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# Unit VII Acronyms and Abbreviations

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## Introduction

“The patient went from the ER to the OR and then to the ICU.”

It is an irrefutable fact that doctors’ speech is full of abbreviations. Health-care professionals from both the Spanish- and English-speaking worlds use at least ten abbreviations per minute (this is our own home-made statistic; please don’t quote us). This high prevalence has led us to consider medical abbreviations as a challenging pandemic.

There are several “types” of abbreviations, namely:

- Straightforward abbreviations
- Extra-nice abbreviations
- Expanded-term abbreviations
- Energy-saving abbreviations
- Double-meaning abbreviations
- Mind-blowing abbreviations

Let us begin with the nice ones; we call them the *straightforward* abbreviations because for each nice abbreviation in your own language there is a nice English equivalent. No beating around the bush here. It’s just a matter of changing letter order, identifying the abbreviations and learning them. Let me give you a few examples so you can enjoy the simple things in life ... while you can!

HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
LVOT	Left ventricle outflow tract
ASD	Atrial septal defect
VSD	Ventricular septal defect
TEE	Transesophageal echocardiography
LDA	Left anterior descending artery
ACE	Angiotensin converting enzyme

There are other kinds of abbreviation: the *extra-nice* ones. They are mostly used for drugs or chemical substances whose name has three or four syllables too many. They are extra nice because they are usually the same in many languages. Let's see just an example:

- CPK                      Creatine phosphokinase

In the next group, we have put together some examples of abbreviations that are widely used in English but that are generally preferred in their expanded form in other languages. Since language is an ever-changing creature, we are sure that these terms will eventually be abbreviated in many languages but so far you can hear them referred to mostly as expanded terms:

NSCLC                      Non-small cell lung cancer  
PBSC                        Peripheral blood stem cell

There is another group which we call the *energy-saving* abbreviations. These are abbreviations that many languages leave in the English original and, of course, when expanding them the first letter of each word doesn't match the abbreviation. We call them energy-saving because it wouldn't have been so difficult to come up with a real "national" abbreviation for that term. When looking for examples, we realized that most hormone names are energy-saving abbreviations:

FSH                         Follicle-stimulating hormone  
TNF                         Tumor necrosis factor  
PAW                        Pulmonary arterial wedge

There is yet another kind, which we call the *double-meaning* abbreviations. This is when one abbreviation can refer to two different terms. The context helps, of course, to discern the real meaning. However, it is worth keeping an eye open for these because, if misinterpreted, these abbreviations might get you into an embarrassing situation:

- PCR
  - Polymerase chain reaction
  - Plasma clearance tests
- HEV
  - Human enteric virus
  - Hepatitis E virus
- PID
  - Pelvic inflammatory disease
  - Prolapsed intervertebral disc
- CSF
  - Colony-stimulating factor
  - Cerebrospinal fluid

The funniest abbreviations are those that become acronyms in which the pronunciation resembles a word that has nothing to do with the abbreviation's meaning. We call this group the *mind-blowing* abbreviations.

A *cabbage* in English is that nice vegetable known for its gasogenic properties. However, when an English-speaking surgeon says "This patient is a clear candidate for *cabbage*", he/she isn't talking about what the patient should have for lunch, but rather the type of surgery he/she is suggesting should be performed. Thus, *cabbage* is the colloquial way of referring to CABG (coronary artery bypass grafting).

If you happen to be eavesdropping in a corridor and you hear an oncologist saying "I think your patient needs a *chop*", you walk on down the corridor, wondering whether this new alternative therapy will consist of a pork or a lamb chop. But then you quickly realize that the specialist you were spying on was actually referring to a *CHOP* (a regimen of cyclophosphamide, hydroxydaunomycin, oncovin and prednisone, used in cancer chemotherapy).

There are more abbreviations out there, and there are also more to come. The medical profession is sure to keep us busy catching up with its incursions into linguistic creation.

Regardless of the "type" of abbreviation you have before you, we will give you three pieces of advice:

1. Identify the most common abbreviations.
2. Read the abbreviations in your lists.
3. Review abbreviation lists on your specialty.

**Identify the most common abbreviations.** Identify the most common abbreviations in your specialty and in the hospital jargon and write them down in your own lists. For example, if you happen to be a radiologist, make a list of radiological abbreviations including terms such as CXR (chest X-ray) and UKB (ureter, kidneys and bladder), and a second list of abbreviations such as OR (operating room) and NICU (neonatal intensive care unit).

**Read the abbreviations in your lists.** Read the abbreviations in your lists in a natural way. Bear in mind that to be able to identify written abbreviations may not be enough. From this standpoint, there are three types of abbreviations:

1. Spelt abbreviations
2. Read abbreviations (acronyms)
3. Half-spelled/half-read abbreviations

Nobody would understand a spelt abbreviation if you read it and nobody would understand a read abbreviation if you spell it.

Let us make clear what we are trying to say with an example. LAM stands for lymphangiomyomatosis and must be read *lam*. Nobody would

understand you if instead of saying *lam* you spell L-A-M. Therefore, never spell a “read abbreviation” and never read a “spelt abbreviation”.

Most abbreviations are spelt abbreviations, and are usually those in which the letter order makes them almost impossible to read. Think, for example, of COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and try to read the abbreviation instead of spelling it. Never use the “expanded form” (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) of a classic abbreviation such as this one because it would sound extraordinarily unnatural.

Some abbreviations have become acronyms and therefore must be read and not spelt. Their letter order allows us to read them. LAM belongs to this group.

The third type is made up of abbreviations such as CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) which is pronounced something like *C-pap*. If you spell out CPAP (C-P-A-P), nobody will understand you.

**Review abbreviation lists on your specialty.** Review as many abbreviation lists on your specialty as you can and double-check them until you are familiar with their meaning and pronunciation.

## Common Sentences Containing Abbreviations

The following sections present sets of common sentences containing abbreviations, each set followed by the definitions of the abbreviations used in that set.

