Abbreviations and Acronyms

The healthcare field uses a lot of abbreviations and acronyms. For the most part, they can save time and aid in communication…if you know them. Or, they may be confusing in their interpretation. The two lists below contain abbreviations and acronyms commonly used at IU Health. The first list includes those abbreviations that should be avoided. The following list contains acceptable abbreviations, acronyms and their meanings. The pdf format makes it easy for printing and referencing.

IU Health Do NOT Use Abbreviations List

A JCAHO National Patient Safety Goal is to improve communication between caregivers. Bad handwriting and confusing abbreviations can cause severe problems and affect a patient’s safe passage through his hospitalization. To help add to a patient’s safe passage, JCAHO has asked hospitals to use one list of accepted abbreviations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO NOT USE</th>
<th>APPROVED ALTERNATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Spell out units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IU</td>
<td>Spell out international units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MgSO₄, Mag, Mg</td>
<td>Magnesium Sulfate or Magnesium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSO₄, MS, MSIR</td>
<td>Morphine sulfate, Morphine, Morphine Immediate Release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSSR</td>
<td>Morphine Sustained Release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ug, _g</td>
<td>Mcg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grains, gr, Gr</td>
<td>Metric units of measure (example mg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cc</td>
<td>ML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QD</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QOD</td>
<td>Every other day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQ, SC</td>
<td>Subcutaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIW, TIW</td>
<td>List specific days of the week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO NOT write a zero AFTER a decimal (example: 2.0)</td>
<td>Write whole numbers, without a decimal (example: 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO NOT leave a blank space BEFORE a decimal (example: .25)</td>
<td>Write a zero BEFORE a decimal (example: 0.25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IU Health Abbreviations List

A JCAHO National Patient Safety Goal is to improve communication between caregivers. Bad handwriting and confusing abbreviations can cause severe problems and affect a patient’s safe passage through his hospitalization. To help add to a patient’s safe passage, JCAHO has asked hospitals to use one list of accepted abbreviations.

A

A.D.  anno Domini [in the year of the Lord]
A.M.  ante meridiem [before noon]
Adj.  Adjective
Adv.  Adverb
AHRQ  Agency for Healthcare Research Quality
AM  amplitude modulation
AACCN  American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
AMI  Acute Myocardial Infarction
ANCC  American Nurses Credentialing Center
Annual report of uncompensated care and other benefits to the community
APR-DRG CMI  All Patient Refined Diagnostic Related Group Case Mix Index
ASN  Associate of Science in Nursing degree
Assn.  Association

B

b. born, born in
B.A.  Bachelor of Arts
B.C.  Before Christ
B.S.  Bachelor of Science
BP  Blood Pressure
BOD  Board of Directors
BOM  Board of Managers
BSC  Balanced Scorecard
BSN  Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree

C

C  Celsius (centigrade)
c.  circa [about]
CABG  Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
CABS  Catheter-Associated Bloodstream Infection
cal  calorie(s)
Cath Lab  Catheterization Laboratory
cent.  Century, centuries
CEO  Chief Executive Officer
CFO  Chief Financial Officer
Cerner  Electronic medical records software company
Charting approach utilized by IU Health to analyze variation in data
Child Health Corporation of America
CHIME  College of Healthcare Information Management Executives
CLA  IU Health Learning Alliance
IU Health North Medical Center
IU Health West Medical Center
Clinical Documentation Improvement Program
Clinical Lab Improvement Amendments certification
cm  centimeter(s)
CM Contribution Management, employee performance review system
CMI Case Mix Index – The average diagnosis-related group (DRG) weight for all of a hospital’s Medicare volume. It can be used to adjust the average cost per patient (or day) for a given hospital relative to the adjusted average cost for other hospitals by dividing the average cost per patient (or day) by the hospital’s calculated CMI. The adjusted average cost per patient would reflect the charges reported for the types of cases treated in that year.
CMO Chief Medical Officer
CMS Centers for Medical and Medicaid Services
CNE Chief Nursing Executive, a system-level position
CNO Chief Nursing Officer, a hospital-level position
CNP Certified Nurse Practitioner
CNS Clinical Nurse Specialist
co. county
COE Center of Excellence

Process parameters that change over time
  Community Benefits Oversight Committee
  Community-acquired Pneumonia
  Computerized Dosing Tool
COO Chief Operating Officer
Core Competency
Corp. Corporation
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
CPOE Computerized Physician Order Entry
CQM IU Health Quality Matrix
CT Coordinating Team
CTSA Clinical and Translations science Award
cu cubic
CV Cardiovascular

D
died, died in
D.C. District of Columbia
dep. department
dist. District
div. division
D.O. Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Downtown Hospitals Comprised of three Indianapolis hospitals: Indiana University Hospital, Methodist Hospital and Riley Hospital for Children
Dr. doctor; title for medical doctor, doctor of philosophy, doctor of education, etc.
DRG Diagnostic Related Group

east, eastern
i.e. id est [that is]
etc. Et cetera
ed. Editted, edition, editor(s)
EdD designation for Doctorate degree in Education
eICU Electronic Intensive Care Unit
EIP Employee Incentive Plan
EKG Electrocardiogram
eLMS Electronic Learning and Management System
EMR Electronic Medical Record
EOC Environment of Care
equiv. Equivalent
ER  Emergency Room
ERP  Emergency Response Plan
ERTI  Emergency Response Training Institute
est.  established; estimated
et al.  et alii [and others]

