



# **The Clinical Placement: Students' essential guide to frequently used terminology and abbreviations**

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Dear Student,

Welcome to the world of clinical practice. This booklet aims to quickly familiarise you with the common terms and abbreviations used in the clinical area and to smooth your transition into the clinical practice. Ideally, it should be used in conjunction with your DoCAT/MidCAT© and the nurses' dictionary. The booklet is divided into three sections:

**Section A: Who's who** will introduce you to the main hospital personnel with whom you will interact with on a daily basis. Many of the staff titles are commonly abbreviated and are often referred to by this abbreviation. For example, MIOC means Medical Intern on Call. Both team structures are illustrated in Figure 1 and 2 at the end of this section.

**Section B: Terminology** includes the most frequently used terms by all professionals in clinical practice.

**Section C: Abbreviations** includes the most frequently abbreviated terms and conditions used by all professionals. Please note that abbreviations should be avoided if at all possible, but in the event of abbreviations being used, only those approved by the Quality & Clinical Care Directorate and contained within the HSE document are permitted (HSE 2010). A reduced number of these abbreviations are also included in this booklet.

## SECTION A: WHO'S WHO?

**Advanced Nurse/Midwife Practitioner (ANP/AMP):** a registered nurse/midwife with at least a master's degree in nursing/midwifery

**Assistant Director of Nursing/Midwifery (ADON/ADOM):** A registered nurse who acts as the assistant to the Director of Nursing/Midwifery services

**Audiologist:** healthcare professional specializing in the measurement of hearing and the correction of hearing impairment/hearing loss

**Chaplain:** A hospital chaplain provides spiritual support to a hospital's patients, staff, and visiting family members

**Clinical Nurse/Midwife Manager 1, 2, & 3 (CNM/CMM):** A clinical nurse/midwife manager is the nurse/midwifery manager for his/her unit, ward or division of nursing/ midwifery

**Clinical Nurse/Midwife Specialist (CNS/CMS):** a registered nurse/midwife who has extensive experience in a special field of clinical practice

**Clinical Pharmacist:** A professional who prescribes patient medication at ward level in collaboration with physicians and other healthcare professionals

**Clinical Placement Coordinator (CPC):** CPC is responsible for guiding and supporting student nurses/midwives while on clinical placements.

**Consultant:** a physician/surgeon with primary responsibility for a patient's care

**Dietician:** is a professional who applies the science of nutrition to the feeding and education of patients

**Director of Nursing/Midwifery (DON/DOM):** A Director of Nursing/Midwifery is in charge of the entire nursing/midwifery department within a hospital

**Hospital Care Assistant (HCA):** A person who provides help to Nurses, Doctors and other medical professionals caring for patients in a hospital or nursing home environment

**Interdisciplinary Team (IDT):** a group of health care professionals from diverse fields who work in a coordinated fashion toward a common goal for the patient. Sometimes referred to as Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

**Laboratory Technician:** a professional who is responsible for laboratory-based tasks, which include sampling, testing, measuring, recording and analysing results in the hospital

**Medical Intern:** a professional of the medical team in training under the direction of a consultant

**Medical Intern on Call (MIOC):** Medical intern on call for patients with a medical condition

**Multidisciplinary Team (MDT):** a team of professionals representing different disciplines who coordinate the care of the patient in order to improve patient care. Sometimes referred to as Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)

**Nursing/Midwifery Intern:** A nursing/midwifery student in fourth year of college and in clinical practice

**Occupational Therapist (OT):** a professional who treats patients whose abilities to cope with the tasks of everyday living that are threatened or impaired by physical illness or injury, psychosocial disability, or developmental deficits

**Phlebotomist:** member of hospital staff trained to take blood from patients for further testing

**Physiotherapist:** a professional who treats injury or dysfunction with exercises and other physical treatments for the disorder

**Porter:** a person assigned to assist hospital staff with tasks such as moving equipment, transporting patients and many other important tasks. Sometimes called an 'orderly'

**Practice Development:** a term used to describe particular approaches to supporting and promoting change in nursing/midwifery in hospitals

**Preceptor:** is a registered nurse/midwife who has been specially prepared to guide and direct student learning during clinical placement