### General

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Sentences:

- A 40-year-old man visited our hospital, and was diagnosed as having Felty’s syndrome because of splenomegaly and pancytopenia as well as definite RA.
- MCV, MCHC, LDH, ANA and RF values are normal.
- The platelet and WBC counts exceeded their normal ranges. He was diagnosed as suffering from ... (ITP, CMML, AML, CML). Two months after, he received a BMT.
- Foreign bodies display a variable signal intensity on both T1- and T2-weighted images. MR shows an inflammatory response while CT can show the retained foreign body. US evaluation could be useful in selected patients.
- COPD is a risk factor in the development of TB.
- Cholera can be diagnosed by the presence of CTX in stools.

- A 16-year-old female suffering from fever, chills, rash and presenting multiple nodular opacities in CXR was diagnosed as having ... (RMSE, BPF, DGI).
- An ECG was obtained, and showed ... (RBBB, LBBB, APCs, VPCs, AF, VF).
- He is actually under treatment with ACEI. Ten years ago he was treated with PTCA because of the three AMI he had suffered.
- RA and SSc are more common in females.
- PCP and PML are two of the complications that can be suffered by AIDS patients.
- Cutaneous manifestations of SLE can be divided into SCLE (acute) and DEL (chronic).

#### Definitions:

ACEI	Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor
AF	Atrial fibrillation
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction
AML	Acute myeloid leukemia
ANA	Antinuclear antibodies
APCs	Atrial premature complexes
BMT	Bone marrow transplantation
BPF	Brazilian purpuric fever
CML	Chronic myeloid leukemia
CMMML	Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CT	Computed tomography
CTX	Cholera toxin
CXR	Chest X-ray
DEL	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DGI	Disseminated gonococcal infection
ECG	Electrocardiogram
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
LBBB	Left bundle branch block
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
MCHC	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MR	Magnetic resonance
PCP	<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia
PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
PTCA	Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RBBB	Right bundle branch block
RF	Rheumatoid factor
RMSE	Rocky mountain spotted fever
SCLE	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus

SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
SSc	Systemic sclerosis
TB	Tuberculosis
US	Ultrasonography
VPCs	Ventricular premature complexes
WBC	White blood cell
VF	Ventricular fibrillation

## **Pneumology**

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### Sentences:

- Two measurements of lung volume can be used for respiratory diagnosis: RV and TLC.
- Thoracotomy is used to biopsy lesions that are too deep to vital structures for removal by VATS.
- HP is a term used for extrinsic allergic alveolitis.
- Life span for both female and male CF patients is similar (more or less 28 years)
- The ILDs are not caused by any defined infectious agents.
- About half of the patients with DVT have PTE.
- The narrowing of the upper airways during sleep predisposes to OSA.
- ARDS is characterized by increased permeability of the alveolar capillary barrier.

### Definitions:

ARDs	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
CF	Cystic fibrosis
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
HP	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
ILDs	Interstitial lung disease
OSA	Obstructive sleep apnea
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
RV	Residual volume
TLC	Total lung capacity
VATS	Video-assisted thoracic surgery

## **Nephrology**

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### Sentences:

- The causes of ARF, RPRF, and CRF, although affecting the same organ, are different.
- ATN is typically induced by ischemia or nephrotoxins.

- The classic pathologic correlate of RPGN is crescent formation involving most glomeruli.
- Other glomerulopathies are MPGN, MCD and FSGS.
- Pathogenesis of RVT is not always clear, and its clinical manifestations depend on the severity of its occurrence.
- Renal failure is common in HUS and TTP.
- There are multiple forms of RTA, a disorder of renal acidification.

Definitions:

ARF	Acute renal failure
ATN	Acute tubular necrosis
CRF	Chronic renal failure
FSGS	Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
HUS	Hemolytic uremic syndrome
MCD	Minimal change disease
MPGN	Membranoproliferative glomerulopathies
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPRF	Rapidly progressive renal failure
RTA	Renal tubular acidosis
RVT	Renal vein thrombosis
TTP	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura

## Gastroenterology

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Sentences:

- Ulcers can be more accurately detected using EDG rather than using GI X-ray examination.
- GU and DU are the major forms of peptic ulcer; these two terms include ulcers caused by NSAIDs and the ZES.
- 5% of patients with CD or UC (the major groups of chronic IBD) will have one or more relatives affected.
- One of the methods to reduce the pressure in the portal venous system in cirrhotic patients is the TIPS.

Definitions:

CD	Crohn disease
DU	Duodenal ulcer
EGD	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
GI	Gastrointestinal
GU	Gastric ulcer
IBD	Inflammatory bowel disease
NSAIDs	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt



UC	Ulcerative colitis
ZES	Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

## Abbreviation Lists

Although you should make your own abbreviation lists, we have created several classified by specialty. To begin with, check whether your own specialty's list is included; if not, start writing your own. Be patient ... this task can last the rest of your professional life.

### General List

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5FU	5-Fluorouracil
<i>a</i> 1AT	<i>a</i> 1-Antitrypsin
ABPA	Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis
ACE	Angiotensin-converting enzyme
aCL	Antibodies to cardiolipin
ACTH	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone
ADH	Antidiuretic hormone
ADPKD	Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease
AF	Atrial fibrillation
AFP	Alpha fetoprotein
AJCC	American Joint Cancer Commission
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
AML	Acute myeloid leukemia
ANA	Antinuclear antibodies
APCs	Atrial premature complexes
APUD	Amine precursor uptake and decarboxylation system
ARDS	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARF	Acute renal failure
AS	Ankylosing spondylitis
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
ATN	Acute tubular necrosis
AVP	Arginine vasopressin
BAL	Bronchoalveolar lavage
BCC	Basal cell carcinoma
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guérin
BMT	Bone marrow transplant
BP	Bullous pemphigoid
BPF	Brazilian purpuric fever
CBD	Common bile duct
CCK	Cholecystokinin
CD	Crohn disease

