

PHARMACY ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
aa	amount to be taken
ac	before meals
amp	ampule
ASA	aspirin
bid	bis in diem (twice daily)
cap(s)	capsule(s)
dL	deciliter
D ₅ W	dextrose 5% in water
D ₅ LR	dextrose 5% in lactated Ringers solution
DOSS	docusate sodium (dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate)
DS	double strength
elix	elixir
Eq	equivalents
ext	extract
ext.fl.	fluid extract
fl.	fluid
fl.oz.	fluid ounce
g	gram
gr	grain
gtt	drop(s)
home TPN	home total parenteral nutrition
hs	hora somni (at bedtime)
INH	isoniazid

PHARMACY ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
KCl	potassium chloride
kg	kilogram
L	liter
lb	pound

liq	liquid
L/min	liters per minute
LR	lactated Ringers solution
MAOI	monoamine oxidase inhibitor
med(s)	medicine(s)
mEq	milliequivalent
mEq/L	milliequivalent per liter
mg	milligram
mg%	milligrams per 100 milliliters
min	minute
mL	milliliter
mm	millimeter
mmHg	millimeters of mercury
mmol	millimole, 10 ⁻³ mole
MMR	measles, mumps, rubella vaccine
MO	mineral oil
MOM	milk of magnesia
MRx1	may repeat times one
MS	morphine sulfate
NaCl	sodium chloride
ng	nanogram
nka	no known allergies
NPH	neutral protamine Hagedorn (insulin)
NPO	nothing by mouth

PHARMACY ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
NS	normal saline
NTG	nitroglycerin
N&V	nausea and vomiting
OPV	oral polio vaccine
oz	ounce
PABA	para-aminobenzoic acid

Pb	phenobarbital
pc	after meals
PCN	penicillin
PO	per os (by mouth)
PR	per rectum
PRN	as needed
pwd	powder
PZI	protamine zinc insulin
q	every
qAM	every morning
qhr	every hour
qid	four times a day
qnoc	every night
qs	every shift
q(number)hr	every (number) hours
Rx	prescription
sig	let it be labelled
sol	solution

PHARMACY ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
supp	suppository
syr	syrup
tab(s)	tablet(s)
tbsp	tablespoon
tid	three times a day
tinc	tincture
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
tsp	teaspoon
uL	microliter
Ung	ointment
Vit	vitamin

Abbreviation Meaning

1°, 2°	1 hour, 2 hours, etc.
a	before
aa	of each
ac	before meals ("before a meal" if once daily dosing)
ad	right ear
ad	as directed (used occasionally in error)
AM	morning
amp	ampules
apl	applicatorful (for vaginal creams)
aq	water
as	left ear
<u>au</u>	both ears
bid	twice daily
c	with
C	100
cap	capsule(s)
<u>cc</u>	cubic centimeter (same as milliliter or ml)
cd	cycle day (menstrual cycle)
cid	fives times daily (rarely used now)
cmpd	compound
cr	cream
d	daily or day
DAW	Dispense as Written (no generic)
<u>DC, dc, d/c</u>	discontinue (or discharge from hospital)
disp	dispense
DS	double strength
dx	diagnosis
elix	elixir
eq	equivalent
et	and
fid	five times daily
5x/d	five times daily
g, gm	gram
gen	generic
gr	grain, about 60 mg
gtt	drop(s)
h, hr	hour(s)
HD	high dose
hs	at bedtime
H2O	water
IM	intramuscularly (for injectables)

inj	inject, injection
<u>IU</u>	international units
IV	intravenously (for injectables)
kg	kilogram
l	liter(s)
liq	liquid
lot	lotion
max	maximum
MDI	(metered dose) inhaler
meq, mEq	milliequivalent(s)
<u>mcg</u>	microgram
<u>µg</u>	microgram
mg	milligram(s)
min	minute
min	minimum
ml	milliliter(s)
mm	millimeters
mo	month
neb	nebulizer
noct	night
npo, NPO	nothing by mouth
nr	no refills
<u>od</u>	right eye (or once daily)
os	left eye
ou	both eyes
oz	ounce
p	after
pc	after meals ("after a meal" if once daily dosing)
pc breakfast	after breakfast
per	per (per day, week, month or other time period)
per	in (in nebulizer, in rectum, in vagina)
PM	evening or nighttime
po, <u>per os</u>	by mouth
PR, pr	rectally (per rectum)
prn	as needed
PV, pv	in the vagina, vaginally
q	every
qam	every morning
<u>qd</u>	every day or once daily
<u>qhs</u>	every night at bedtime, at bedtime nightly
q 4 h	every 4 hours
<u>q 7 PM</u>	every day at 7 PM
qid	four times daily

<u>qn</u>	every night
<u>qod</u>	every other day
qs	sufficient amount
r, rec	rectally
rept	repeat
rf	refill(s)
s	without
<u>sc</u>	subcutaneous
sid	once daily (written by veterinarians)
Sig	directions
sl	(dissolve) under the tongue
sol	solution
sq	subcutaneous (for injectables)
<u>ss</u>	one-half
<u>ss</u>	sliding scale (for insulin)
stat	immediately
<u>subq, sub q</u>	subcutaneous (for injectables)
sup	suppository
susp	suspension
sx	symptoms
syr	syrup
tab	tablet(s)
tea	teaspoonful, teaspoonfuls, 5 ml
tbsp	tablespoonful, tablespoonfuls, 15ml
tid	three times daily
<u>tiw</u>	three times weekly (also biw, qiw, etc)
tsp	teaspoonful, teaspoonfuls, 5 ml
tx	treatment
<u>U, u</u>	unit
ud, utd	as directed
ung	ointment
vag	vaginally, in the vagina
<u>x3d</u>	for 3 days (or maybe 3 doses, caution)
wc	with meals ("with a meal" if once daily dosing)
YO	years old
/	per (example - "Max 5/12 h" = "maximum of 5 per 12
≤	hours")
≥	less than
	greater than

Approximate Measures: Liquids

1 fl oz = 30 mL
1 cup (8 fl oz) = 240 mL
1 pint (16 fl oz) = 480 mL
1 quart (32 fl oz) = 960 mL
1 gallon (128 fl oz) = 3800 mL

1 teaspoon = 5 mL
1 tablespoon = 15 mL

Approximate Measures: Weights

1 oz = 30 g
1 lb (16 oz) = 480 g
15 grains = 1 g
1 grain = 60 mg

Apothecary Equivalents: Weight

1 scruple = 20 grains (gr)
60 grains = 1 dram
8 drams = 1 ounce
1 ounce = 480 grains
16 ounces = 1 pound (lb)

Apothecary Equivalents: Volume

60 minims = 1 fluidram
8 fluidrams = 1 fluid ounce
1 fluid ounce = 480 minims
16 fluid ounces = 1 pint (pt)

Exact Equivalents

1 g = 15.43 grains
1 grain = 64.8 mg
1 mL = 16.23 minims
1 Minim = 0.06 mL
1 oz = 28.35 g
1 lb = 453.6 g (0.4536 kg)
1 kg = 2.2 lb
1 fluid oz (fl oz) = 29.57 mL
1 pint (pt) = 473.2 mL
1 quart (qt) = 946.4 mL

1 kg = 1000 g
1 g = 1000 mg
1 mg = 1000 µg

Roman Numerals

I = one

V = five

X = ten

L = fifty

C = one hundred

D = five hundred

M = one thousand