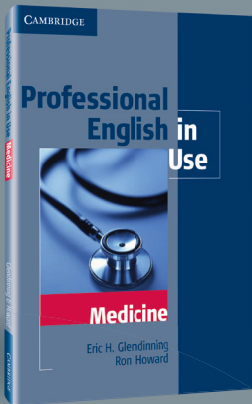


CAMBRIDGE

Pocket book of
medical abbreviations
taken from



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All content is taken from *Professional English in Use Medicine*

Abbreviation	Meaning
#	fracture
↑	increased / raised
↓	decreased / reduced
♂/♀	male / female
μmol/L	micromols per litre
μg	microgram
1/12	1 month
1/52	1 week
10 ⁹ /L	times ten to the power nine per litre
a&w	alive and well
AB	apex beat
ABC	airways, breathing, circulation
abd / abdo.	abdomen
ACTH	adrenocorticotrophic hormone
AF	atrial fibrillation
AFP	alphafetoprotein
AI	aortic incompetence

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency disease
AJ	ankle jerk
alk. phos.	alkaline phosphatase
ALT	alanine aminotransferase
AN	antenatal
AP	antero-posterior
APH	ante partum haemorrhage
ARM	artificial rupture of membranes
ASD	atrial septal defect
ASO	antistreptolysin O
ATS	antitetanic serum; antitetanus serum
AVF	augmented voltage foot
AVL	augmented voltage left arm
AVR	augmented voltage right arm
b.d. / b.i.d.	twice a day (Latin)
BB	bed bath; blanket bath
BBB	bundle branch block
BCG	bacille Calmette-Guérin
BID	brought in dead
BMR	basal metabolic rate
BNO	bowels not opened

BO	bowels opened
BP	blood pressure
BPD	bi-parietal diameter
BS	breath sounds; bowel sounds
BWt	birth weight
c.c.	with meals/food (Latin)
c/o	complains of
CA / Ca	cancer; carcinoma; calcium
CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
CAD	coronary artery disease
CAT	coaxial or computerised axial tomography
CBT	cognitive behavioural therapy
CCF	congestive cardiac failure
CFT	complement fixation test
CHF	chronic heart failure
Chr.CF	chronic cardiac failure
CNS	central nervous system
COAD	chronic obstructive airways disease
COP	change of plaster
creps	crepitations

CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CSSD	Central Sterile Supply Depot
CSU	catheter specimen of urine
CT	cerebral tumour; coronary thrombosis; computerized tomography
CV	cardiovascular
CVA	cardiovascular accident; cerebrovascular accident
CVS	cardiovascular system; cerebrovascular system
Cx	cervix
CXR	chest X-ray
D&C	dilatation and curettage
D&V	diarrhoea and vomiting
DD	dangerous drugs
decub.	lying down (Latin)
dl	decilitre
DNA	did not attend
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DOA	dead on arrival

DOB	date of birth
DS	disseminated sclerosis
DTs	delirium tremens (Latin)
DU	duodenal ulcer
DVT	deep venous thrombosis
Dx	diagnosis
E	electrolytes
EBV	Epstein–Barr virus
ECF	extracellular fluid
ECG	electrocardiogram
ECT	electroconvulsive therapy
EDC	expected date of confinement
EDD	expected date of delivery
EDM	early diastolic murmur
EEG	electroencephalogram
ENT	ear, nose and throat
ESN	educationally sub-normal
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ETT	exercise tolerance test
EUA	examination under anaesthesia
fb	finger breadth

FB	foreign body
FBC	full blood count
FH	fetal heart
FH	family history
FHH	fetal heart heard
FHNH	fetal heart not heard
fl / fL	femtolitre
FMFF	fetal movement first felt
FOB	faecal occult blood
FSH	follicle stimulating hormone
FTND	full term normal delivery
FUO	fever of unknown origin
G	gravidity
g/L	grams per litre
GA	general anaesthetic
GB	gall bladder
GC	general condition
GCFT	gonococcal complement fixation test
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale
GIS	gastro-intestinal system