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CEA	Carcinoembryonic antigen
CF	Cystic fibrosis
CML	Chronic myeloid leukemia
CMML	Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP	Cicatrical pemphigoid
CRF	Chronic renal failure
CRH	Corticotropin-releasing hormone
CSF	Colony stimulating factor
CT	Computed tomography
CTX	Cholera toxin
CUPS	Cancer of unknown primary site
CWP	Coal workers' pneumoconiosis
CXR	Chest X-ray
DCIS	Ductal carcinoma in situ
DEL	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DGI	Disseminated gonococcal infection
DH	Dermatitis herpetiformis
DISH	Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis
DRA	Dialysis-related amyloidosis
DRE	Digital rectal examination
DU	Duodenal ulcer
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
EBA	Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita
EBV	Epstein Barr virus
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EGD	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ESRD	End-stage renal disease
FAP	Familial amyloid polyneuropathies
FEV <sub>1</sub>	Forced expiratory volume in 1 second
FMF	Familial Mediterranean fever
FSGS	Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
FSH	Follicle-stimulating hormone
GBM	Glomerular basement membrane
GCT	Germ cell tumor
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
GGT	$\gamma$ -Glutamyltranspeptidase, $\gamma$ -Glutamyltransferase
GH	Growth hormone
GHRH	Growth hormone-releasing hormone
GI	Gastrointestinal
GIP	Gastrin inhibitory peptide
GU	Gastric ulcer
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
hCG	Human chorionic gonadotropin
HCV	Hepatitis C virus

HIVAN	Human immunodeficiency virus-associated nephropathy
HOA	Hypertrophic osteoarthropathy
HP	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
HPV	Human papilloma virus
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
HSC	Hematopoietic stem cell
HUS	Hemolytic uremic syndrome
IBD	Inflammatory bowel disease
IBS	Irritable bowel syndrome
IL	Interleukin
ILD	Interstitial lung disease
IPSID	Immunoproliferative small intestinal disease (Mediterranean lymphoma)
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
JN	Juvenile nephronophthisis
LA	Lupus anticoagulant
LBBB	Left bundle branch block
LCDD	Light chain deposition disease
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
LES	Lower esophageal sphincter
LH	Luteinizing hormone
LIP	Lymphoid interstitial pneumonitis
MAC	<i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex
MALT	Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
MCD	Medullary cystic disease
MCD	Minimal change disease
MCHC	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCTD	Mixed connective tissue disease
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MEN1	Type 1 multiple endocrine neoplasia
MPGN	Membranoproliferative glomerulopathies
MR	Magnetic resonance
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
NSAIDs	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
NUD	Non-ulcer dyspepsia
OA	Osteoarthritis
OCG	Oral cholecystography
ODTS	Organic dust toxic syndrome
OSA	Obstructive sleep apnea
PAH	Primary alveolar hypoventilation
PAN	Polyarteritis nodosa
PAP	Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis
PBC	Primary biliary cirrhosis
PCI	Prophylactic cranial irradiation
PCP	<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> pneumonia
PEG	Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy

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PF	Pemphigus foliaceus
PG	Pemphigoid gestationis
PIF	Prolactin inhibitory factor
PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
PNET	Peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumor
PRA	Plasma renin activity
PRL	Prolactin
PSA	Prostate-specific antigen
PsA	Psoriatic arthritis
PTC	Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
PTH	Parathyroid hormone
PV	Pemphigus vulgaris
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RBBB	Right bundle branch block
RBC	Red blood cell
RF	Rheumatoid factor
RMSF	Rocky mountain spotted fever
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPRF	Rapidly progressive renal failure
RTA	Renal tubular acidosis
RV	Residual volume
RVT	Renal vein thrombosis
SBC	Secondary biliary cirrhosis
SCC	Squamous cell carcinoma
SCID	Severe combined immunodeficiency
SCLE	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus
SI	Serum iron
SIADH	Syndrome of inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus
SPB	Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
SSc	Systemic sclerosis
SVCS	Superior vena cava syndrome
TB	Tuberculosis
TBB	Transbronchial biopsy
TGF $\beta$	Transforming growth factor $\beta$
TIBC	Transferrin iron-binding capacity
TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
TLC	Total lung capacity
TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
TRH	Thyrotropin-releasing hormone
TSH	Thyroid-stimulating hormone
TTA	Transtracheal aspiration
TTP	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
UC	Ulcerative colitis

US	Ultrasonography
VATS	Video-assisted thoracic surgery
VC	Vital capacity
VF	Ventricular fibrillation
VIP	Vasoactive intestinal peptide
VPCs	Ventricular premature complexes
WBC	White blood cell
WDHA syndrome	Watery diarrhea, hypokalemia and achlorhydria syndrome (Verner-Morrison)
ZES	Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

## **Lists by Specialty**

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### ***Anatomy***

ACL	Anterior cruciate ligament of the knee
CBD	Common bile duct
CN	Cranial nerve
CNS	Central nervous system
DRUJ	Distal radioulnar joint
ECU	Extensor carpi ulnaris
ITB	Iliotibial band
IVC	Inferior vena cava
LCL	Lateral collateral ligament (knee, elbow)
MCL	Medial collateral ligament (knee, elbow)
MCP	Metacarpophalangeal
MTP	Metatarsophalangeal
NA	Nomina anatomica
PCL	Posterior cruciate ligament of the knee
RAS	Reticular activating system
RCL	Radial collateral ligament complex of the elbow
RDPA	Right descending pulmonary artery
SCM	Sternocleidomastoid muscle
ST	Scapulothoracic
TFCC	Triangular fibrocartilage complex
TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
TMT	Tarsometatarsal
UCL	Ulnar collateral ligament of the elbow
UPJ	Ureteropelvic junction

