

Medical Abbreviations

SYMBOL	MEANING		
"	seconds	C	concentration, content
'	minutes	C & S	culture & sensitivity
□	decreased	\bar{c}	with
↑	increased	CA	cancer
=	equal	CBC	complete blood count
>	greater than	cc	cm ³
<	less than	CCU	Coronary Care Unit
□	change	C_{dyn}	dynamic compliance
°	hours	cl	clear
\bar{x}	dash above any symbol indicates a mean value	cm	centimeter
\dot{x}	dot above any symbol indicates a timed event	cmH₂O	cm water pressure
\bar{a}	before	CNS	central nervous system
abd	abdomen	CO₂	carbon dioxide
ABG	arterial blood gas	COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
ac	before meals	CPPD	chest percussion & postural drainage
ad lib	as needed	CPT	chest physiotherapy
AFB	acid-fast bacillus	CSF	cerebral spinal fluid
AM	aerosol mask	C_{st}	static compliance
amt	amount	CTA	clear to auscultation
anat	anatomical	CV	cardiovascular
ant	anterior	CVP	central venous pressure
approx	approximately	CXR	chest x-ray
AV	atrioventricular	DC	discontinue
bid	twice daily	DOB	date of birth
BP	blood pressure	Dx, dx	diagnosis
B/S	breath sounds	ECG (EKG)	electrocardiogram
BUN	blood urea nitrogen	ER	emergency room
Bx, bx	biopsy	et	and
C	Centigrade, Celsius	ETT	endotracheal tube
C	compliance	F	Fahrenheit, gas conc. as a decimal
		f	frequency

FI₀₂	fraction of inspired O ₂	ml	milliliter
FOB	foot of bed	MLT	minimal leak technique
Fx, fx	fracture	mm	millimeter
g	gram	mmHg	millimeters of mercury
GI	gastrointestinal	MOV	minimal occlusion vol.
gtt	drop	NC	nasal cannula
H & H	hemoglobin & hematocrit	no	number
h	hour	noc	night
H₂O	water	NPO	nothing by mouth
HCM	high concentration mask	NRB	nonbreathing bag
Hct	hematocrit	NT	nasotracheal
Hg	mercury	O₂	oxygen
Hgb	hemoglobin	OR	operating room
HHN	hand-held nebulizer	p	pulse
HOB	head of bed	P	partial pressure
hs	at bedtime	\bar{p}	after
hx	history	PaCO₂	arterial CO ₂ partial pressure
I & O	intake and output	PaO₂	arterial O ₂ partial pressure
ICU	Intensive Care Unit	PACO₂	alveolar CO ₂ partial pressure
IM	intramuscular	PAO₂	alveolar O ₂ partial pressure
inf	inferior	PAP	pulmonary artery pressure
IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing	pc	after meals
IS	incentive spirometer	PD	postural drainage
IV	intravenous	PEARL	pupils equal & reactive to light
kg	kilogram	PO	pulse oximeter
L, l	liter, left	p.o.	by mouth
L/min, lpm	liters per minute	post	posterior
lat	lateral	postop	postoperative
lb	pound	preop	preoperative
LLL	left lower lobe	prn	as needed
LMSB	left mainstem bronchus	psi	pounds per square inch
LUL	left upper lobe	pt	patient
m	meter	PT	physical therapy
med	medial		
mEq	milliequivalent		
mg	milligram		
min	minute		

PWP pulmonary wedge pressure
q every
q2h every 2 hours
qd every day
qh every hour
qid 4 times daily
qod every other day
qs quantity sufficient
Q volume of blood
 \dot{Q} flow of blood (vol./time)
 \dot{Q}_s shunt (blood)
 \dot{Q}_T cardiac output
R, RR, resp respiratory rate
Raw airway resistance
RBC red blood count
RLL right lower lobe
RML right middle lobe
RMSB right mainstem bronchus
rt. right
RUL right upper lobe
Rx treatment
 \bar{s} without
S saturation in blood
SaO₂ arterial O₂ saturation
SM simple mask
SOB short of breath
SpO₂ sat. by pulse oximeter
stat immediately
sup superior
SVN small volume nebulizer
S \bar{V} O₂ mixed venous saturation
Sx suction
T temperature
t/o throughout
tid three times daily
tol tolerated
TPR temp pulse resp rate

USN ultrasonic nebulizer
V gas volume
 \dot{V} flow of gas (vol./time)
 \dot{V}_A alv. ventilation per min.
 \dot{V}_{CO_2} CO₂ production per min.
 \dot{V}_E exp. volume per minute
via by way of
VM venti-mask
 $\dot{V}O_2$ O₂ consumption per min.
VQ Scan ventilation-perfusion scan
VS vital signs
VT tidal volume
WBC white blood count
x times
y/o year old

QUALIFYING

a artery or arterial
A alveolar
ATPD ambient temp and pressure, dry
ATPS ambient temp and pressure, saturated
B barometric
BTPS body temp, sea level pressure, saturated
c capillary
D dead space
E expired gas
I inspired gas
L lung

STPD	standard temperature and pressure, dry	PEFR	peak expiratory flow rate
T	tidal	RV	residual volume
v	vein, venous	TLC	total lung capacity
\bar{v}	mixed venous	VC	vital capacity
example:		VD	physiologic dead space
V_T	tidal volume	VD_{anat}	anatomical dead space
CL	lung compliance	VD_A	alveolar dead space
		V_T	tidal volume

PULMONARY FUNCTION

ERV	expiratory reserve volume
FEF	forced expiratory flow
FEV	forced expiratory volume
FEV_{.5}	forced exp. volume (in .5 sec.)
FEV₁	forced exp. volume (in 1 sec.)
FEV₃	forced exp. volume (in 3 sec.)
FRC	functional residual capacity
FVC	forced vital capacity
IC	inspiratory capacity
IRV	inspiratory reserve volume
IVC	inspiratory vital capacity
MVV	max. voluntary ventilation
NIF	negative inspiratory force
NIP	negative inspiratory pressure

