

APPENDIX B

**APPROVED ABBREVIATIONS
AND SYMBOLS**

HEALTH CANADA
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

Section: **Approved Abbreviations and Symbols**

Section number: **Appendix B**

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Abbreviation	Definition
@	at
A	assessment
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous
AAT	activity as tolerated
A.B.C.	airway, breathing, circulation
abd	abdomen
ABG	arterial blood gas
abn	abnormal
ac	before meals
ACJ	acromioclavicular joint
ACL	anterior cruciate ligament
ACTH	adrenocorticotropin hormone
ADL	activities of daily living
ad lib	as desired
A/E	air entry
AFB	acid-fast bacillus
A/G ratio	albumin/globulin ratio
AgNo ₃	silver nitrate
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
alb	albumin
ALS	amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ALT	alanine aminotransferase
am	morning
AMI	acute myocardial infarction
amnio	amniocentesis
amp	ampule
amt	amount
ANA	antinuclear antibodies
anaes.	Anaesthetic
A/P	anterior posterior
AP	antepartum

Abbreviation	Definition (<i>cont'd</i>)
APH	antepartum haemorrhage
approx	approximate
appt	appointment
ARDS	acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARM	artificial rupture of membranes
AROM	active range of motion
art	arterial
art line	arterial line
ASA	aspirin
ASAP	as soon as possible
ASD	atrial septal defect
ASHD	arteriosclerotic heart disease
ASOT	antistreptolysin O titre
asst	assistance
AST	aspartate aminotransferase
a fib	atrial fibrillation
at flutter	atrial flutter
AV	atrioventricular
AVR	aortic valve replacement
ax	axillary
Ba	barium
BBB	bundle branch block
BBS	bronchial breath sounds
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin
BCP	birth control pill
BG	blood glucose
bicarb	bicarbonate
bid	twice a day
bilat	bilateral
bili	bilirubin
BM	bowel movement
BMI	body mass index

Abbreviation	Definition (<i>cont'd</i>)
BMR	basal metabolic rate
BP	blood pressure
BPH	benign prostate hypertrophy
bpm	beats per minute
BR	bed rest
brady	bradycardia
BS	blood sugar or bowel sounds
BTLS	Basic Trauma Life Support
BUN	blood urea nitrogen
C ₂ H ₅ OH	ethyl alcohol
Cx	cervix
CAB	coronary artery bypass
CABG	coronary artery bypass grafting
C-1, C-2, etc.	first cervical vertebra, second cervical vertebra, etc.
Ca	cancer, calcium
CAD	coronary artery disease
cal	calorie
cap gases	capillary gases
cath	catheter
CBC	complete blood count
cc	copied to
CC	chief complaint
CCU	Cardiac Care Unit
CDA	Canadian Diabetes Association
CDH	congenital dislocated hip
CF	cystic fibrosis
chemo	chemotherapy
CHD	congenital heart disease
CHF	congestive heart failure
CHO	carbohydrate
CHR	Community Health Representative
chol	cholesterol

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
chole	cholecystectomy
CK	creatine kinase
cl flid	clear fluid
Cl	chloride
CMV	cytomegalo virus
CNS	central nervous system
CO	cardiac output, carbon monoxide
c/o	complaining of
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
comp	compound
cont'd	continued
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP	cerebral palsy
CPD	cephalopelvic disproportion
CPK	creatine phosphokinase
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
cr	creatinine
Cri, CrII, etc.	cranial nerves by number
crep	crepitation
C&S	culture and sensitivity
C-section	Cesarean section
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CSM	color, sensation, movement
C spine	cervical spine
CT ratio	cardiothoracic ratio
CT Scan	computerized axial tomography
CV	cardiovascular
CVA	cerebrovascular accident, costo vertebral angle
CVD	cardiovascular disease
CVP	central venous pressure
CVS	cardiovascular system
CXR	Chest x-ray
cysto	cystoscopy