F
F  Fahrenheit
fig. figure
fl oz  fluid ounce(s)
ft  foot, feet

G
gal.  gallon(s)
GCI  Glycemic Control Index
GNP  gross national product
GOP  Grand Old Party (Republican Party)
Gov.  governor
GPO  Group purchasing Organization
Grad.  Graduated, graduated at

H
H  hour(s)
HCAHPS  Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Providers and Systems
HIMSS  Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society
HIPAA  Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
Hon.  The Honorable
HR  Human Resources
HR  Heart Rate
Hr  hour(s)
HRA  Health Risk Appraisal
HRFY  Health Results for You

I
IHA  Indiana hospital Association
IHIE  Indiana Health Information Exchange
IOSHA  Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
in.  inch(es)
inc.  incorporated
Inst. Institute, Institution
IRA  Individual Retirement Account
IRB  Institutional Review Board Committee that reviews biomedical and behavioral research projects
IRS  Internal Revenue Service
IS  Information Services
ISDH  Indiana state Department Health
IU  Indiana University Hospital
IUMG  Indiana University Medical Group, clinical faculty physicians at IUSM
IUSM  Indiana University School of Medicine
IUSON  Indiana University School of Nursing

J
Jr.  Junior
K
KDC  Knowledge Driven Care, evidence-based medicine utilizing electronic means to standardize care
kg  kilogram(s)
km  kilometer(s)

L
lat.  Latitude
lb  pound
lib.  Library, liberal
long.  Longitude
LOS  Length of Stay
Ltd.  Limited

M
m  meter(s)
M  minutes(s)
M.D.  Doctor of Medicine
Mdiv  designation for Masters of Divinity degree
Methodist Hospital
MFI  Model for Improvement
mg  milligram(s)
MI  Myocardial Infarction
mi  mile(s)
min  minute(s)
Miss  title of respect for a single woman
mm  millimeter(s)
MMG  Methodist Medical Group
mph  miles per hour
Mr.  Mister, title of respect for a married or unmarried man
Mrs.  Mistress, title of respect for a married woman
Ms  Miss or Mrs., Ms is used out of courtesy when we do not know the marital status of the woman, or if she prefers the title.
M.S.  Masters of Science degree
MSN  Master of Science in Nursing degree
mt. or mtn.  Mountain
MVV  Mission, Vision, Values

N
N  north
n.  noun
NAACP  National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NASA  National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NE  northeast
NDNQI  National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators
NIH  National Institutes of Health
NIMS  National Incident Management Systems, emergency management
no.  Number
NP  Nurse Practitioner
NRC  National Research Corporation, provider of consumer assessment of hospitals and health plans
NRC+Picker  Organization that administers IU Health’s patient, employee and physician satisfaction surveys
NRP  Nurse Residency Program

O

OBI  Opportunity for Business Improvement
oz  ounce(s)
OIP  Operations Improvement Program, major initiative to improve operational performance
OSHA  Occupational Safety and Health Administration

P

Path Lab Pathology Laboratory
PDSA  Plan Do Study Act
PhD  designation for Doctorate level degree; Doctor of Philosophy. PhD may apply to many professional fields.
PI  Process (or Performance) Improvement
pl.  plural
pop.  Population
PSA  Primary Service Area, Indianapolis and eight contiguous countries
pseudo.  Pseudonym
pt.  pint(s)
pub.  Published; publisher

Q

QMS  Quality Matrix Score
qt  quart(s)
Quaternary  Highly specialized health care services

R

RCA  Root Cause Analysis
RH  Riley Hospital for Children
R.N.  registered nurse
Rev.  Revelations; the Reverend
rev.  revised
ROI  Return on Investment
RR  railroad

S

S  seconds(s)
S  south
SE  Service Excellence
sec  second(s); secant
Señor  Spanish title for Mister
Señora  Spanish title for married woman
Señorita  Spanish title for unmarried woman
ser.  series, serial
SG2  Sachs Group, company providing healthcare research, consulting and education services
SO  Strategic Objective
sp.  spelling
sq  square
Sr.  Senior
SSR  Soviet Socialist Republic
St.  Saint; Street
SWOT  Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
U
UHC University Health System Consortium, alliance of 101 academic medical centers
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
U.S. United States
uninc. Unincorporated
Univ. University
USA United States Army
USAF United States Air Force
USCG United States Coast Guard
USMC United States Marine Corps
USN United States Navy

V
v. verb
VHA Volunteer Hospitals of America, nationwide network of more than 2,200 community and health care organizations
VIM Volunteers in Medicine, organization of retired physicians and other health care professionals providing free medical services
VISTA Volunteers in Services to America
vol. Volume(s)
vs. versus

W
W west; watt(s)
WHO World Health Organization
Wt. Weight
yd yard(s)