p—postprandial = after eating
pO₂—partial pressure of oxygen
PPD—purified protein derivative, used in skin test for TB
preop—before surgery
prn—as needed, when needed, if needed
Pt—patient
PT—physical therapy
PTT—partial thromboplastin time
PVC—premature ventricular contraction
qd—every day
qh—every hour
q2h—every two hours.
qid—four times a day
RBC—red blood cell/count
Rh—rhesus ,used for blood type
RL—ringer's lactate
RLO—right lower quadrant (Abdomen)
R/O—to rule out , to except
RUQ—right upper quadrant (Abdomen)
rt—right
Rx— meds drugs
S & S—signs and symptoms
Sats—oxygen/blood saturation level
sc—subcutaneous
SGOT—enzymes as serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase
SGPT—enzymes as serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase
SOB—shortness of breath
SQ, sub q—subcutaneous
stat—immediately
STD—sexually transmitted disease
SVT—supraventricular tachycardia
sx—symptoms
Sx—surgery
T & A—tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy
tachy—tachycardic
TB—tuberculosis
temp—temperature
TIA—transient ischemic attack
tid—three times a day
TMJ—temporomandibular joint
trach—tracheotomy or tracheostomy
TSH—thyroid-stimulating hormone
UA—urinalysis
URI—upper respiratory infection
US—ultrasound
UTI—urinary tract infection
V fib—ventricular fibrillation
V tach—ventricular tachycardia
vag—vaginal

V/S—vital signs

WBC—white blood cell/count

WNL—within normal limits

wt—weight

y/o—year(s) old