

fAbbreviation Guidelines

- Abbreviation use in CorePendium is different from that of a conventional textbook because of our digital platform and international audience.
- Abbreviations rules:
 - For the terms in this list, show both the spelled out and abbreviated form at the first use and then use the abbreviation thereafter. Additional rules:
 - All abbreviations not on the list that are not used multiple times within a paragraph or section should be spelled out on every occasion and never abbreviated in parentheses.
 - All abbreviations not on the list that are used multiple times in quick succession should be spelled out in the first instance and then abbreviated thereafter, and then spelled out again at the beginning of the next paragraph or section.
 - If the term being abbreviated is short (i.e., one or two words), it should just be spelled out in all circumstances and never abbreviated.
 - If a term is used only once in a document, you should not present the abbreviation in parentheses, whether or not the term is on the abbreviations list.
 - Terms presented at the top of the abbreviations document (ED, ECG, BP, ICU) should never be spelled out.
- Approved abbreviated terms will be spelled out upon their initial use at the beginning of chapters.
 - Exceptions exist for very common abbreviations (eg, ECG, BP) when spelling these out would interfere with the concise presentation of the material.
 - These exceptions are:
 - ED
 - ECG
 - BP
 - ICU
 - AED
 - COVID-19
- The following abbreviations commonly found when referring to dosages will always be spelled out. We will continue to abbreviate the unit of measure, like mg, L, cm, etc., but when it comes to the following, we will spell out what's been abbreviated:
 - PO = by mouth
 - BID = twice daily
 - TID = three times daily
 - QOD = every other day
 - QID = four times daily
 - NPO nothing by mouth

- q = every
- q4h = every 4 hours
- IM = intramuscular(ly)
- SUBQ = subcutaneous(ly)
- IV = intravenous(ly)
- IO = intraosseous(ly)
- IC = intracardiac
- IN = intranasal(ly)

- If you want to add an abbreviation, let us know!

Length of Time Abbreviations

All SI units for time, such as m, h, and d (minute, hour, day) and other units of time such as week, month, and year should **always be spelled out** unless they are being used in a table along with their appropriate legend.

- Examples:
 - The patient reported smoking 20 cigarettes/day
 - She has mild apnea with 1 episode per hour

Miscellaneous Style Conventions

Suture Size Description: Will be written out with a hyphen and will not be included with a hashtag.

- Examples:
 - Correct: 6-0
 - Incorrect: #6.0

Unapproved Abbreviations (for AI Search purposes, not copy editing)

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

TACO transfusion-associated circulatory overload

TRALI transfusion-related acute lung injury

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

Approved Abbreviations List (for copy editing purposes)

(new entries are in blue)

(proposed - NOT confirmed are in red)

A

AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm

ABG arterial blood gas

ABI ankle-brachial index

ACE angiotensin-converting enzyme

ACLS advanced cardiac life support

ACS acute coronary syndrome

ACTH adrenocorticotrophic hormone

ADH antidiuretic hormone

ADHD attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder

AF atrial fibrillation

AICD automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator

AIDS acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

AKA above the knee amputation

ALL acute lymphocytic leukemia
ALS amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ALT alanine aminotransferase
AMA against medical advice
AMI acute myocardial infarction
AML acute myelogenous (myeloblastic) leukemia
ANA antinuclear antibody
AP anterior-posterior
APAP acetaminophen
aPTT activated partial thromboplastin time
ARDS acute respiratory distress syndrome
ASA acetylsalicylic acid
ASD atrial septal defect
AST aspartate aminotransferase
AV arteriovenous; atrioventricular
AVM arteriovenous malformation

B

BCLS basic cardiac life support
BIPAP bilevel positive airway pressure
KA below the knee amputation
BLS basic life support
BMI body mass index
BNP brain natriuretic peptide
BP blood pressure
BPH benign prostatic hyperplasia
bpm beats/breaths per minute
BRUE brief resolved unexplained event
BUN blood urea nitrogen

C

CABG coronary artery bypass graft
CAD coronary artery disease
CAR-T Cell chimeric antigen receptor t cell
CBC complete blood count
CD4 T-helper cells
CD8 cytotoxic cells
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEA carcinoembryonic antigen
CHA2DS2VASC congestive heart failure, hypertension, age ≥ 75 (doubled), diabetes, stroke (doubled), vascular disease, age 65 to 74 and sex category (female)
CHF congestive heart failure
CIN cervical intraepithelial neoplasia

CK creatine kinase
CK-MB serum creatine kinase, myocardial-bound
CLL chronic lymphocytic leukemia
CMV cytomegalovirus
CNS central nervous system
CO carbon monoxide
CO₂ carbon dioxide
COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP cerebral palsy
CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CRP C-reactive protein
CSF cerebrospinal fluid
CT computed/computerized tomography
CTA CT angiography
CV cardiovascular
CVA cerebrovascular accident
CVC central venous catheter
CVP central venous pressure
CXR chest x-ray

D

D5/0.9 NaCl 5% dextrose and normal saline solution (0.9% NaCl)
D5/½NS 5% dextrose and half-normal saline solution (0.45% NaCl)
D5W 5% dextrose in water
DBP diastolic blood pressure
D&C dilation and curettage
DIC disseminated intravascular coagulation
DJD degenerative joint disease
DKA diabetic ketoacidosis
DM diabetes mellitus
DNR do not resuscitate
DOAC direct oral anticoagulants
DRE digital rectal examination
DTaP diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis
DVT deep vein thrombosis

E

EBV Epstein-Barr virus
ECG electrocardiogram, electrocardiography
ECHO echocardiography
ECMO extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
ED emergency department

