

Sig Codes and Common Abbreviations

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|-----------------|---|
| ADHD | attention deficit hyperactivity disorder |
| atherosclerosis | hardening of the arteries |
| BC | birth control |
| bid | twice a day |
| BP | blood pressure |
| BPH | benign prostatic hypertrophy(Enlarged Prostate) |
| CA | cancer |
| cc | cubic centimeter |
| CHF | congestive heart failure |
| COPD | chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder |
| diuretic | water pill |
| ED | erectile dysfunction |
| FLK | funny looking kid |
| G or gm | gram |
| GERD | gastro-esophageal reflux disorder |
| gtt | drop |
| HA | headache |
| HRT | hormone replacement therapy |
| hs | at bedtime |
| L | liter |
| ml | milliliter |
| NKA | no known allergies |
| NKDA | no known drug allergies |
| NSAID | non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug |
| PCN | penicillin |
| po | by mouth |
| pr | rectally |
| prn | as needed |
| prophylaxis | prevention |
| pruritis | itching |
| q | every |
| qd | every day |
| qid | 4 times a day |
| stat | immediately |
| TCN | tetracycline |
| third party | other payor-usually an insurance company |
| tid | 3 times a day |
| W/C | will call (customer waiting or will be in) |

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

Dangerous Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Intended meaning | Common Error |
|-----------------|---|--|
| U | Units | Mistaken as a zero or a four (4) resulting in overdose. Also mistaken for "cc" (cubic centimeters) when poorly written. |
| µg | Micrograms | Mistaken for "mg" (milligrams) resulting in an overdose. |
| Q.D. | Latin abbreviation for every day | The period after the "Q" has sometimes been mistaken for an "I," and the drug has been given "QID" (four times daily) rather than daily. |
| Q.O.D. | Latin abbreviation for every other day | Misinterpreted as "QD" (daily) or "QID" (four times daily). If the "O" is poorly written, it looks like a period or "I." |
| SC or SQ | Subcutaneous | Mistaken as "SL" (sublingual) when poorly written. |
| T I W | Three times a week | Misinterpreted as "three times a day" or "twice a week." |
| D/C | Discharge; also discontinue | Patient's medications have been prematurely discontinued when D/C, (intended to mean "discharge") was misinterpreted as "discontinue," because it was followed by a list of drugs. |
| HS | Half strength | Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation "HS" (hour of sleep). |
| cc | Cubic centimeters | Mistaken as "U" (units) when poorly written. |
| AU, AS, AD | Latin abbreviation for both ears; left ear; right ear | Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation "OU" (both eyes); "OS" (left eye); "OD" (right eye) |
| IU | International Unit | Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10(ten) |
| MS, MSO4, MgSO4 | Confused for one another | Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate |

See the full Council Recommendation, [Recommendations to Enhance Accuracy of Prescription Writing](#)

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<http://www.nccmerp.org/dangerousAbbrev.html>