

Abbreviations – Division B Education Team

Abbreviation	Translation	Further Information
AAA	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	Swelling of the main artery in the abdomen
ABG	Arterial Blood Gas	Blood test taken from a critically unwell patient to monitor O ₂ , CO ₂ , and pH, also to identify acidosis or alkalosis
AF	Atrial Fibrillation	Irregular heart beat
ARF	Acute Renal Failure	Kidney failure
A on CRF/ AoCRF	Acute on Chronic Renal Failure	Exacerbation of chronic kidney disease
APTR	Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time Ratio	Blood test to check coagulation when receiving IV heparin
Art	Arterial	e.g. Art lin e= Arterial line
AS	Abdominal System OR Aortic Stenosis	Aortic Stenosis is a narrowed heart valve
AVPU	Alert, Voice, Pain, Unresponsive	Test to identify consciousness level of patient
AVR	Aortic Valve Replacement	
AXR	Abdominal X-Ray	
BCs	Blood cultures	Blood taken to identify any bacterial infection that grows in the blood
bd	Twice a Day	
BKA	Below Knee Amputation	
BMI	Body Mass Index	A measure of body size relating to height and weight
BNO	Bowels Not Opened	
BO	Bowels Opened	
BP	Blood Pressure	
CA or Ca	Carcinoma	Cancer
CABG	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft	Also called "cabbage"
CCF	Chronic/ Congestive Cardiac Failure	Heart Failure
CD	Controlled Drug	
CNS	Central Nervous System	
C/o or C.o	Complains of	Used as an abbreviation in notes
COAD	Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease	Chronic lung disease (old term)
Coag.	Coagulation	Blood test to check blood clotting
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	Chronic lung disease, can be one of a variety of diseases such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis, etc
CRF/ CKD	Chronic Renal Failure/ Chronic Kidney Disease	
CT or CAT	Computerised Axial Tomography	Body scan
CVA	Cerebrovascular Accident	Stroke
CVC/ CVP	Central Venous Catheter/ Pressure	Multi-lumen IV access line/ Indicator of Right Atrial Pressure
CVS	Cardiovascular System	
CXR	Chest X-ray	
D&V	Diarrhoea and Vomiting	
D/H	Drug History	Used as an abbreviation in notes
DNA	Did Not Attend	Used as an abbreviation in notes
DNR	Do Not Resuscitate	
DU	Duodenal Ulcer	
DVT	Deep Vein Thrombosis	Blood clot – usually in leg, identified by Doppler scans
d/w	discussed with	e.g. discussed with doctor
DxT		Radiotherapy (as a treatment for Cancer)
ECG	Electrocardiograph	Electrical heart trace
EEG	Electroencephalograph	Electrical trace of brain activity
ENT	Ear, Nose & Throat	
ESR	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate	A blood test for inflammation

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FBC	Full Blood Count	
FFP	Fresh Frozen Plasma	Blood product
FY1	Foundation Year 1	Newly qualified doctor, equivalent to HO
FY2	Foundation Year 2	2 nd year qualified doctor, equivalent to SHO
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale	Consciousness state; score out of 15
GI	Gastro Intestinal	To do with the digestive system
GORD	Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease	Back flow of stomach acid into the gullet
GTN	Glyceryl Trinitrate	Vaso-dilatory drug working particularly on coronary arteries, used to relieve angina
GUM	Genito-Urinary(Medicine)	Relating to bladder & genitals including sexually-transmitted infections
GU	Gastric Ulcer	
GUM	Genito-Urinary Medicine	For sexually transmitted diseases/infections
HAS	Human Albumin Solution	IV albumin
Hb	Haemoglobin	A measure of blood count (e.g. in Anaemia)
HI	Head Injury	
HNPU	Has Not Passed Urine	
HO	House Officer	(see FY1) Junior doctor
HR	Heart Rate	
HTN	Hypertension	Not a correct abbreviation
Hx	History (of complaint)	Used as an abbreviation in notes
IBS	Irritable Bowel Syndrome	
ICD	Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator	Internal permanent defibrillator to automatically "shock" patient
IDC	In-dwelling Catheter	Urinary catheter
INR	International Normal Ratio	Blood test to test coagulation when on warfarin
IV	Intra-Venous	
Ix	Investigations	Used as an abbreviation in notes
JVP	Jugular Venous Pressure	Neck Vein – visible at base of sides of neck and can be used as an indicator of hydration levels/ BP
KUB	Kidneys, Ureters, Bladder	X-ray or ultrasound of renal tract (IVP)
LFT	Liver Function Test	Blood tests for liver function
LOC	Loss of Consciousness	
LP	Lumbar puncture	Needle inserted into the spine for diagnostic purposes
LVF	Left Ventricular Failure	
Mané	In the Morning	
MAP	Mean Arterial Pressure	
MC&S	Microscopy & Culture Sensitivity of Bacteria	Of a sample usually urine or stool
Mets	Metastases	Spread of Cancer
MI	Myocardial Infarction	Heart attack
MND	Motor Neurone Disease	
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging	Body/Brain Scan
MS	Multiple Sclerosis OR Mitral Stenosis	Mitral Stenosis is a narrowed heart valve
MSS	Musculoskeletal System	
MSU	Mid-Stream Urine Sample	
MVR	Mitral Valve Stenosis	
NAD	Nothing Abnormal Discovered	Negative result of a test/ scan
Nocté	At Night	
NOF	Neck of Femur	e.g. #NOF= Fractured Neck of Femur
NSAID	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug	
NSTEMI	Non ST(wave) Elevated Myocardial Infarction	
N&V	Nausea & Vomiting	