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
DAT	diet as tolerated
D/C	discontinue, discharge
D&C	dilation and curettage
decel	deceleration
decr	decrease
defib	defibrillation
dept	department
DFA	diet for age
DI	Diagnostic Imaging
D&I	dry & intact
DIC	disseminating intravascular coagulation
diff	differential
DIP	distal interphalangeal joint
DOA	dead on arrival
DOB	date of birth
DPT	Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus
DPT&P	Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus-Polio
Dr	doctor
drsg	dressings
DT	delerium tremens
DUB	dysfunctional uterine bleeding
DVT	deep vein thrombosis
Dx	diagnosis
D5S	Dextrose 5% in concentration of saline
D5W	Dextrose 5% in water
D10W	Dextrose 10% in water
E	evaluation
EBV	Epstein-Barr Virus
ECBD	exploration to common bile duct
ECG, EKG	electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency Department
EDC	expected date of confinement

Abbreviation	Definition <i>(cont'd)</i>
EEG	electroencephalogram
EENT	eye, ear, nose and throat
eg	example
emerg	emergency
EMG	electromyogram
ENT	ears, nose, throat
EOM	extraocular movements
eos	eosinophils
ER	Emergency Room
ERCP	endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
esp	especially
ESR	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
ETOH	alcohol, ethyl alcohol
ET Tube	endotracheal tube
EUA	examination under anaesthetic
ext rot	external rotation
F	Fahrenheit
FAE	fetal alcohol effect(s)
FAS	fetal alcohol syndrome
FASD	fetal alcohol spectrum disorder
FBG	fasting blood glucose
FBS	fasting blood sugar
Fe	iron
FEV 0.5	Forced expired volume in 1/2 sec
1.0	1 sec
2.0	2 sec
3.0	3 sec
If	fundus firm
FFP	fresh frozen plasma
If@U	fundus firm at umbilicus
FH	fetal heart
FHx	family history

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
FHR	fetal heart rate
fib	fibula, fibrillation
FIO ₂	fraction of inspired oxygen
fld	fluid
flex	flexion
FM	fetal movement
FSH	follicle stimulating hormone
ft	feet, foot
FVC	forced vital capacity
FWB	full weight bearing
FU	Follow up
G	gravida
GA	general anaesthetic
gastro	gastroenteritis
GB	gallbladder
G.B. series	gallbladder series
GC	gonorrhea
GDM	gestational diabetes mellitus
gest	gestational
GI	gastrointestinal
Gr	grade (Grade III, etc)
gtt	drop (s)
GTT	glucose tolerance test
GU	genitourinary
Gyn	Gynecology
HBD (alcohol)	had been drinking (alcohol)
hr	hour
HbsAg	Hepatitis B surface Antigen
HbsAb	Hepatitis B surface Antibody
HCG	human chorionic gonadotrophin
HCO ₃	bicarbonate

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
hct	hematocrit
HDL	high density lipoproteins
Hep A	Hepatitis A
Hep B	Hepatitis B
Hep C	Hepatitis C
Hep D	Hepatitis D
Hgb	hemoglobin
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
H ₂ O	water
H ₂ O ₂	hydrogen peroxide
hosp	hospital
HPI	history of present illness
HR	heart rate
hs	at bedtime
ht	height
Hx	history
hyst	hysterectomy
I	intake
IBC	iron binding capacity
IBI	intermittent bladder irrigation
IBW	ideal body weight
ICP	intracranial pressure
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
ID	identification
I&D	incision and drainage
IDDM	insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (historical usage)
I:E	inspiratory to expiratory ratio
IM	intramuscular
incl	inclusive
incont	incontinent
info	information

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
INR	international normalization rate
insp	inspiration
IPPV	intermittent positive pressure ventilation
IQ	intelligence quotient
IR	internal rotation
integ	integumentary
I&O	intake & output
IPPA	inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation
IOP	intraocular pressure
IPJ	interphalangeal joint
IRSD	infant respiratory distress syndrome
irreg	irregular
irrig	irrigation
IS	incentive spirometry
isol	isolated
IUCD	intrauterine contraceptive device
IUD	intrauterine death
IUGR	intrauterine growth retardation
IV	intravenous
IVC	intravenous cholangiogram
IVP	intravenous pyelogram
IV's	D-5-W: 5% Dextrose and water D-5-S: 5% Dextrose and saline (0.9%) LR or RL: Lactae Ringers NS: normal saline (0.9%) 2/3-1/3: 3 1/3 Dextrose, 0.3 saline RS: Ringers solution
JVD	jugular vein distention
JVP	jugular venous pressure
K	potassium
KCl	potassium chloride

