

Symbols and abbreviations

-ve +ve	negative and positive, respectively	Echo	echocardiogram
↑ ↓ ↔	increased, decreased, and normal, respectively (eg serum level)	ENT	ear, nose, and throat
△; △△	diagnosis; △△ means differential diagnosis (list of possibilities)	ERCP	endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography; see also MRCP
Ab	antibody	EUA	examination under anaesthesia
ABC	airway, breathing, and circulation: basic life support	FB	foreign body
ABG	arterial blood gas	FBC	full blood count
Ac	<i>ante cibum</i> (before food)	FroM	full range of movements
ad lib	<i>ad libitum</i> ; as much/as often as wanted (Latin for <i>at pleasure</i>)	g	gram
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	GA	general anaesthetic
AXR	abdominal x-ray (plain)	GCS	Glasgow coma scale
Bd	<i>bis die</i> (twice a day)	GI	gastrointestinal
BMJ/BMA	<i>British Medical Journal/British Medical Association</i>	GP	general practitioner
BNF	<i>British National Formulary</i>	GU(M)	genitourinary (medicine)
BP	blood pressure	h	hour
bpm	beats per minute (eg pulse)	HAV	hepatitis A virus
Ca	cancer	Hb	haemoglobin
CCU	coronary care unit	HBsAg/HBV	hepatitis B surface antigen/hepatitis B virus
CHD	coronary heart disease	HCV (HDV)	hepatitis C virus (HDV is hepatitis D virus)
CI	contraindications	HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
CNS	central nervous system	HRT	hormone replacement therapy
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	HSV	herpes simplex virus
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation	IBD	inflammatory bowel disease
CRF	chronic renal failure	IBW	ideal body weight
CRP	c-reactive protein	IM	intramuscular
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid	INR	international normalized ratio (prothrombin ratio)
CT	computer tomography	ITU	intensive therapy unit
CVS	cardiovascular system	iu	international unit
CXR	chest x-ray	IV(I)	intravenous (infusion)
d	day(s) (also expressed as /7)	JAMA	<i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>
dl	decilitre	Kg	kilogram
DoH (or DH)	Department of Health (UK)	L	litre
D&V	diarrhoea and vomiting	LBW	lean body weight
DVT	deep venous thrombosis	LFT	liver function test
ECG	electrocardiogram	LKKS	liver, kidney (R), kidney (L), spleen
		LP	lumbar puncture
		LUQ	left upper quadrant

µg	microgram	PE	pulmonary embolism
mane	morning (from Latin; the 'e' may be written 'é')	PEF(R)	peak expiratory flow (rate)
MAOI	monoamine oxidase inhibitors	PERLA	pupils equal and reactive to light and accommodation
MC & S	microscopy, culture and sensitivity	PMH	past medical history
mg	milligram	PO	<i>per os</i> (by mouth)
MI	myocardial infarction	PR	<i>per rectum</i> (by the rectum)
min(s)	minute(s)	PRN	<i>pro re nata</i> (as required)
mL	millilitre	PV	<i>per vaginam</i> (by the vagina)
mmHg	millimetres of mercury	qds; qqh	<i>quater die sumendus</i> (to be taken 4x daily); qqh <i>quarta quaque hora</i> : every 4h
MND	motor neurone disease	R	right
MRCP	magnetic imaging cholangiopancreatography (also Member of Royal College of Physicians)	RA	rheumatoid arthritis
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging	RBC	red blood cell
MRSA	methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	RCT	randomized control trial
MS	multiple sclerosis	RFT	respiratory function tests
NAD	nothing abnormal detected	Rh	Rh; not an abbreviation, but derived from the rhesus monkey
NBM	nil by mouth	RUQ	right upper quadrant
ND	notifiable disease	S or sec	second(s)
ng	nanogram	SE	side-effect(s)
NG(T)	nasogastric (tube)	SOB	short of breath (SOB(O)E: short of breath on exercise)
NHS	National Health Service (UK)	SR	slow-release (also called MR, modified-release)
NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence www.nice.org.uk	Stat	statim (immediately; as initial dose)
Nocte	at night	STD/STI	sexually-transmitted disease or sexually-transmitted infection
NR	normal range	Sy(n)	syndrome
N&V	nausea and/or vomiting	T°	temperature
od	<i>omni die</i> (once daily)	TB	tuberculosis
OD	overdose	tds	<i>ter die sumendus</i> (to be taken 3 times a day)
OHCM7	<i>Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine</i> , 7e, OUP, Longmore et al	tid	<i>ter in die</i> (3 times a day)
OHCS8	<i>Oxford Handbook of Clinical Specialties</i> , 8e, OUP, Collier & Longmore	TPR	temperature, pulse, and respirations count
OHFP2	<i>Oxford Handbook for the Foundation Programme</i> , 2e, OUP, Hurley et al	U	units
OHGP2	<i>Oxford Handbook of General Practice</i> , 2e, OUP, Simon et al	U&E	urea and electrolytes and creatinine
OHP2	<i>Oxford Handbook of Psychiatry</i> , 2e, OUP, Semple et al	US(S)	ultrasound (scan)
OHPC	<i>Oxford Handbook of Palliative Care</i> , OUP, Watson et al	WBC; WCC	white blood cell; white blood cell count
om; on	<i>omni mane</i> (in the morning); <i>omni nocte</i> (at night)	wk(s)	week(s)
OPD	out-patients department	yr(s)	year(s)
ORh-	blood group O, Rh negative		
OT	occupational therapist		