

UMDNJ-University Hospital

NON-APPROVED ABBREVIATION LIST

NO LONGER ACCEPTED ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been **REMOVED** from The University Hospital Official Abbreviation List as they have the potential to jeopardize patient safety by being misunderstood or resulting in medication errors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2003

The Medical Record Committee also advocates non-use of abbreviations for medications names.

Abbreviation	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Preferred Practice
D/C	discharge discontinue	Premature discontinuation of medications when D/C (intended to mean "discharge") has been misinterpreted as "discontinued" when followed by a list of drugs.	Use "discharge" or "discontinue".
HCl	hydrochloric acid	Potassium chloride (the "H" is misinterpreted as "K").	Use "Hydrochloric Acid".
MgSO₄	magnesium sulfate	morphine sulfate	Use "Magnesium Sulfate".
µg	microgram	Mistaken for "mg" when handwritten.	Use "Microgram".
od or OD	once daily	Misinterpreted as "right eye" (OD - oculus dexter and administration of oral medications in the eye).	Use "daily".
per OS	orally	The "os" can be mistaken for "left eye".	Use "PO," "by mouth" or "orally."
qd	every day	Mistaken as "q.i.d." especially if the period after the "q" or the tail of the "q" is misunderstood as an "i".	Use "daily" or "every day."
qhs	nightly at bedtime	Misread as every hour.	Use "nightly."

qod or QOD	every other day	Misinterpreted as "q.d." (daily) or "q.i.d." (four times daily) if the "o" is poorly written.	Use "every other day."
sc	subcutaneous	Mistaken for SL (sublingual).	Use "subcut." or write "subcutaneous."
U or u	unit	Read as a zero (0) or a four (4), causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44").	Use "units."
IU	international unit	Misread as "IV" (intravenous).	Use "International Units."
cc	cubic centimeter	Misread as "U" (units)	Use "ml."