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
KJ	kilojoules
KVO	keep vein open
L, (L), Lt	left
L-1, L-2, etc.	1 st lumbar vertebra, 2 nd lumbar vertebra, etc
lac	laceration
lap	laparotomy
LBBS	left bundle branch block
LBP	lower back pain
lb(s)	pound(s)
LDH	lactic dehydrogenase
lg	large
LGA	large for gestational age
LH	luteinizing hormone
lig	ligament
LLL	left lower lobe
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LMP	last menstrual period
LNMP	last normal menstrual period
LOC	loss of consciousness
LP	lumbar puncture
LQ	lower quadrant
LS	lumbosacral
LSB	left sternal border
LSD	lysergic acid diethylamide
LUL	left upper lobe
LUQ	left upper quadrant
LVF	left ventricular failure
LVH	left ventricular hypertrophy
MAOI	monoamine oxidase inhibitors
max	maximum
MCP	metacarpophalangeal

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
MCV	mean cell volume
MD	medical doctor, muscular dystrophy
mec	meconium
med	medial
meds	medication
Mg	magnesium
MgSO ₄	magnesium sulfate
MHW	Mental Health Worker
MI	myocardial infarction
min	minute
MIP	metacarpo-interphalangeal
mm	millimeters
mmHg	millimeters of mercury
MMR	measles, mumps, rubella
mod	moderate
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MS	multiple sclerosis
MSU	mid-stream urine
MTP	metatarso-interphalangeal
MUA	manipulation under anesthesia
MVA	motor vehicle accident
N	normal
N/A	not applicable
Na	sodium
NaCl	sodium chloride
NAD	no abnormality detected
NaHCO ₃	sodium bicarbonate
NAS	no added salt
NCP	Nursing Care Plan
neg	negative
neuro signs	neurological signs
neurosurg	neurosurgery, neurosurgical

Abbreviation	Definition <i>(cont'd)</i>
NG	nasogastric
NIDDM	noninsulin dependent diabetes mellitus (historical term)
NKA	no known allergies
no,#	number
NOK	next of kin
NP	Nurse Practitioner
NPO	nothing by mouth
Nrsg, Nsg	Nursing
NS	normal saline
NSD	normal spontaneous delivery
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
NST	nonstress test
N-T	nasotracheal
NTG	nitroglycerin
N&V	nausea and vomiting
NVD	normal vaginal delivery
NWB	nonweight-bearing
NYD	not yet diagnosed
O	objective
O ₂	oxygen
OA	osteoarthritis
OBS	obstetrics, organic brain syndrome
occ	occasional, occipitals
OD	overdose
o.d.	once daily
O/E	on examination
OP	operation
OPD	Outpatient Department
O&P	ova and parasites
OR	operating room
Ortho	orthopedics
OU	in both eyes

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
oz	ounce
P	pulse, phosphorus, plan, parity
P/A	pulmonary artery, posterior/anterior
PAC	premature atrial contraction
PA&LAT	postero-anterior & lateral
palpn	palpation
Pap	papanicolaou (smear)
PAP	pulmonary artery pressure
para	paraplegia
PARR	Postanesthetic Recovery Room
pc	after meals
pCO ₂	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
PDA	patent ductus arteriosus
peds	pediatrics
Pen	Penicillin
per	by
PERLA	pupils equal, reaction to light and accommodation
PET	pre-eclampsic toxemia
PFT	pulmonary function test
pH	hydrogen ion concentration
physio	physiotherapy, physiotherapist
PID	pelvic inflammatory disease
PIH	pregnancy induced hypertension
PIP	proximal interphalangeal
PJC	premature junctional contracture
PKU	phenylketonuria
pm	afternoon
PM	post-mortem
PMHx	past history
PNC	premature nodal contraction
P/O	phone order
po	orally, by mouth