**Biochemistry and Genetics**

5-HT	5-Hydroxytryptamine
AA, aa	Amino acid
ACH, Ach	Acetylcholine
ACP	Acyl carrier protein
Ado	Adenosine
ADP	Adenosine 5c-diphosphate
ALA	Aminolevulinic acid
AMP	Adenosine monophosphate
ATP	Adenosine 5c-triphosphate
ATPase	Adenosine triphosphatase
CoA	Coenzyme A
DM	Dopamine
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
GABA	$\gamma$ -Aminobutyric acid
LT	Leukotrienes
NAD	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
PABA	<i>p</i> -Aminobenzoic acid
PBG	Porphobilinogen
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PK	Pyruvate kinase
PP	Pyrophosphate
PRPP	5-Phospho-D-ribosyl 1-pyrophosphate
RIP	Radioimmunoprecipitation
RIST	Radioimmunosorbent test
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
RNP	Ribonucleoprotein
RT-PCR	Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction
UDP	Uridine 5c-diphosphate

**Cardiology, Cardiac and Vascular Surgery**

AAA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm
AF	Atrial fibrillation
AFORMED phenomenon	Alternating failure of response, mechanical, to electrical depolarization of the heart
AH interval	Atrium–His interval
ALS	Advanced life support
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction
AN interval	Atrial deflection and the nodal potential
APSAC	Anisolated plasminogen streptokinase activator complex, for myocardial infarction
AR	Aortic regurgitation
AS	Aortic stenosis

A-V	Arteriovenous
AV	Atrioventricular
AVM	Arteriovenous malformation
aVF, aVL, aVR	Augmented electrocardiographic leads from the left foot, left arm, and right arm, respectively
CABG	Coronary artery bypass grafting
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CK	Creatine kinase
CK-MM, CK-BB, CK-MB	Creatine kinase isoenzymes
CPK	Creatine phosphokinase
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
cTnT	Cardiac-specific troponin T, in myocardial infarction
CVP	Central venous pressure
DA	Ductus arteriosus
ECMO	Extracorporeal-membrane oxygenation
ECG	Electrocardiogram
EKG	Electrocardiogram
HOMC	Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy
HV	His-ventricular conduction time
ICD	Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator
LVET	Left ventricular ejection time
LVOT	Left ventricle outflow tract
MASS	Mitral valve prolapse, aortic anomalies, skeletal changes, and skin changes
MAT	Multifocal atrial tachycardia
MI	Myocardial infarction
MR	Mitral regurgitation
MS	Mitral stenosis
MVP	Mitral valve prolapse
PAPVR	Partial anomalous pulmonary venous return
PCWP	Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PEA	Pulseless electrical activity
PPPPPP	Pain, pallor, paresthesia, pulselessness, paralysis, prostration (the symptom complex of acute arterial occlusion)
PTCA	Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
RVOT	Right ventricle outflow tract
S-A	Sinatrial
TAPVC	Total anomalous pulmonary venous connection
TED	Thromboembolic disease
WPW	Wolff-Parkinson-White disease

**Clinical History**

AC, a.c.	<i>Ante cibum</i> (before a meal)
ADR	Adverse drug reaction
AVPU	Alert, responsive to verbal stimuli, responsive to painful stimuli, and unresponsive (assessment of mental status)
BID, b.i.d.	<i>Bis in die</i> (twice a day)
BP	Blood pressure
CC	Chief complaint
DM	Diastolic murmur
DNR	Do not resuscitate
DOA	Dead on arrival
DRE	Digital rectal examination
DTR	Deep tendon reflex
IV, i.v.	Intravenous
LUQ	Left upper quadrant (of abdomen)
NPO	<i>Nil per os</i> (nothing by mouth)
OD	Overdose
PCA	Patient-controlled analgesia
PO	<i>Per os</i> (by mouth, oral)
POMR	Problem-oriented medical record
ppm	Parts per million
PRE	Progressive-resistance exercise
p.r.n.	<i>Pro re nata</i> (according to circumstances, may require)
PT	Physical therapy/therapist
RDA	Recommended daily allowance
RLL	Right lower lobe (of lung)
RLQ	Right lower quadrant (of abdomen)
RML	Right middle lobe (of lung)
RUL	Right upper lobe (of lung)
RUQ	Right upper quadrant (of abdomen)
SM	Systolic murmur
SOAP	Subjective, objective, assessment, and plan (used in problem-oriented records)
SQ	Subcutaneous
TPN	Total parenteral nutrition
VR	Vocal resonance

**Dentistry**

DEJ	Dentinoenamel junction
DMF	Decayed, missing, and filled (permanent teeth caries index)
DMFS	Decayed, filled, or missing tooth surfaces
DMFT	Decayed, missing, or filled teeth



FDI nomenclature	Fédération Dentaire Internationale; a system of identifying teeth
GPI	Gingival-periodontal index
PI	Periodontal index

### ***Dermatology***

BCC	Basal cell carcinoma
BP	Bullous pemphigoid
CP	Cicatricial pemphigoid
DEL	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DH	Dermatitis herpetiformis
EBA	Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita
PF	Pemphigus foliaceus
PG	Pemphigoid gestationis
PsA	Psoriatic arthritis
PTK	Phototherapeutic keratectomy
PUPPP	Pruritic urticarial papules and plaques of pregnancy
PUVA	Psoralen plus ultraviolet A irradiation
PV	Pemphigus vulgaris
SCLE	Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus
TAD	Transient acantholytic dermatosis
TEN	Toxic epidermal necrolysis

### ***Endocrinology and Metabolism***

AASH	Adrenal androgen-stimulating hormone
ABP	Androgen binding protein
ACE	Angiotensin-converting enzyme
ACTH	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone
ADH	Antidiuretic hormone
ANP	Atrial natriuretic peptide
APECED	Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy-candidiasis-ectodermal dystrophy
APUD	Amine precursor uptake and decarboxylation
AS	Alport syndrome
AVP	Arginine vasopressin
BMI	Body mass index
BMR	Basal metabolic rate
BSA	Body surface area
CCK	Cholecystokinin
CDs	Chondrodysplasias
CRF	Corticotropin-releasing factor
CRH	Corticotropin-releasing hormone
DHEA	Dehydroepiandrosterone
DKA	Diabetic ketoacidosis

