



Common Medical Abbreviations



What did my doctor mean by that?

Often medical providers use shorthand abbreviations in their notes. These save time when documenting important information about you in your medical chart. But you may be unfamiliar with these abbreviations. We can take a look at a few of these below:

a&o=alert and oriented	cabg=coronary artery bypass graft	eeg=electroencephalogram
ace=angiotensin converting enzyme	cbc=complete blood count	emg=electromyography
acl=anterior cruciate ligament	cc=chief complaint	ent=ear, nose, and throat
afib=atrial fibrillation	chd=congenital heart disease	ercp=endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
aids=acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	cmv=cytomegalovirus	esr=erythrocyte sedimentation rate
alp=alkaline phosphatase	c/o=complaint of	esrd=end-stage renal (kidney) disease
als=amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	cp=chest pain	fb=foreign body
alt=alanine aminotransferase	cpk=creatine phosphokinase	fsh=follicle stimulating hormone
ama=against medical advice	cpr=C-reactive protein	fx=fracture
ami=acute myocardial infarction	crf=chronic renal failure	gfr=glomerular filtration rate
aodm=adult onset diabetes mellitus	crp=C-reactive protein	gi=gastrointestinal
ast=aspartate aminotransferase	csf=cerebrospinal fluid	hav=hepatitis a virus
avm=arteriovenous malformation	cv=cardiovascular	hbv=hepatitis b virus
bid=twice a day	cva=cerebrovascular accident	hct=hematocrit
bhc-behavioral health care	cxr=chest x-ray	hdl=high density lipoprotein
bph=benign prostatic hypertrophy	dc=discharge	hgb=hemoglobin
bm=bowel movement	ddx=differential diagnosis	h&p=history and physical
bun=blood urea nitrogen	djd=degenerative joint disease	h/o=history of
ca-125=cancer antigen 125	dob=date of birth	hpi=history of present illness
	doe=dyspnea on exertion	i&o=intake and output
	dtp=diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis	ibd=inflammatory bowel disease
	.dvt=deep-vein thrombosis	
	dx=diagnosis	
	ebl=estimated blood loss	



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ibs=irritable bowel syndrome	pm=post menopausal	tb=tuberculosis
ibw=ideal body weight	psa=prostate specific antigen	tia=transient ischemic attack
icd=implantable cardioverter defibrillator	pth=parathyroid hormone	tibc=total iron binding capacity
icu=intensive care unit	ptt=partial thromboplastin time	tid=three times a day
iv=insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus	pud=peptic ulcer disease	tmj=temporomandibular joint
ivp=intravenous pyelogram	pvc=premature ventricular contraction	torch=group of infections that may cause birth defects
ldl=low density lipoprotein	qid=four times a day	turp=transurethral resection of prostate gland
lft=liver function tests	rbc=red blood cell	tx=treatment or therapy
mdm=medical decision making	rf=rheumatoid factor	uop=urine output
mrsa=methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus	ros=review of systems	wnl=within normal limits
mva=motor vehicle accident	sad=seasonal affective disorder	xrt=radiotherapy
nad=no acute distress	sids=sudden infant death syndrome	
ng=nasogastric	sle=systemic lupus erythematosus	
niddm=non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus	sob=shortness of breath	
nkda=no known drug allergies	s/p=status post	
ocd=obsessive-compulsive disorder	std=sexually transmitted disease	
pat=paroxysmal atrial tachycardia	sx=symptoms	
pcp=primary care provider	t3=triiodothyronine	
pid=pelvic inflammatory disease	t4=thyroxine	
	tah=total abdominal hysterectomy	