

Approved Medical EMS Abbreviations

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Abbreviation Definition

[Aa]

@	at
AAA	abdominal aortic aneurysm
ABD	abdomen
ABC	airway, breathing, circulation
AC	antecubital
ACLS	advanced cardiac life support
A&D	admission and discharge
AED	automatic external defibrillator
A-fib	atrial fibrillation
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ALS	advanced life support
AKA	also known as/ above the knee amputation
AMA	against medical advice
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
AMT	amount
AOS	arrived on scene
APAP	acetaminophen
APGAR	infant assessment scale
APPROX	approximately
ASA	aspirin
ASHD	arteriosclerotic heart disease

[Bb]

BB	backboard/ bundle branch
BBB	bundle branch block
BBS	bilateral breath sounds
bilat	bilateral
BKA	below knee amputation
BLS	basic life support
BM	bowel movement
BP	blood pressure
BG	blood glucose
BVM	bag valve mask

[Cc]

CABG	coronary artery bypass graft
CAD	coronary artery disease
CAOx3	conscious, alert, oriented to person, place and time
CA	cancer

Cath	catheterization
CC	chief complain
CCU	coronary care unit/critical care unit
CHF	congestive heart failure
CNS	central nervous system
C/O	complains of
CO2	carbon dioxide
COD	cause of death
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP	chest pain
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CQI	continuous quality improvement
CSF	cerebral spinal fluid
CT scan	computerized axial tomography
CVA	cerebral vascular accident

[Dd]

DA	drug abuse
D/C	discontinue or discharge
DCAP-BTLS	deformities, contusions, punctures & penetrations, burns, tenderness, lacerations.
DNR	do not resuscitate
DOA	dead on arrival
DT's	delirium tremens
DVT	deep vein thrombosis
D5W	dextrose 5% in water
DX	diagnosis

[Ee]

ECG	electrocardiogram
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eyes, ears, nose, throat
EJ	external jugular
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EOA	esophageal obturator airway
ETA	estimated time of arrival
ETOH	ethyl alcohol
ET	endotracheal tube
EXT	external (extension)

[Ff]

F	female
FB	foreign body
FOB	foreign object/ body
FLEX	flexion
FROM	full range of motion
FX	fracture

[Gg]		LSB	long spine board
g	gram(s)	LUQ	left upper quadrant
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale	[Mm]	
GI	gastrointestinal	MAE	moves all extremities
GOA	gone on arrival	MAST	military anti-shock trousers
GSW	gunshot wound	mcg	microgram
gtts	drops	MCI	mass casualty incident
GU	genitourinary	MDI	metered dose inhaler
GYN	gynecology	ME	medical examiner
[Hh]		mEq	millequivalent
H/A	headache	MED	medication/ medium
HEENT	head, ears, eyes, nose, throat	mg	milligram
HIV	human immune deficiency virus	MICU	medical intensive care unit
HR	heart rate	MI	myocardial infarction
HTN	hypertension	MOI	mechanism of injury
Hx	history	MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
hyper	above or high	MS	morphine sulfate/ multiple sclerosis
hypo	below or low	MVA	motor vehicle accident
[Ii]		[Nn]	
ICF	intracellular fluid	NaCl	sodium chloride
ICP	intracranial pressure	NAD	no acute distress
ICS	intercostals space	NC	nasal cannula
ICU	intensive care unit	NEB	nebulizer
IM	intramuscular	NKA, NKDA	no known allergies, no known drug allergies
IO	intraosseous	NRM, NRB	non-rebreather mask
IV	intravenous	NS	normal saline
IVP	intravenous push	NSR	normal sinus rhythm
IVPB	intravenous piggy back	NT	non-tender
[Jj]		NTI	nasotracheal intubation
J	joules	NTG	nitro- nitroglycerine
JVD	jugular vein distension	N/V	nausea and vomiting
[Kk]		N/V/D	nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
Kg	kilogram	[Oo]	
KO	keep open	O2	oxygen
KVO	keep vein open	O2Sat	oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter
[Ll]		OB	obstetrics
L&D	labor and delivery	OD	overdose
LAT	lateral	OPA	oralpharyngeal airway
LBBB	left bundle branch block	OPQRST	onset, provoking factors, quality, radiation, severity, time.
lb	pound	OTC	over the counter
LLQ	left lower quadrant	(OU)	both eyes
LMP	last menstrual period		
LOC	loss of consciousness		
LR	lactated ringers		
L-Spine	lumbar spine		

[Pp]	
P	pulse
PAC	premature atrial contraction
PALP	palpation
PALS	pediatric advanced life support
PASG	pneumatic antishock garment
PCN	penicillin
PE	physical examination/ pulmonary embolism/pulmonary edema.
PEA	pulseless electrical activity
PEEP	positive end expiratory pressure
PEARL	pupils equal and reactive to light
PJC	premature junctional contraction
PMHx	past medical history
PO	orally
POV	privately owned vehicle
PRN, prn	as needed
PSVT	paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
PT	patient
PTA	prior to arrival
PVC	premature ventricular contraction

[Qq]	
q	every
QAM, qam	every morning
qd	every day
qh	every hour
q2h	every two hours
q3h	every three hours
q4h	every four hours
QHS, qhs	every night at bedtime
qid or QID	four times a day
qod, QOD	every other day

[Rr]	
R/O	rule out
ROM	range of motion/movement
(R)	right
RLQ	right lower quadrant
RUQ	right upper quadrant
Rx	prescription therapy

[Ss]	
SaO2	systemic arterial oxygen saturation (%)
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
SL	sublingual
SOB	short of breath
SpO2	oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter
ST	sinus tachycardia
STAT	at once

STD	sexually transmitted disease
SQ	subcutaneous
SR	sinus rhythm
START	simple triage & rapid treatment
SVT	supraventricular tachycardia
SZ	seizure
SX	symptom

[Tt]	
T	temperature
TCP	transcutaneous pacing
TIA	transient ischemic attack
TKO	to keep open
Tx	treatment

[Uu]	
UOA	upon our arrival
URI	upper respiratory infection
UTI	urinary tract infection
UTL	unable to locate

[Vv]	
V-fib	ventricular fibrillation
VS	vital signs
VT	ventricular tachycardia

[Ww]	
W&D	warm and dry
WNL	within normal limits
WPW	Parkinson-White Syndrome

[Xx]
None

[Yy]	
YO (YOA)	years of age/ years old
YTD	year to date

Symbols	
M or ♂	male
F or ♀	female
+	positive
?	questionable
Ψ	psychiatric
~	approximately
=	equal
Δ	change
ā	before
L	left
R	right