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DM	Diabetes mellitus
EB	Epidermolysis bullosa
EDS	Ehlers-Danlos syndrome
FCHL	Familial combined hyperlipidemia
FFM	Fat-free body mass
FHH	Familial hypocalciuric hypercalcemia
FRC	Functional residual capacity
FSH	Follicle-stimulating hormone
GH	Growth hormone
GHRH	Growth hormone-releasing hormone
GnRH	Gonadotropin-releasing hormone
GTHR	Generalized thyroid hormone resistance
HAIR-AN syndrome	Hyperandrogenism, insulin resistance, and acanthosis nigricans syndrome
HCP	Hereditary coproporphyrria
HCS	Human chorionic somatomammotropic hormone
HEP	Hepatoerythropoietic porphyria
HVA	Homovanillic acid
IAP	Intermittent acute porphyria
IDDM	Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IGF	Insulin-like growth factor
IUD	Intrauterine device
IVF	In vitro fertilization
LATS	Long-acting thyroid stimulator
LCAT	Lecithin cholesterol acyltransferase
LH	Luteinizing hormone
MEN	Multiple endocrine neoplasia
MRF	Melanotropin-releasing factor
MS	Marfan syndrome
MTC	Medullary thyroid carcinoma
NIDDM	Non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NPD	Niemann-Pick disease
OBLA	Onset of blood lactate accumulation
OI	Osteogenesis imperfecta
PCT	Porphyria cutanea tarda
PHP	Panhypopituitarism
PIF	Prolactin inhibitory factor
PKU	Phenylketonuria
POCD	Polycystic ovary disease
POMC	Pro-opiomelanocortin
PRA	Plasma renin activity
PRF	Prolactin-releasing factor
PRL	Prolactin
PTH	Parathyroid hormone
SES	Sick euthyroid syndrome
SIADH	Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone

SIH	Somatotropin release-inhibiting hormone
SRH	Somatotropin-releasing hormone
TRH	Thyrotropin-releasing hormone
TSH	Thyroid-stimulating hormone
TSI	Thyroid-stimulating immunoglobulins
VIP	Vasoactive intestinal polypeptide
VP	Variagate porphyria
XLSA	X-linked sideroblastic anemia

### ***Gastroenterology***

APC	Adenomatous polyposis coli
CD	Crohn disease
DU	Duodenal ulcer
GI	Gastrointestinal
LES	Lower esophageal sphincter
LFT	Liver function test
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
ERS	Endoscopic retrograde sphincterotomy
FEES	Fiberoptic endoscopic examination of swallowing
GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disease

### ***General Surgery***

D&C	Dilation and curettage
D&E	Dilation and evacuation
LEEP	Loop electrocautery excision procedure
TEP	Tracheoesophageal puncture

### ***Health Policy, Health Institutions***

ABN	Advance beneficiary notice
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ALD	Assistive listening device
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; previously known as the Communicable Disease Center
DALYs	Disability-adjusted life years
FDA	Food and Drug Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
NIH	National Institutes of Health (US Public Health Service)
PRN	Peer-review organization
QC	Quality control
USPHS	United States Public Health Service

***Hematology and Immunology***

AC	Anticoagulant
ACT	Activated clotting time
Ag	Antigen
ADH	Alcohol dehydrogenase
AHF	Antihemophilic factor A
ALL	Acute lymphocytic leukemia
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
AP	Alkaline phosphatase
APTT	Activated partial thromboplastin time
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
ATL	Adult T-cell leukemia
ATL	Adult T-cell lymphoma
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
CBC	Complete blood count
CD	Cluster of differentiation
CGD	Chronic granulomatous disease
CGL	Chronic granulocytic leukemia
CML	Chronic myelocytic leukemia
CRP	C-reactive protein
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate
FAB	French-American-British classification system
FEL	Familial erythrophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
FMLH	Familial hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis
G-CSF	Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor
GOT	Glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase
GPT	Glutamic-pyruvic transaminase
GVHR	Graft versus host reaction
Hb	Hemoglobin
Hct	Hematocrit
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
HGF	Hematopoietic growth factor
HLA	Human leukocyte antigen (major histocompatibility complex in humans)
HMWK	High molecular weight kininogen
IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, IgM	Immunoglobulins
IFN	Interferon
IL	Interleukin
INR	International normalized ratio
ITP	Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
LAD	Leukocyte adhesion deficiency
LDH	Lactate dehydrogenase
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein

LET	Leukocyte esterase test
MCH	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin
MCHC	Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
MCV	Mean corpuscular volume
MGUS	Monoclonal gammopathy of unknown significance
MHC	Major histocompatibility complex
NK cells	Natural killer cells
PCH	Paroxysmal cold hemoglobinuria
PDLL	Poorly differentiated lymphocytic lymphoma
PNH	Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
PNP	Platelet neutralization procedure
PPCA	Proserum prothrombin conversion accelerator
PT	Prothrombin time
PTA	Plasma thromboplastin antecedent
PTT	Partial thromboplastin time
rbc	Red blood cell
RBC	Red-cell blood count
REAL	Revised European-American classification of lymphoid neoplasms
SPCA	Serum prothrombin conversion accelerator
TIBC	Total iron binding capacity
VHDL	Very high density lipoprotein
VLDL	Very low density lipoprotein
VMA	Vanillylmandelic acid
WBC	White-cell blood count

### ***The Hospital***

CCU	Coronary care unit
CCU	Critical care unit
ECU	Emergency care unit
EMS	Emergency medical service
ER	Emergency room
ICF	Intermediate care facility
ICU	Intensive care unit

### ***Infectious Diseases***

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CSD	Catscratch disease
FIA	Feline infectious anemia
HIV-1	Human immunodeficiency virus-1
MOTT	Mycobacteria other than <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex
PMC	Pseudomembranous colitis
PML	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy