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
PO ₂	partial pressure of oxygen
polio	poliomyelitis
POP	plaster of Paris
pos	positive
post	posterior
postop	postoperative
PP	postpartum
PPD	purified protien derivative
PPH	postpartum hemorrhage
PPP	pedal pulses palpable
PPTL	postpartum tubal ligation
PR	per rectum
PRBC	packed red blood cells
preg	pregnancy
prem	premature
preop	preoperative
prep	preparation
pm	whenever necessary, as required
PROM	premature rupture of membranes
prox	proximal
psych	psychiatry
pt	patient
PT	prothrombin time, Physiotherapist
PTO	please turn over
PTT	partial thromboplastin time
pulm	pulmonary
PV	per vagina
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
PVD	peripheral vascular disease
PWB	partial weight bearing
q	every, each
qam	every morning

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
qh	every hour
q2h	every 2 hours
q3h	every 3 hours
q4h	every 4 hours
qhs	every bedtime
qid	4 times a day (at 1000, 1400, 1800, 2200 h)
qs	a sufficient quantity
quad	quadriceps, quadriplegia
R	rectal (temp sheet only)
R, (R), rt	right
RA	rheumatoid arthritis
RAB	rice, apple, banana (diet)
RAD	reactive airways disease
RBBB	right bundle branch block
RBC	red blood cells
RCA	right coronary artery
RD	Regional Director, Registered Dietician
RDS	respiratory distress syndrome
re	regarding
regurg	regurgitated
reg	regular
rehab	rehabilitation
REM	rapid eye movement
req	requisition
resp	respiration
ret det	retinal detachment
RF	rheumatoid factor
Rh-	Rhesus negative
Rh+	Rhesus positive
RHD	rheumatic heart disease
RLL	right lower lobe
RLQ	right lower quadrant

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
RM	ruptured membranes
R&M	routine and microscopic
RN	Registered Nurse
RNE	Regional Nurse Educator
RN(EC)	Registered Nurse-Extended Class
RNO	Regional Nursing Officer
R/O	rule out, re-order
ROA	right occipitoanterior
ROM	range of motion
ROP	right occipitoposterior
ROT	right occipitotransverse
RPN	Registered Practical Nurse
RR	Recovery Room, resp rate
RTC	Return to clinic
RUL	right upper lobe
RUQ	right upper quadrant
RVH	right ventricular hypertrophy
Rx	prescription
s	without
S	subjective
S-1, S-2, etc.	first sacral vertebra, second sacral vertebra, etc.
S1,S2	heart sounds
S&A	sugar and acetone
SBE	subacute bacterial endocarditis
SC	subcutaneous
SGOT	serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase
sec	second
sero-sang	serosanguinous
SFH	symphysis fundal height
SGA	small for gestational age
SGPT	serum glutamic pyruvic
SI	sacroiliac

Abbreviation	Definition (<i>cont'd</i>)
SL	sublingual
SLR	straight leg raising
SMBG	self monitoring blood glucose
SOB	shortness of breath
SOBOE	shortness of breath on exertion
Soc Serv	Social Services
soln	solution
spec	specimen
spont	spontaneous
SR	sinus rhythm
SRM	spontaneous rupture of membranes
S&S	signs and symptoms
ss enema	soap suds enema
STAT	immediately
STD	sexually transmitted disease
STI	sexually transmitted infection
STREP	streptococcus
suppos	suppository
surg	surgery
SVD	spontaneous vaginal delivery
T	temperature
T3	triiodothyronine
T4	thyroxine
T-1,T-2,etc	1st thoracic vertebrae, 2nd thoracic vertebrae, etc
TA	therapeutic abortion
T&A	tonsilectomy and adenoidectomy
tab	tablet
TB	tuberculosis
TBA	to be absorbed, to be announced
Tbsp	tablespoon
TIA	transient ischemic attack
Tib/Fib	tibia/fibula

