

# Medical Abbreviations Table

#	fracture
↑	increased / raised
↓	decreased / reduced
µmol/L	micromols per litre
µg	microgram
1/12	1 month
1/52	1 week
109/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-Guerin
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	IVP	intravenous pyelogram
FH	family history	IVU	intravenous urogram
FHH	fetal heart heard	Ix	investigation
FHNH	fetal heart not heard	JVP	jugular venous pressure
fl / fL	femtolitre	K	potassium
FMFF	fetal movement first felt	KUB	kidney, ureter and bladder
FOB	faecal occult blood	L	left
FSH	follicle stimulating hormone	L/L	litres per litre
FTND	full term normal delivery	LA	left atrium; local anaesthetic
FUO	fever of unknown origin	LAD	left axis deviation;
G	gravity		left anterior descending
g/L	grams per litre	LBP	low back pain; low blood pressure
GA	general anaesthetic	LDH	lactic dehydrogenase
GB	gall bladder	LE	lupus erythematosus
GC	general condition	LFT	liver function test
GCFT	gonococcal complement	LH	luteinizing hormone
fixation test		LIF	left iliac fossa
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale	LIH	left inguinal hernia
GIS	gastro-intestinal system	LKS	liver, kidney and spleen
GnRH	gonadotrophin-releasing hormone	LLL	left lower lobe
GP	General Practitioner	LLQ	left lower quadrant
GPI	general paralysis of the insane	LMP	last menstrual period;
GPT	glutamic pyruvic transaminase		left mento-posterior position of fetus
GTN	glyceryl trinitrate	LOA	left occipito-anterior position of fetus
GTT	glucose tolerance test	LOP	left occipito-posterior position of fetus
GU	gastric ulcer	LP	lumbar puncture
GUS	genito-urinary system	LSCS	lower segment caesarean section
Gyn.	gynaecology	LUQ	left upper quadrant
Hb / Hgb	haemoglobin	LV	left ventricle; lumbar vertebra
HCT / Hct	haematocrit	LVD	left ventricular dysfunction
HDU	high dependency unit	LVE	left ventricular enlargement
HHV-8 (human)	herpes virus 8	LVF	left ventricular failure
HIB	Haemophilus influenzae B	LVH	left ventricular hypertrophy
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus	M/F	male / female
HPV	human papilloma virus	m/r	modified release
HR	heart rate	M/W/S	married / widow(er) / single
HS	heart sounds		mane in the morning (Latin)
HVS	high vaginal swab	mcg	microgram
IBS	Irritable bowel syndrome	MCH	mean corpuscular haemoglobin
ICF	intracellular fluid	MCHC	mean corpuscular
ICS	intercostal space		haemoglobin concentration
ICU	intensive care unit	MCL	mid-clavicular line
ID	infectious disease	MCV	mean corpuscular volume
Ig	immune globulin	MDM	mid-diastolic murmur
i.m. / IM	intramuscular	mg	milligram
infusn	infusion	MI	mitral incompetence / insufficiency;
IOFB	intra-ocular foreign body		myocardial infarction
IP	in-patient; interphalangeal	ml	millilitre
IQ	intelligence quotient	mmol/L	millimols per litre
ISQ	condition unchanged /	MMR	mass miniature radiography;
in statu quo (Latin)			measles, mumps & rubella
IU	international unit	MOP	medical out-patient
i.v. / IV	intravenous	MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
IVC	inferior vena cava	MS	mitral stenosis; multiple sclerosis;
IVF	in vitro fertilization		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  
 PO2 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)  
T3 tri-iodothyronine  
T4 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