SBE	Subacute bacterial endocarditis
STD	Sexually transmitted disease
STORCH	Syphilis, toxoplasmosis, other infections, rubella, cytomegalovirus infection, and herpes simplex (fetal infections that can cause congenital malformations)
TB	Tuberculosis
TORCH syndrome	Toxoplasmosis, other infections, rubella, cytomegalovirus infection, and herpes simplex
TSS	Toxic shock syndrome
UTI	Urinary tract infection

### ***Internal Medicine***

ACLA	Anticardiolipin lupus anticoagulant
ADL	Activities of daily living
ANA	Antinuclear antibody
ANCA	Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody
ANF	Antinuclear factor
APS	Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome
AS	Ankylosing spondylitis
CREST	Calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal motility disorders, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia
DLE	Discoid lupus erythematosus
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
EP	Endogenous pyrogen
FUO	Fever of unknown origin
HHIE-S	Hearing handicap inventory for the elderly
IM	Internal medicine
LE	Lupus erythematosus
PUO	Pyrexia of unknown (or undetermined) origin
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus

### ***Microbiology***

AFA fixative	Alcohol, formalin, and acetic acid used for the fixation of certain parasites
AFB	Acid-fast bacillus
ASO	Anti-streptolysin O
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guérin
CFU	Colony-forming unit
CMV	Cytomegalovirus
DPT	Diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)
DTaP	Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine
EBV	Epstein-Barr virus
EHEC	Enterohemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i>

ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EPEC	Enteropathogenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>
FTA-ABS	Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption
GLC	Gas-liquid chromatography
HACEK group	A group of Gram-negative bacteria ( <i>Haemophilus</i> spp., <i>Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans</i> , <i>Cardiobacterium hominis</i> , <i>Eikenella corrodens</i> , <i>Kingella kingae</i> )
HBcAg	Hepatitis B core antigen
HBeAg	Hepatitis B e antigen
HBIG	Hepatitis B immune globulin
HBsAg	Hepatitis B surface antigen
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HDV	Hepatitis D virus
HEV	Hepatitis E virus
HGV	Hepatitis G virus
HPV	Human papilloma virus
HSV	Herpes simplex virus
HTLV-III	Human T-cell lymphotropic virus type III (HIV-I virus)
LAV	Lymphadenopathy-associated virus
MAI	<i>Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare</i>
MID	Minimal infecting dose
PPLO	Pleuropneumonia-like organisms
SK	Streptokinase
TNTC	Too numerous to count (usually cells in a urine specimen)
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratories
VZV	Varicella-zoster virus

### **Nephrology**

ADPKD	Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease
ALG	Antilymphocyte globulin in renal transplantation
ANA	Antinuclear antibody
ANCA	Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies
ARF	Acute renal failure
ASO	Antistreptolysin O antibody titer
ATN	Acute tubular necrosis
BUN	Blood urea nitrogen
CAPD	Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
CAVHD	Continuous arteriovenous hemodiafiltration
CCPD	Continuous cyclic peritoneal dialysis
CRF	Chronic renal failure
CVVHD	Continuous venovenous hemodiafiltration
DRA	Dialysis-related amyloidosis
EMC	Essential mixed cryoglobulinemia

ERBF	Effective renal blood flow
ERPF	Effective renal plasma flow
ERT	Estrogen replacement therapy
ESRD	End-stage renal disease
FF	Filtration fraction
FSGS	Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis
GBM	Glomerular basement membrane
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate
GN	Glomerulonephritis
HIVAN	Human immunodeficiency virus-associated nephropathy
HSP	Henoch-Schönlein purpura
HUS	Hemolytic-uremic syndrome
IPD	Intermittent peritoneal dialysis
IVP	Intravenous pyelogram
JN	Juvenile nephronophthisis
LCDD	Light chain deposition disease
MCD	Medullary cystic disease
MDRD	Modification of diet in renal disease
MPGN	Membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis
MSK	Medullary sponge kidney
NDI	Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus
NSAID	Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug
PRA	Plasma renin activity
RBF	Renal blood flow
RPF	Renal plasma flow
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPRF	Rapidly progressive renal failure
RTA	Renal tubular acidosis
RVT	Renal vein thrombosis
TBM	Thin basement membrane disease
URR	Urea reduction ratio

### ***Neurology***

AD	Alzheimer disease
ADEM	Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis
ADNFLE	Nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy
AGM	Awakening grand mal
AHL	Acute hemorrhagic leukoencephalitis
ALS	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ANS	Autonomic nervous system
AVED	Ataxia with vitamin E deficiency
AVM	Arteriovenous malformation
BAEP	Brainstem auditory evoked potential
BBB	Blood-brain barrier
BMD	Becker muscular dystrophy



BSE	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CADASIL	Cerebellar autosomal dominant arteriopathy with subcortical infarcts
CCD	Central cord disease
CIPD	Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy
CJD	Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
CNS	Central nervous system
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CSFP	Cerebrospinal fluid pressure
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
DMD	Duchenne muscular dystrophy
DOMS	Delayed onset muscle soreness
ECS	Electrocerebral silence
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EMG	Electromyogram
ENG	Electronystagmography
EPMR	Epilepsy progressive with mental retardation
EP	Evoked potential
FAP	Familial amyloid polyneuropathy
FSP	Familial spastic paraplegia
GABA	$\gamma$ -Aminobutyric acid
GBS	Guillain-Barré syndrome
HD	Huntington disease
ICP	Intracranial pressure
ILAE	International league against epilepsy
INO	Internuclear ophthalmoplegia
JME	Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
LEMS	Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome
LTM	Long-term memory
MAOS	Monoamine oxidase inhibitors
MD	Muscular dystrophy
ME	Myalgic encephalomyelitis
MELAS	Mitochondrial myopathy, encephalopathy, lactic acidosis, and stroke-like episodes (one of the mitochondrial disorders)
MERRF	Myoclonic epilepsy with ragged red fiber myopathy (one of the mitochondrial disorders)
MG	Myasthenia gravis
MJD	Machado-Joseph disease
MS	Multiple sclerosis
MSA	Multiple system atrophy
NARP	Neuropathy, ataxia, retinitis pigmentosa syndrome (one of the inherited mitochondrial disorders)
NPH	Normal-pressure hydrocephalus
NREM	Non-rapid eye movement
OBS	Organic brain syndrome