**Radiographer:** a professional who takes patients' x- rays and scans

**Registered General Nurse (RGN):** a nurse who is registered with Irish Nursing and Midwifery Board (INMB)

**Registrar:** a doctor who is receiving advanced training in a specialist field of medicine or surgery

**Respiratory Therapist:** a professional who assists patients with respiratory difficulties

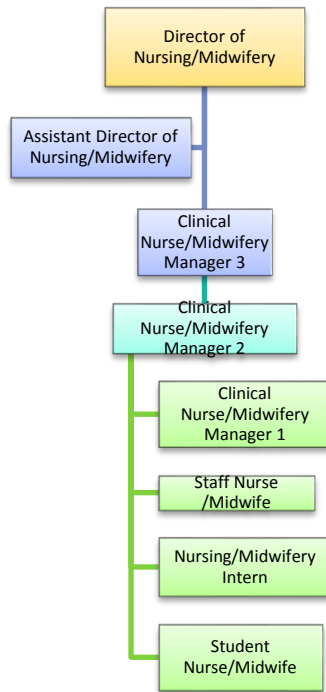
**Surgical Intern on Call (SIOC):** Surgical intern on call for surgical patients

**Senior House Officer (SHO):** a junior doctor undergoing training within a certain specialty

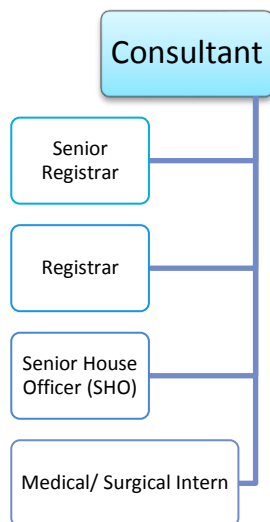
**Senior Registrar (SR):** a senior doctor in a division of the hospital medical staff devoted to a particular specialty

**Speech Therapist:** a professional that helps individuals overcome communication conditions such as aphasia, swallowing difficulties and voice disorders

**Figure 1. Typical Structure of Nursing and Midwifery team in a Hospital**



**Figure 2. Typical structure of a Medical team in a Hospital**



## **SECTION B: TERMINOLOGY**

**Acute:** a sudden and sometimes severe condition

**Ambulate:** to walk

**Antiemetic:** medication to control patient's vomiting

**Bed Pan:** a plastic container used for the toileting of a bedridden patient

**Bed Sores:** see pressure ulcers

**Benign:** a term to describe a tumour that is not cancerous

**Biopsy (by-op-see):** a biopsy means a tiny piece of tissue taken from the Dr from almost anywhere in the patient's body

**Blood Bank (blud bank):** an area of the laboratory or a unit where blood is stored

**Blood Count:** the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets in a sample of blood. Also referred to as CBC/FBC (complete blood count/full blood count)

**Blood Pressure:** a measure of the force of blood flow against veins and arteries in the body

**Blood Sugar Level (BSL) (blud sug ar leh-vul):** the amount of glucose in the blood

**Bolus (bo-lus):** an extra single, large dose of fluid/medicine given to the patient

**Bypass:** to divert flow from one structure to another

**Cardiac Arrest:** is when the normal circulation of the blood stops suddenly and the patient collapses

**Catheter:** a tube used to inject or withdraw fluids

**Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA):** also referred to as a 'stroke' in which an area of the brain is damaged due to a sudden interruption of blood supply

**Chronic:** a lasting, lingering or prolonged illness or symptom

**Chronic Obstructive Airways Disease (COPD):** a progressive respiratory disease that makes it hard to breathe. Sometimes called COAD chronic obstructive airways disease

**Commode:** a chair like a toilet that is moving with a bedpan or container underneath which can be removed for cleaning after use.

**Impairment:** a patient diminished mental capacity, such as difficulty with short-term memory

**Congestive Heart Failure (CHF):** a type of heart disease characterized by inadequate pumping action of the heart

**Decubitus:** see pressure ulcers

**Dehydration** (Dee-hy-**dray**-shun): when there's not enough fluid in the patient's body

**Dementia:** progressive mental disorder that affects memory, judgement and cognitive powers.

**Diabetic:** a patient diagnosed with diabetes mellitus

**Discharge Planning:** a plan to assist patients and their families with arrangements following discharge from a hospital stay

**Dysphagia:** a swallowing disorder

**Dysphasia:** difficulty in speaking

**Elastic Stockings:** stockings designed to help blood circulate from the legs to the heart to prevent clots

**Emergency Response:** a system (bell/buzzer/pulley) that provides an automatic alert to medics and others to respond to an emergency

**End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD):** a medical condition in which a person's kidneys no longer function