Abbreviation**Definition** (*cont'd*)

tid	three times a day (1000, 1400, 1800 h)
tinc	tincture
TKVO	to keep vein open
TL	tubal ligation
TLC	total lung capacity, tender loving care
TMJ	tempormandibular joint
tol	tolerated
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
trach	tracheostomy (-otomy)
TSH	thyroid stimulating hormone
tsp	teaspoon
TST	tuberculin skin test
TURBT	transurethral resection of bladder tumor
TURP	transurethral prostate resection
Tx	treatment, therapy

U/A	urinalysis
ung	ointment
U/O	under observation
UQ	upper quadrant
URI	upper respiratory infection
URTI	upper respiratory tract infection
u/s	ultrasound
UTI	urinary tract infection
UVC	umbilical venous catheter
UVL	ultraviolet light

VA	visual acuity
vag	vaginal
VCUG	voiding cystourethrogram
VDRL	Wasserman or Khan
VE	vaginal exam

Abbreviation	Definition (cont'd)
V fib	ventricular fibrillation
vit	vitamin
VMA	vanillylmandelic acid
V/O	verbal order
VS	vital signs
VSD	ventricular septal defect
VT	tidal volume
V tach	ventricular tachycardia
VV	varicose veins
WBC	white blood count (cells)
w/c	wheelchair
wk	week
WNL	within normal limits
WSIB	Workplace Safety & Insurance Board
wt	weight
yr	year
ZNO	Zone Nursing Officer

SYMBOLS

∅	none, no, nothing
°	degree
=	equal
♀	female
#	fracture
>	greater than
≥	greater than or equal to
↑	increase
<	less than
≤	less than or equal to
↓	decrease
♂	male

SYMBOLS (CONT'D)

+	mild, plus, add
?	negative
++	moderate
+++	moderately severe
-ve	negative
#	number
≠	not equal
/	per
%	percent
±	plus or minus
+ve	positive
++++	severe
x	times
X/7	days
X/12	months
X/52	weeks
#	fracture, number

RULES FOR WRITING SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS

1. Symbols are always printed in upright type, irrespective of the typeface used in the accompanying text.
2. Symbols are never pluralized. Example: 1 g, 45 g (not 45 gs)
3. Never use a period after a symbol except at the end of a sentence.
4. Symbols should always be used in place of full names when used in conjunction with numerals. Example: 5 m (not 5 metres).
5. Always use a full space between the quantity and the symbol. Example: 45 g (not 45g). Exception: When the first character of a symbol is not a letter, no space is left. Example 32°C.
6. Use decimals, not fractions. Example: 0.25 g (not 1/4 g)
7. A zero is always used before a decimal marker if the number is less than one. Example: 0.45g (Not .45 g)
8. Symbols are always written lower case, except when the unit is derived from a proper name. Example: m for metre; but N for Newton. Exception: L for litre. Note Only Celsius takes a capital when written out in full.

RULES FOR WRITING SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS (cont'd)

9. There are no spaces between the prefix and the unit symbol. Example: kg for kilogram (not k g).
10. Use a half of full space to separate blocks of 3 digits instead of commas. Example: 3 569 453.24 (Not 32, 568,453.24). Exception: A space is optional with a four-digit number 1 234 or 1234.
11. An oblique stroke is always used with symbols rather than the word "per". Example: km/h (not km Per h) ; however, kilometre per hour (not kilometre/hour).
12. No more than one unit should be used to designate a quantity. Example: 7.65 m (not 7m 65cm).

MEASUREMENTS

centimetre	cm
cubic centimetre	cm ³
cubic decimetre	dm ³
cubic metre	m ³
degree	°
degree celsius	°C
gram	g
hour	h
International Units	IU
joule	J
kilocalorie	kcal
kilogram	kg
kilojoule	kJ
litre	L
metre	m
microgram	mcg
micromole	umol
milliequivalents	mEq
milligram	mg
1 milliequivalent per litre	mEq/L
millilitre	mL
millijoule	mJ
millimetre	mm
millimole	mmol
milliwatt	mW

MEASUREMENTS (CONT'D)

mole	mol
minute volume	mv
newton	N
second	s
square centimetre	cm ²
square kilometre	km ²
square meter	m ²
volt	V
volume	V
watt	W