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# Common Hospital Acronyms and Abbreviations

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**Introduction:** Hospital notes are often filled with acronyms and abbreviations that clinicians use to save time. When specialists from other departments consult on your patients, you might find yourself stumped by unfamiliar abbreviations. This guide provides explanations for some of the most common acronyms and abbreviations found in hospital records.

- **ac** - Before Meals (ante cibum)
- **ACEI** - Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor
- **ACS** - Acute Coronary Syndrome
- **AK** - Actinic Keratosis
- **AKI** - Acute Kidney Injury
- **ALS** - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- **ARB** - Angiotensin Receptor Blocker
- **ARDS** - Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome
- **ARMD** - Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- **ASD** - Atrial Septal Defect
- **BIBA** – Brought In By Ambulance
- **BPH** – Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy
- **BRBPR** – Bright Red Blood Per Rectum
- **b/s, BS** – Bowel Sounds, Blood Sugar
- **CABG** - Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
- **CAD** - Coronary Artery Disease
- **CCB** - Calcium Channel Blocker
- **C/C/E** - Clubbing, Cyanosis, Edema
- **CD** - Crohn's Disease
- **CHF** – Congestive Heart Failure
- **CKD** - Chronic Kidney Disease
- **CLL** - Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- **COPD** - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- **CP** – Chest Pain or Cerebral Palsy
- **CTAB** - Clear To Auscultation Bilaterally
- **CTM** – Continue to Monitor
- **CVA** - Cerebrovascular Accident
- **c/f** – concern for
- **c/w** – Consistent With
- **d/c** – Discharge
- **d/t** – Due to
- **DFU** – Diabetic Foot Ulcer
- **DIME** – Debridement, Infection/inflammation, Moisture balance, Edge of wound
- **DNKA** – Did Not Keep Appointment
- **DOE** - Dyspnea on Exertion
- **DTR** - Deep Tendon Reflexes
- **DVT** - Deep Vein Thrombosis
- **EDD** - Estimated Delivery Date
- **EGA** - Estimated Gestational Age
- **EGD** - Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
- **EMG** – Electromyography
- **EOMI** - Extraocular Movements Intact
- **ERCP** - Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography
- **ESRD** - End-Stage Renal Disease
- **FEN** – Fluids, Electrolytes, Nutrition
- **FOB** – Foot of Bed
- **FTN** – Finger-to-Nose
- **FTT** – Failure to Thrive
- **FWW** – Front-Wheeled Walker

- **GERD** – Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease
- **G\_P\_** –Gravida, Para
- **ggt** – drops
- **H/A** – Headache
- **HCV** – Hepatitis C Virus
- **HEENT** – Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Throat
- **HF** – Heart Failure
- **HLD** – Hyperlipidemia
- **HOB** – Head of Bed
- **HSM** – Hepatosplenomegaly
- **HTN** – Hypertension
- **I&D** – Incision and Drainage
- **IBD** – Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- **IBS** – Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- **IDA** – Iron Deficiency Anemia
- **IGT** – Impaired Glucose Tolerance
- **IOP** – Intraocular Pressure
- **JVD** – Jugular Venous Distention
- **LAD** – Lymphadenopathy
- **LAP** – Laparoscopy
- **LBBB** – Left Bundle Branch Block
- **LOC** – Level of Consciousness
- **LOS** – Length of Stay
- **LMP** – Last Menstrual Period
- **LUL** – Left Upper Lobe
- **LLL** – Left Lower Lobe
- **MI** – Myocardial Infarction
- **M/R/G** – Murmurs, Rubs, Gallops
- **MM** – Malignant Melanoma
- **MMM** – Mucous Membranes Moist
- **M/R/G** – Murmurs, Rubs, Gallops
- **MODS** – Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome
- **MS** – Multiple Sclerosis
- **MVA** – Motor Vehicle Accident
- **NAEON** – No Acute Events Over Night
- **NAD** – No Acute Distress
- **NAFLD** – Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease
- **NASH** – Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis
- **NCAT** – Normocephalic, Atraumatic
- **NG** – Nasogastric
- **NPO** – Nothing by Mouth (nil per os)
- **NSA** – No Significant Abnormalities
- **NSR** – Normal Sinus Rhythm
- **NSTEMI** – Non-ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction
- **NTND** – Nontender, Nondistended
- **NVD** – Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- **OA** – Osteoarthritis
- **OD** – Oculus Dexter (right eye)
- **OE** – On Examination
- **OOB** – Out of Bed
- **ORIF** – Open Reduction and Internal Fixation
- **OS** – Oculus Sinister (left eye)
- **OSA** – Obstructive Sleep Apnea
- **OU** – Oculus Uterque (both eyes)
- **pc** – After Meals (post cibum)
- **PCOS** – Polycystic Ovary Syndrome
- **PE** – Pulmonary Embolism
- **PERRLA** – Pupils Equal, Round, Reactive to Light and Accommodation
- **PNA** – Pneumonia

- **POA** – Present on Admission
- **PPx** – Prophylaxis
- **PTA** – Prior To Admission
- **PUVA** – Psoralen + UVA Therapy
- **PUD** – Peptic Ulcer Disease
- **PVD** – Peripheral Vascular Disease
- **RA** – Room Air / Rheumatoid Arthritis
- **RD** – Retinal Detachment
- **RLL** – Right Lower Lobe
- **ROM** – Range Of Motion
- **RSV** – Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- **RUL** – Right Upper Lobe
- **SBO** – Small Bowel Obstruction
- **SCC** – Squamous Cell Carcinoma
- **SLE** – Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
- **SOB** – Shortness of Breath
- **STEMI** – ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction
- **SSI** – Surgical Site Infection
- **TBI** – Traumatic Brain Injury
- **TB** – Tuberculosis
- **TIA** – Transient Ischemic Attack
- **TOC** – Test of Cure
- **TURP** – Transurethral Resection of the Prostate
- **TTP** – Tender to Palpation
- **UC** – Ulcerative Colitis
- **UDS** – Urine Drug Screen
- **URI** – Upper Respiratory Infection
- **URD** – Upper Respiratory Disease
- **UTI** – Urinary Tract Infection
- **VA** – Visual Acuity
- **VBAC** – Vaginal Birth After Cesarean
- **VO** – Verbal Order
- **VLU** – Venous Leg Ulcer
- **VSD** – Ventricular Septal Defect
- **VTE** – Venous Thromboembolism
- **WBAT** – Weight Bearing as Tolerated
- **WBC** – Wound Bed Clean
- **WDP** – Well-Developed, Well-Nourished
- **W/C** – Wheelchair
- **WNL** – Within Normal Limits
- **WOB** – Work of Breathing
- **WWP** – Warm, Well-Perfused