

# Symbols and abbreviations

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

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