**Enuresis** (en-yuh-**ree**-sis): means wetting the bed while asleep

**Epistaxis** (eh-puh-**stak**-sus): bleeding from the nose

**Extubation** (eks'tū-bā'shŭn): the removal of a tube that has been inserted to assist a patient to breath

**Febrile:** a fever or high temperature

**Foley Catheter:** a tube placed in the bladder to drain urine

**Gastrostomy Tube:** surgically placed tube that goes directly into the stomach for feeding and/or drainage

**G Tube:** a tube inserted surgically through an opening in the stomach for patients who are unable to use their mouths or swallow

**Geriatrics:** a branch of medicine that focuses on providing health care for the elderly

**Haemovac:** a tube placed near an incision during surgery to drain excess fluid

**Hospice:** a place where patients and their family receive palliative care to enhance their life while dying

**Incentive Spirometer** (spih-rah-muh-tur): an instrument that measures how well your lungs are working

**Incontinent:** partially or totally unable to control bladder and/or bowel functions

**Intravenous infusion (IVI):** liquid solution/ liquid medication that are administered directly into the blood stream through an intravenous catheter inserted into a vein in the body. Sometimes referred as 'a drip'

**Intubation:** the insertion of a tube into the trachea to assist patients to breath

**Ketoacidosis** (Kee-toh-ah-sih-DOH-sis): a condition that can happen to people with diabetes

**Length of Stay (LoS):** the length of time a patient stays in a hospital

**Long-term Care (LTC):** the medical/nursing and support services provided to patients over a prolonged period of time

**Lung Function Tests (lung funk-shun tests) (LFTs):** a test to tell how patients' lungs function

**Nausea (New-zee-uh):** a feeling patients gets when they feel like they are going to be sick

**Nursing Home:** a place that provides continuous nursing care and other health-related services to residents who are not in an acute phase of illness

**Oedema:** a collection of fluid in tissues which causes swelling

**Outpatients (OPD):** an area of the hospital where a patient receives care without being admitted

**Palliative:** relieving the symptoms or pain of a disease or disorder

**Peak Flow Meter (peek flo mee-tur):** an instrument that tells you how well the lungs are functioning

**Pre-admission Screening:** a screening assessment of a patient to determine if he/she should be admitted to the hospital usually for a procedure

**Pre-existing Condition:** a medical condition that existed, or was diagnosed or was treated in the past

**Pressure Ulcers:** A breakdown of the skin integrity. Also referred to as pressure sores or decubitus ulcers



**Prosthesis** (pros-**thee**-sus): an artificial body part to replace a missing part.  
For example, an arm or a leg

**Radiology:** X-rays and other imaging techniques

**Range of Motion (ROM):** the movement of a joint to the fullest extent possible without causing pain

**Senile Dementia:** a term used to describe dementia associated with old age.  
Now referred to as dementia and/or Alzheimer's

**Side Rail/Cot Sides:** rails that fit into a hospital-type bed to protect a patient from falling out

**Subcutaneous (SC):** under the skin

**TED Stocking:** Thrombo Embolic Deterrent (TED) is a strong elasticated stocking used to prevent embolism (clot) forming in the leg areas of a bedridden or a post-surgical patient

**Tinnitus** (tih-**neye**-tus): a ringing sound in the ears

**Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN):** high volumes of liquid nutrition administered through a large vein in the body

**Tracheostomy (trach):** an incision made in the front of the patients' neck to allow the passage of air directly into the trachea to reach the lungs

**Traction:** the act of drawing or pulling with ropes, pulleys and weights

**Ultrasound (u/s)** (**ul**-truh-sound): a way viewing inside of the body

**Urinalysis:** a test of a urine specimen

**Urticaria** (ur-tuh-**kair**-ee-uh): itchy, red bumps on the skin

**Ventilator:** also known as a respirator, is a machine that pushes air into the lungs through a tube placed in the trachea (breathing tube)