PLS	Primary lateral sclerosis
PROMM	Proximal myotonic myopathy
PTSD	Posttraumatic stress disorder
PVS	Persistent vegetative state
REM	Rapid eye movements
SAH	Subarachnoid hemorrhage
SCA	Spinocerebellar ataxia
SCCD	Subacute cortical cerebellar degeneration
SEP	Somatosensory evoked potential
SER	Somatosensory evoked response
SSPE	Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
TCA	Tricyclic antidepressant
TIA	Transient ischemic attack
TMB	Transient monocular blindness
VEP	Visual evoked potential

### ***Obstetrics and Gynecology***

AFP	$\alpha$ -Fetoprotein
AID	Artificial insemination donor
AIH	Artificial insemination (homologous)
CIN	Cervical intraepithelial neoplasia
CHL	Crown-heel length
CRL	Crown-rump length
DES	Diethylstilbestrol
GIFT	Gamete intrafallopian transfer
HCG	Human chorionic gonadotropin
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
IUCD, IUD	Intrauterine contraceptive device
IUI	Intrauterine insemination
LFT	Left frontotransverse position
LMA	Left mentoanterior position
LMP	Left mentoposterior position
LMT	Left mentotransverse position
LOT	Left occipitotransverse position
LSA	Left sacroanterior position
LSP	Left sacroposterior position
LST	Left sacrotransverse position
MP	Mentoposterior position
MPC	Mucopurulent cervicitis
OA	Occipitoanterior position
OB/GYN	Obstetrics and gynecology
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease
PMS	Premenstrual syndrome
RFP	Right frontoposterior position

RFT	Right frontotransverse position
RMA	Right mentoanterior position
RMP	Right mentoposterior position
RMT	Right mentotransverse position
ROA	Right occipitoanterior position
ROP	Right occipitoposterior position
ROT	Right occipitotransverse position
RPO	Right posterior oblique (a radiographic position)
RSA	Right sacroanterior position
RSP	Right sacroposterior position
RST	Right sacrotransverse position
SP	Sacroposterior position
VACTERL syndrome	Abnormalities of vertebrae, anus, cardiovascular tree, trachea, esophagus, renal system, and limb buds (associated with administration of sex steroids during early pregnancy)

### ***Oncology***

AGCUS	Atypical glandular cells of undetermined significance
ASCUS	Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance
CEA	Carcinoembryonic antigen
CIS	Carcinoma in situ
CMV	Cisplatin, methotrexate, and vinblastine (a cancer drug combination treatment)
CUPS	Cancer of unknown primary site
HGSIL	High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
LGSIL	Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion
MFH	Malignant fibrous hystiocyoma
PNET	Primitive neuroectodermal tumors
TAF	Tumor angiogenic factor
TNM	staging Tumor-node-metastasis

### ***Ophthalmology***

AC/A	Accommodative convergence – accommodation ratio
ARN	Acute retinal necrosis
DCG	Dacryocystography
DUSN	Diffuse unilateral subacute neuroretinitis
EOG	Electrooculography
ERG	Electroretinogram
LE	Left eye
PORN	Progressive outer retinal necrosis
RE	Right eye
TRIC	Trachoma and inclusion conjunctivitis

**Orthopedics**

ABC	Aneurysmal bone cyst
A-E	Above-the-elbow (amputation)
A-K	Above-the-knee (amputation)
ALPSA	Anterior labroligamentous periosteal sleeve avulsion
B-E	Below-the-elbow (amputation)
BHAGL	Bony humeral avulsion of glenohumeral ligament
B-K	Below-the-knee (amputation)
CPPD	Calcium pyrophosphate dihydrate deposition
CTD	Cumulative trauma disorders
DISH	Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis
DISI	Dorsal intercalated segmental instability
EDM	Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia
GLAD	Glenolabral articular disruption
HAGL	Humeral avulsion of glenohumeral ligament
HNP	Herniated nucleus pulposus
HOA	Hypertrophic osteoarthropathy
ITOH	Idiopathic transient osteoporosis of the hip
MAST	Military antishock trousers
OCD	Osteochondritis dissecans
OI	Osteogenesis imperfecta
OSMED	Otospondylomegaepiphyseal dysplasia
PVNS	Pigmented villonodular synovitis
RSD	Reflex sympathetic dystrophy
SAPHO	Synovitis, acne, pustulosis, hyperostosis, and osteitis
syndrome	
SCFE	Slipped capital femoral epiphysis
SEDC	Spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita
SLAC	Scapholunate advanced collapse
SLAP	Superior labrum, anterior-posterior (lesion of the glenoid labrum)
TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
TOS	Thoracic outlet syndrome

**Otorhinolaryngology**

ABG	Air-bone gap in otoscopy (conductive hearing loss)
ABR	Auditory brainstem response
ART	Acoustic reflex threshold
BSER	Brainstem evoked response
CIC	Completely in the canal hearing aid
ENT	Ears, nose, and throat
NUG	Necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis
OAE	Otoacoustic emission

SISI Small increment sensitivity index  
(test for cochlear damage)

### ***Pediatrics***

BIDS Brittle hair, impaired intelligence, decreased fertility,  
and short stature  
CDH Congenital dislocation of the hip  
DDH Developmental dysplasia of hip  
LEOPARD syndrome Lentiginosities, electrocardiographic abnormalities, ocular  
hypertelorism, pulmonary stenosis, abnormalities of  
genitalia, retardation of growth, and deafness  
SBS Shaken baby syndrome  
SIDS Sudden infant death syndrome

