

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE PATIENT NOTE

Lists similar to the one below will be available on-site for reference during Step 2 CS administrations.

According to usmle.org

UNITS OF MEASURE

C	Celsius
cm	Centimeter
F	Fahrenheit
hr	Hour
kg	Kilogram
lbs	Pounds
mcg	Microgram
mg	Milligram
min	Minute
oz	Ounces

VITAL SIGNS

BP	Blood pressure
HR	Heart rate
R	Respirations
T	Temperature

ROUTES OF DRUG ADMINISTRATION

IM	Intramuscularly
IV	Intravenously
po	Orally

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Ø	Without or no
+ or pos	Positive
- or neg	Negative
Abd	Abdomen
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AP	Anteroposterior
CABG	Coronary artery bypass grafting
CBC	Complete blood count
CHF	Congestive heart failure
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CT	Computed tomography
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
CVP	Central venous pressure
CXR	Chest x-ray
DM	Diabetes mellitus
DTR	Deep tendon reflexes
ECG or EKG	Electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency department
EMT	Emergency medical technician
ENT	Ears, nose, and throat
EOM	Extraocular muscles

MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS CONTINUED

EtOH	Alcohol
Ext	Extremities
f or ♀	Female
FH or FHx	Family history
GI	Gastrointestinal
GU	Genitourinary
h/o	History of
HEENT	Head, eyes, ears, nose, and throat
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
HTN	Hypertension
Hx	History
JVD	Jugular venous distention
L	Left
LMP	Last menstrual period
LP	Lumbar puncture
m or ♂	Male
Meds	Medications
MI	Myocardial infarction
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MVA	Motor vehicle accident
Neuro	Neurologic
NIDDM	Non insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
NKA	No known allergies
NKDA	No known drug allergy
nl	Normal/Normal limits
PA	Posteroanterior
PERRLA	Pupils equal, round, and reactive to light and accommodation
PMH or PMHx	Past medical history
PT	Prothrombin time
PTT	Partial thromboplastin time
R	Right
RBC	Red blood cells
ROM	Range of motion
SH or SHx	Social history
SOB	Shortness of breath
TIA	Transient ischemic attack
U/A	Urinalysis
URI	Upper respiratory tract infection
WBC	White blood cells
wnl	Within normal limits
yo	Year-old

Note: This is not intended to be a complete list of acceptable abbreviations, but rather represents the types of common abbreviations that may be used on the patient note. There is no need to use abbreviations on the patient note; if you are in doubt about the correct abbreviation, write it out.