GnRH	gonadotrophin-releasing hormone
GP	General Practitioner
GPI	general paralysis of the insane
GPT	glutamic pyruvic transaminase
GTN	glyceryl trinitrate
GTT	glucose tolerance test
GU	gastric ulcer
GUS	genito-urinary system
Gyn.	gynaecology
Hb / Hgb	haemoglobin
HCT / Hct	haematocrit
HDU	high dependency unit
HHV-8	(human) herpes virus 8
HIB	Haemophilus influenzae B
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HPV	human papilloma virus
HR	heart rate
HS	heart sounds
HVS	high vaginal swab
IBS	irritable bowel syndrome
ICF	intracellular fluid

ICS	intercostal space
ICU	intensive care unit
ID	infectious disease
Ig	immune globulin
i.m. / IM	intramuscular
infus ⁿ	infusion
IOFB	intra-ocular foreign body
IP	in-patient; interphalangeal
IQ	intelligence quotient
ISQ	condition unchanged / in statu quo (Latin)
IU	international unit
i.v. / IV	intravenous
IVC	inferior vena cava
IVF	in vitro fertilization
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
IVU	intravenous urogram
Ix	investigation
JVP	jugular venous pressure
K	potassium
KUB	kidney, ureter and bladder

L	left
L/L	litres per litre
LA	left atrium; local anaesthetic
LAD	left axis deviation; left anterior descending
LBP	low back pain; low blood pressure
LDH	lactic dehydrogenase
LE	lupus erythematosus
LFT	liver function test
LH	luteinizing hormone
LIF	left iliac fossa
LIH	left inguinal hernia
LKS	liver, kidney and spleen
LLL	left lower lobe
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LMP	last menstrual period; left mento-posterior position of fetus
LOA	left occipito-anterior position of fetus
LOP	left occipito-posterior position of fetus
LP	lumbar puncture
LSCS	lower segment caesarean section

LUQ	left upper quadrant
LV	left ventricle; lumbar vertebra
LVD	left ventricular dysfunction
LVE	left ventricular enlargement
LVF	left ventricular failure
LVH	left ventricular hypertrophy
M/F	male / female
m/r	modified release
M/W/S	married / widow(er) / single
mane	in the morning (Latin)
mcg	microgram
MCH	mean corpuscular haemoglobin
MCHC	mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration
MCL	mid-clavicular line
MCV	mean corpuscular volume
MDM	mid-diastolic murmur
mg	milligram
MI	mitral incompetence / insufficiency; myocardial infarction
ml	millilitre

mmol/L	millimols per litre
MMR	mass miniature radiography; measles, mumps & rubella
MOP	medical out-patient
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MS	mitral stenosis; multiple sclerosis; musculoskeletal
MSSU	mid-stream specimen of urine
MSU	mid-stream urine
NA	not applicable
Na	sodium
NAD	no abnormality detected
NBI	no bone injury
ND	normal delivery
NE	not engaged
NND	neo-natal death
nocte	at night (Latin)
NP	not palpable; nasal passage
NPO	nothing by mouth (Latin)
NPU	not passed urine
NS	nervous system

NSA	no significant abnormality
NYD	not yet diagnosed
o.d.	daily (Latin)
O/E	on examination
OA	on admission; osteo-arthritis
OAP	old age pensioner
Obs.	obstetrics
OBS	organic brain syndrome
oed.	oedema
OM	otitis media
OOH	out of hours
OPD	outpatient department
OT	occupational therapist
P	pulse; protein; parity
p.o.	by mouth (Latin)
p.r.	by rectum (Latin)
p.r.n.	as required
p.v.	by vagina (Latin)
PA	pernicious anaemia
Para. 2+1	full term pregnancies 2, abortions 1

PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
PBI	protein bound iodine
PDA	patent ductus arteriosus
PERLA	pupils equal and reactive to light and accommodation
PET	pre-eclamptic toxæmia
PH	past history
PID	prolapsed intervertebral disc; pelvic inflammatory disease
Pl.	plasma
PM	postmortem
PMB	postmenopausal bleeding
PMH	past medical history
PN	postnatal
PND	postnatal depression; paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnoea
PO ₂	pressure of oxygen
POP	plaster of Paris
PPH	postpartum haemorrhage
PROM	premature rupture of membranes
PU	passed urine; peptic ulcer

PUO	pyrexia of unknown or uncertain origin
PVT	paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
q.d.s. / q.i.d.	four times a day (Latin)
R	right; respiration
RA	rheumatoid arthritis; right atrium
RAD	right axis deviation
RBC	red blood cell (count); red blood corpuscles
RBS	random blood sugar
RCA	right coronary artery
ref.	refer
reg.	regular
Rh.	Rhesus factor; rheumatism
RI	respiratory infection
RIF	right iliac fossa
RIH	right inguinal hernia
RLL	right lower lobe
RLQ	right lower quadrant
ROA	right occipital anterior
ROM	range of motion

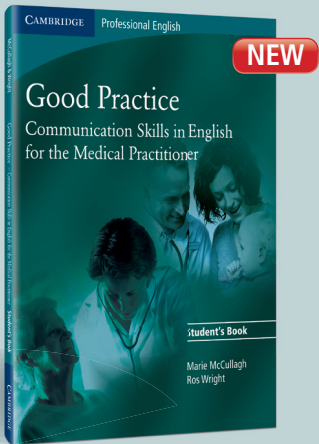
ROP	right occipital posterior
RS	respiratory system
RTA	road traffic accident
RTC	return to clinic
RTI	respiratory tract infection
RUA	right upper arm
RUQ	right upper quadrant
RVE	right ventricular enlargement
RVH	right ventricular hypertrophy
Rx	take (in prescriptions); treatment (in case notes) (Latin)
s.c.	subcutaneous
s.l.	sublingual
SAH	subarachnoidal haemorrhage
SB	still-born
SBE	sub-acute bacterial endocarditis
sep.	separated
SG	specific gravity
SH	social history
SI	sacro-iliac
sl.	slight

SM	systolic murmur
SMR	sub-mucous resection
SOB	short of breath
SOBOE	short of breath on exertion
SOP	surgical out-patients
SROM	spontaneous rupture of membranes
stat.	immediately (Latin)
SVC	superior vena cava
SVD	spontaneous vertex delivery; spontaneous vaginal delivery
sw / sw.	swab
SWD	short wave diathermy
T	temperature
T&A	tonsils and adenoids
t.d.s. / t.i.d.	three times a day (Latin)
T ₃	tri-iodothyronine
T ₄	tetra-iodothyronine
tabs	tablets
TB	tuberculosis
TI	tricuspid incompetence
TIA	transient ischaemic attack

TMJ	temporo-mandibular joint
TNS	transcutaneous nerve stimulator
TOP	termination of pregnancy
TPHA	treponema pallidum haemagglutination
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
TR	temporary resident
TRH	thyrotrophin-releasing hormone
TS	tricuspid stenosis
TSH	thyroid-stimulating hormone
TT	tetanus toxoid; tuberculin tested
TURP	transurethral prostate resection
TV	trichomonas vaginalis
U	urea; unit
U&E	urea and electrolytes
U/L	units per litre
UGS	urogenital system
UMN	upper motor neurone
URTI	upper respiratory tract infection
USS	ultrasound scan
UVL	ultra-violet light

VD	venereal disease
VDRL	venereal disease research laboratory
VE	vaginal examination
VI	virgo intacta
VP	venous pressure
VSD	ventricular septal defect
VV	varicose vein(s)
Vx	vertex
WBC	white blood cell count; white blood corpuscles
WCC	white cell count
WNL	within normal limits
WR	Wassermann reaction
XR	X-ray
YOB	year of birth

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