**Void:** urinate

## SECTION C ABBREVIATIONS

### A

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| ABC        | Airway breathing, circulation           |
| Abd.       | Abdominal                               |
| ABg        | Arterial blood gas                      |
| ABO        | Blood group system                      |
| Abs.       | Absorbable                              |
| ACH        | After coming head                       |
| ACS        | Acute coronary syndrome                 |
| ACT        | Airway clearance technique              |
| AD         | Alzheimer's Disease                     |
| Add.       | Adduction                               |
| ADL        | Activities of daily living              |
| Adm.       | Admission/admitted                      |
| ADOM/N     | Assistant Director of Midwifery/Nursing |
| AE         | Air entry                               |
| AF         | Artificial feed                         |
| AFR        | Average flow rate                       |
| AFV        | Amniotic fluid volume                   |
| Ag         | Abdominal girth                         |
| AgA        | Appropriate gestational age             |
| Ak         | Above knee                              |
| AkI        | Acute kidney injury                     |
| Alb.       | Albumin                                 |
| Alk. Phos. | Alkaline Phosphatase                    |
| ALL        | Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia           |
| a.m.       | Morning before twelve                   |
| AMI        | Acute myocardial infarction             |
| AML        | Acute myeloid leukaemia                 |
| AMP        | Advanced Midwife Practitioner           |
| Anaes.     | Anaesthetic                             |
| ANP        | Advanced Nurse Practitioner             |
| Ant.       | Anterior                                |
| Anti-DVT   | Anti deep venous thrombosis             |
| Ant. Lat.  | Anterolateral                           |
| Ant. Tibs. | Anterior tibialis                       |
| AP         | Antero-posterior                        |
| APH        | Ante partum haemorrhage                 |
| Approx.    | Approximately                           |
| Appt.      | Appointment                             |
| ARF        | Acute renal failure                     |
| ARM        | Artificial rupture of membranes         |
| ASAP       | As soon as possible                     |
| Asc. Ao.   | Ascending aorta                         |
| ASD        | Atrial septal defect                    |
| ASL        | Alternate side-lying                    |
| Ass.       | Assistance                              |
| AST        | Aspartate amino transferase             |
| Ausc.      | Auscultation                            |
| Avl.       | Available                               |
| AVSD       | Atrioventricular septal defect          |

Ax. Assessment

**B**

Ba. Barium  
BC Blood cultures  
b.d./b.i.d. Twice daily  
BF Breast feed/fed/feeding  
Bg Blood glucose/blood gases  
BgL Blood glucose level  
BHx. Birth history  
BIBA Brought in by ambulance  
Bk Below knee  
BkA Below knee amputation  
BLS Basic life support  
BMA Bone marrow aspirate  
BMI Body mass index  
BMR Basal metabolic rate  
BNO Bowels not open  
BO Bowels opened  
BOS Base of support  
BP Blood pressure  
BPD Biparietal diameter  
BPM Beats per minute  
BSA Body surface area  
BSS Blood sugar series  
BTL Bilateral tubal ligation  
BT Blalock-Taussig Shunt  
BuN Blood urea nitrogen  
Bx. Biopsy

**C**

C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH Alcohol  
Ca. Carcinoma  
CA<sup>2+</sup> Calcium  
CAD Coronary artery disease  
CANC Combined Antenatal care  
CBD Common bile duct  
CBT Cognitive behaviour therapy  
C&C Collar and cuff  
cc Copied to  
CCF Congestive cardiac failure  
CCT Controlled cord traction  
CCu Coronary Care unit  
CD Catheter draining  
C.diff. Clostridium difficile  
CEA Carotid endarterectomy  
CEO Chief Executive Officer  
CF Cystic fibrosis  
CFM Cerebral function monitoring  
CgA Contact guard assistance  
CHD Coronary heart disease  
Chemo Chemotherapy

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| CHO             | Carbohydrate                        |
| Chol.           | Cholesterol                         |
| Ck              | Creatine kinase                     |
| CL              | Chloride                            |
| CLD             | Chronic lung disease                |
| Cm              | Centimetre                          |
| CMCJ            | Carpal metacarpal joint             |
| CML             | Chronic myeloid leukaemia           |
| CMM 1, 2, 3     | Clinical Midwife Manager 1, 2, 3    |
| CMSp.           | Clinical Midwife Specialist         |
| CMV             | Cytomegalovirus                     |
| CN              | Cranial nerves                      |
| CNM 1, 2, 3     | Clinical Nurse Manager 1, 2, 3      |
| CNS             | Central nervous system              |
| CNSp.           | Clinical Nurse Specialist           |
| CO <sub>2</sub> | Carbon dioxide                      |
| CO              | Complaining of                      |
| Coag. Screen    | Coagulation screen                  |
| COD             | Change of dressing                  |
| COPD            | Chronic obstructive lung disease    |
| Conc.           | Concentration                       |
| Cons.           | Consultant                          |
| CP              | Cerebral Palsy                      |
| CPC             | Clinical Placement Coordinator      |
| CPD             | Cephalic pelvic disproportion       |
| CPk             | Creatine phosphokinase              |
| CPM             | Continuous passive movement         |
| CPR             | Cardiopulmonary resuscitation       |
| CRF             | Chronic renal failure               |
| C&S             | Culture and Sensitivity             |
| CS              | Caesarean section                   |
| CSF             | Cerebrospinal fluid                 |
| CSpine          | Cervical spine                      |
| CSu             | Catheter specimen of urine          |
| CT              | Computerised tomography             |
| CTS             | Carpal tunnel syndrome              |
| CV              | Cardiovascular                      |
| CVA             | Cerebrovascular accident            |
| CVAD            | Central venous access device        |
| CVC             | Central venous catheter             |
| CVL             | Central venous line                 |
| CVP             | Central venous pressure             |
| CVS             | Cardiovascular system               |
| CWMS            | Colour, warmth, movement, sensation |
| CWO             | Community Welfare Officer           |
| Cx.             | Cervix                              |
| CxR             | Chest x-ray                         |
| <b>D</b>        |                                     |
| DBE             | Deep breathing exercises            |
| D&C             | Dilatation and curettage            |
| Dc.             | Discharge                           |