EEG electroencephalogram
EENT eye, ear, nose, and throat
EF ejection fraction
EGD esophagogastroduodenoscopy
EMS emergency medical service
EMTALA Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (US)
ERCP endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ESR erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ESRD end-stage renal disease
EtOH ethyl alcohol

E

FFP fresh frozen plasma
FHT fetal heart tone
FSH follicle-stimulating hormone

G

GABA gamma-aminobutyric acid
GCS Glasgow Coma Scale
GERD gastroesophageal reflux disease
GFR glomerular filtration rate
GGT gamma-glutamyl transferase
GH growth hormone
GI gastrointestinal
GnRH gonadotropin-releasing hormone
GSW gunshot wound
GU genitourinary
GYN gynecology

H

H&H hematocrit and hemoglobin
HAART highly active antiretroviral therapy
HCG human chorionic gonadotropin
Hct hematocrit
HDL high-density lipoprotein
Hgb hemoglobin
HiNTS head impulse test, nystagmus, and test of skew examination (for Dizziness and Vertigo chapter only)
HHS Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic syndrome
HIDA hepatobiliary iminodiacetic acid (cholescintigraphy)
HIT heparin induced thrombocytopenia
HIV human immunodeficiency virus
HPI history of present illness

HPV human papillomavirus
HRT hormone replacement therapy
HSV herpes simplex virus
HTN hypertension

I

I&O intake and output
IBW ideal body weight
ICP intracranial pressure
ICU intensive care unit
IM intramuscular
INR international normalized ratio
IOP intraocular pressure
ITP immune thrombocytopenia
IUD intrauterine device
IV intravenous
IVIG intravenous immunoglobulin

J

K

KUB kidney, ureter, and bladder

L

L&D labor and delivery
LAST [local anesthetic systemic toxicity](#)
LDH lactate dehydrogenase
LDL low-density lipoprotein
LFT liver function test
LLE left lower extremity
LLL left lower lobe
LLQ left lower quadrant
LMP last menstrual period
LOC level/loss of consciousness
LP lumbar puncture
LR lactated Ringers (solution)
LUE left upper extremity
LUL left upper lobe
LUQ left upper quadrant
LV left ventricle
LVAD left ventricular assist device
LVH left ventricular hypertrophy

M

MAP mean arterial pressure

MCV mean corpuscular volume

MDI metered-dose inhaler

MI myocardial infarction

MICU medical intensive care unit

MMR measles-mumps-rubella (vaccine)

MMRV measles-mump-rubella-varicella (vaccine)

MRA magnetic resonance angiography

MRI magnetic resonance imaging

MSE medical screening exam (case by case, spelled out the first time)

MVC motor vehicle collision

N

NAAT nucleic acid amplification test

NEWS National Early Warning Score

NGT nasogastric tube

NICU neonatal intensive care unit

NKA no known allergies

NMDA N-methyl D-aspartate

NPO nothing by mouth

NSAID nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug

NSR normal sinus rhythm

NSTEMI non-ST-elevation MI

O

OCP oral contraceptive pills

ORIF open reduction with/and internal fixation

OTC over-the-counter

P

PACU postanesthesia care unit

PAD peripheral arterial disease

PALS pediatric advanced life support

PAO₂ alveolar partial pressure of oxygen

PaO₂ arterial partial pressure of oxygen

PCI percutaneous coronary intervention

PCR polymerase chain reaction

PDA patent ductus arteriosus

PE pulmonary embolus OR pulmonary embolism

PEEP positive end expiratory pressure

PEFR peak expiratory flow rate

PEG percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
PET positron emission tomography
PFT pulmonary function test
PMH past medical history
PO2 partial pressure of oxygen
POCUS point-of-care ultrasound
POLST physician orders for life-sustaining therapy
PPD purified protein derivative (TB test)
PRBC packed red blood cell
PT prothrombin time
PTT partial thromboplastin time
PVC premature ventricular contraction
PVR peripheral vascular resistance

Q

qSOFA quick sequential organ failure assessment
QTc QT corrected

R

RA rheumatoid arthritis
RBC red blood cell; red blood cell count
RLE right lower extremity
RLL right lower lobe
RLQ right lower quadrant
RML right middle lobe of lung
ROM range of motion
ROS review of systems
RSI rapid sequence intubation
RSV respiratory syncytial virus
RV right ventricle
RVH right ventricular hypertrophy
RUE right upper extremity
RUL right upper lobe
RUQ right upper quadrant

S

SBP systolic blood pressure
SI international system of units
SIADH syndrome of inappropriate diuretic hormone
SJS Stevens-Johnson syndrome
SLE systemic lupus erythematosus
SNF skilled nursing facility
SNRI serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor

SOFA sequential organ failure assessment

SSRI selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor

SSS sick sinus syndrome

SSSS staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome

SSTI skin and soft tissue infection

Staph Staphylococcus

STEMI ST-elevation MI

STI sexually transmitted infection (e.g., not STD)

Strep Streptococcus

SUBQ subcutaneous

SVC superior vena cava

I

T3 triiodothyronine

T4 thyroxine

TB tuberculin; tuberculosis; tubercle bacillus

Tdap tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis

TEE transesophageal echocardiogram

TIA transient ischemic attack

TIBC total iron-binding capacity

TMJ temporomandibular joint

TPN total parenteral nutrition

TRALI transfusion-related acute lung injury

TSH thyroid-stimulating hormone

TTP thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura

TURP transurethral resection of the prostate

U

UA urinalysis

URI upper respiratory infection

UTI urinary tract infection

V

VF ventricular fibrillation

V/Q ventilation/perfusion

VSD ventricular septal defect

VT ventricular tachycardia

W

WBC white blood cell; white blood count

WNL within normal limits

X

X-ray radiograph, radiography

Y

Z