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OA	Osteoarthritis	
o.d.	Once a Day	
O/E or o/e	On Examination	
OGD	Oesophago-gastro-duodenoscopy	Telescope examination of stomach and gullet
om	In the Morning	
on, o/n	once nightly, overnight	
OT	Occupational Therapist	
P	Pulse	
PE	Pulmonary Embolism	Blood clot on the lung
PERLA/ PEARL	Pupils equal and reacting to light and accommodation	On examination of nervous system/eyes
PEG	Percutaneous endoscopic gastronomy	Feeding tube inserted through abdomen wall for long-term feeding and inserted in the stomach
PEJ	Percutaneous endoscopic jejunostomy	Feeding tube inserted through abdomen wall for long-term feeding inserted in the jejunum
PFR/ PEFR	Peak Flow Rate	Breathing test – speed of expiration
PFTs	Pulmonary Function Tests	Tests to record efficiency of breathing
PICC	Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter	Long-term Central Line
PID	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease OR Prolapsed Intervertebral Disc	Gynaecological infection OR Slipped Disc
PM	Post mortem examination	
PMH also PHx	Previous Medical History	Used as an abbreviation in notes
PO	Per Oral	By Mouth
POP	Plaster of Paris	
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment	e.g. apron, gloves, etc.
PPI	Proton Pump Inhibitor	Drug to reduce production of acid in the stomach
PPM	Permanent Pacemaker	Permanent Cardiac Pacemaker
PR	Per Rectum	Route for drug administration via rectum/ Rectal examination
PRN	As Required	
PT	Physiotherapist	Not a correct abbreviation
PTCA	Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty	Opening up the main arteries of the heart using a balloon inserted usually near the groin
PU	Peptic Ulcer OR Passed urine	Peptic Ulcer – Stomach or Duodenal Ulcer
PV	Per Vagina	Route for drug administration via vagina/ Vaginal examination
PVD	Peripheral Vascular Disease	Furring up of the blood vessels of the limbs
Px	Prescribed	Used as an abbreviation in notes
qds (or) qid	Four times a day	
RA	Rheumatoid Arthritis	
RBC/ PRC	Red Blood Cells/ Packed Red Cells	“Bag of blood” for transfusion
RIG	Radiologically Inserted Gastronomy	Feeding tube for permanent feeding into the stomach
ROS	Removal of Sutures	
RR	Respiration Rate	Rate of breathing in breaths per minute
RS	Respiratory System	
RTA	Road Traffic Accident	
Rx	Prescription or Treatment	
SHO	Senior House Officer	(see FY2) Doctor- Grading: HO(junior), SHO, SpR, Consultant(senior)
SOB	Shortness of Breath	
SOL	Space Occupying Lesion	Tumour in head
SpR	Specialist Registrar	Senior Doctor
SR	Sinus rhythm	Normal regular heart beat
Stat	Immediately	i.e. give a drug stat

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STD/ STI	Sexually Transmitted Disease/ Sexually Transmitted Infection	
TB	Tuberculosis	
TCI	To come in	Date or fact that a person is due to be admitted to hospital
tds (or) tid	Three Times a Day	
TFTs	Thyroid Function Test	
THR	Total Hip Replacement	
TIA	Transient Ischaemic Attack	Small, short lived stroke – often recurrent
TIPPS	Transjugular Intrahepatic Portal Systemic Shunt	Procedure to allow blood to flow directly through the portal vein to the hepatic vein via a tube inserted in radiology
TKR	Total Knee Replacement	
TLC	Tender Loving Care	Treat only with symptom relief and nursing care, usually associated with end-of-life care
TOE	Trans Oesophageal Echocardiograph	Ultrasound of the heart to identify damage or disease and efficiency by using a probe inserted into the oesophagus
TPN	Trans-Pareneteral Nutrition	Feeding intravenously
TTE	Trans Thoracic Echocardiograph	Ultrasound through the chest wall to identify damage or disease and efficiency of the heart
TTO/A	To take home/away (medication)	
TURP	Transurethral resection of prostate	Operation on the prostate gland carried out through the penis to reduce
TWOC	Trial Without Catheter	Check to see if patient passes urine following urinary catheter removal
	Ulcerative Colitis	
UO, u/o	Urine Output	
USS	Ultra Sound Scan	
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection	
U&Es	Urea and Electrolytes	Blood test generally for kidney function
VF	Ventricular Fibrillation	Rapid uncoordinated heart beat usually leading to collapse, and need for defibrillation (electric heart shock)
VT	Ventricular Tachycardia	Fast heart beat
WBC	White Blood Cell Count	
Wt	Weight	