### ***Pharmacology***

ACEI Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor  
AZT Azidothymidine  
CDCA Chenodeoxycholic acid  
DMARD Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs  
MAOI Monoamine oxidase inhibitors  
MPD Maximum permissible dose  
MRD, mrd Minimal reacting dose  
MS Morphine sulfate  
NSAID Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug  
SSRI Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor

### ***Pneumology***

A-aO<sub>2</sub> difference Alveolar-arterial oxygen partial pressure difference  
ABG Air-bone gap  
ABG Arterial blood gas  
ABPA Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis  
ACMV Assist control mode ventilation  
ALI Acute lung injury  
ARDS Adult respiratory distress syndrome  
ARF Acute respiratory failure  
Auto-PEEP Auto-positive end-expiratory pressure  
BAL Bronchoalveolar lavage  
BALT Bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue  
BiPAP Bilevel positive airway pressure  
BOOP Bronchiolitis obliterans with organizing pneumonia  
BPF Bronchopleural fistula  
BVM Bag-valve-mask device

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CF	Cystic fibrosis
CFTR	Cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator
CO	Cardiac output
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPAP	Continuous positive airway pressure
CPPB	Continuous positive pressure breathing
CSA	Central sleep apnea
CWP	Coal workers' pneumoconiosis
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
DL <sub>CO</sub>	Diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide
2,3-DPG	2,3-Diphosphoglycerate
DVT	Deep venous thrombosis
ECHO	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
ERV	Expiratory reserve volume
FEF	Forced expiratory flow
FEF <sub>n-n%</sub>	Forced expiratory flow between <i>n%</i> and <i>n%</i> of the vital capacity
FET	Forced expiratory time
FEV 1	Forced expiratory volume in 1 second
FIO <sub>2</sub>	Fractional concentration of inspired O <sub>2</sub>
FRC	Functional residual capacity
FVC	Forced vital capacity
HFV	High-frequency ventilation
HP	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
HRCT	High-resolution CT
IC	Inspiratory capacity
ILD	Interstitial lung disease
IMV	Intermittent mandatory ventilation
IPC	Intermittent pneumatic compression
IPF	Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
IPPV	Intermittent positive pressure ventilation
IRV	Inspiratory reserve volume
MBC	Maximum breathing capacity
MEP	Maximum expiratory pressure
MIP	Maximum inspiratory pressure
MMFR	Maximal midexpiratory flow rate
MOF	Multiple organ failure
NEEP	Negative end-expiratory pressure
NO	Nitric oxide
ODTS	Organic dust toxic syndrome
OSA	Obstructive sleep apnea
PAH	Primary alveolar hypoventilation
PAP	Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis
PAP	Pulmonary arterial pressure
PAV	Proportional assist ventilation
PCV	Pulmonary vascular resistance

PCWP	Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure
PEEP	Positive end-expiratory pressure
PEFR	Peak flowmeter
PEFR	Peak expiratory flow rate
PF	Pleural fluid
PFT	Pulmonary function test
PIOPED	Prospective investigation of pulmonary embolism diagnosis
PMF	Progressive massive fibrosis
PNPB	Positive-negative pressure breathing
PPV	Positive pressure ventilation
PSB	Protected double-sheathed brush
PSV	Pressure-support ventilation
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
Ptp	Transpulmonary pressure
PVR	Pulmonary vascular resistance
RQ	Respiratory quotient
RV	Residual volume
SIMV	Synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation
TBB	Transbronchial biopsy
TLC	Total lung capacity
TTA	Transtracheal aspiration
VA	Alveolar ventilation
VATS	Video-assisted thoracic surgery
VC	Vital capacity
Vt	Tidal volume
VTE	Venous thromboembolism

### ***Psychiatry***

ADD	Attention deficit disorder
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
CA	Chronological age
DSM-IV	Diagnostic and statistical manual (an American Psychiatric Association publication that classifies mental illnesses)
DT	Delirium tremens
ECT	Electroconvulsive therapy
IQ	Intelligence quotient
MA	Mental age
OCD	Obsessive compulsive disorder
SAD	Seasonal affective disorder
STM	Short-term memory

**Radiology**

DTPA	Diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid (a binding substance for both Gd and <sup>99m</sup> Tc)
ALARA	As low as reasonably achievable (radiation dosages)
AMBER	Advanced multiple-beam equalization radiography
BE	Barium enema
CT	Computed tomography
DICOM	Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (a joint standard of the American College of Radiology and National Equipment Manufacturers' Association)
DSA	Digital subtraction angiography
EBT	Electron beam tomography
FSE	Fast spin echo (a magnetic resonance sequence)
Fr	French scale (catheters)
GRASS	Gradient-recalled acquisition in the steady state (a magnetic resonance sequence)
GRE	Gradient echo imaging (a magnetic resonance sequence)
HRCT	High-resolution computed tomography
IVU	Intravenous urogram
LAO	Left anterior oblique position
LPO	Left posterior oblique position
MIP	Maximum intensity projection
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
PACS	Picture archive and communication system (a computer network for digitized radiological images and reports)
PET	Positron emission tomography
PTA	Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty
PTHC, PTC	Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography
RAO	Right anterior oblique
SE	Spin echo (a magnetic resonance sequence)
SNR	Signal-to-noise ratio
SPECT	Single photon emission computed tomography
STIR	Short tau inversion recovery imaging (a magnetic resonance sequence)
TE	Echo time (in magnetic resonance spin echo pulse sequences)
TIPS	Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt
TR	Repetition time
UGI	Upper gastrointestinal series
VCUG	Voiding cystourethrogram
XR	X-ray



***Urology***

BPH	Benign prostatic hyperplasia
ESWL	Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy
GU	Genitourinary
PIN	Prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia
PSA	Prostate-specific antigen
SUI	Stress urinary incontinence