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| DDx.      | Differential diagnosis        |
| Dept.     | Department                    |
| Desc. Ao. | Descending aorta              |
| DHx.      | Diet history                  |
| Disp.     | Displacement                  |
| Dka.      | Diabetic ketoacidosis         |
| DM        | Diabetes mellitus             |
| DNA       | Did not attend                |
| DOA       | Dead on arrival               |
| DOB       | Date of birth                 |
| DOE       | Dyspnoea on exertion          |
| DOM/N     | Director of Midwifery/Nursing |
| DPM       | Drops per minute              |
| Dr.       | Doctor                        |
| DRVs      | Dietary reference values      |
| DSH       | Deliberate self harm          |
| DTs       | Delirium tremens              |
| D&V       | Diarrhoea & vomiting          |
| DVT       | Deep vein thrombosis          |
| DW        | Discussed with                |
| Dx/       | Diagnosis                     |

## **E**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| EA      | Elective admission                           |
| EAC     | External auditory canal                      |
| EBL     | Estimated blood loss                         |
| EBM     | Expressed breast milk                        |
| ECg     | Electrocardiogram                            |
| ECHO    | Echocardiogram                               |
| E. Coli | Escherichia coli                             |
| ECT     | Electroconvulsive therapy                    |
| ECV     | External cephalic version                    |
| ED      | Emergency Department                         |
| EDD     | Estimated date of delivery                   |
| EEg     | Electroencephalogram                         |
| EER     | Estimated energy requirements                |
| EFM     | Electronic fetal monitoring                  |
| EFW     | Estimated fetal weight                       |
| EgA     | Estimated gestational age                    |
| EMg     | Electromyography                             |
| EMS     | Elderly mobility scale                       |
| EMu     | Early morning urine                          |
| EN      | Enteral nutrition                            |
| Enc.    | Enclosed                                     |
| ENT     | Ear nose and throat                          |
| EOM     | External ocular movements                    |
| EOR     | End of range                                 |
| EPS     | Electrophysiology studies                    |
| ERot.   | External rotation                            |
| ERPC    | Evacuation of retained product of conception |
| ESkD    | End stage kidney disease                     |
| ESR     | Erythrocyte sedimentation rate               |

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| EST       | Exercise stress test          |
| Est. Req. | Estimated requirements        |
| ET        | Endotracheal                  |
| Etc.      | Etcetera                      |
| ETCO2     | End tidal CO2                 |
| EuA       | Examination under anaesthetic |
| EV        | Eversion                      |
| Ex Prem.  | Ex premature                  |
| Exs.      | Exercises                     |
| Ext.      | Extension                     |

## **F**

|            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| FA         | Fetal anomaly                     |
| FAS        | Fetal assessment scan             |
| FB         | Foreign body                      |
| FBC        | Full blood count                  |
| FBM        | Fetal breathing movement          |
| FBS        | Fasting blood sugar               |
| FES        | Functional electrical stimulation |
| FET        | Forced expiratory technique       |
| FH         | Fetal heart                       |
| FHH        | Fetal heart heard                 |
| FHHR       | Fetal heart heard and regular     |
| FHNH       | Fetal heart not heard             |
| FHR        | Fetal heart rate                  |
| FHx.       | Family history                    |
| FiO2       | Fractioned inspired oxygen        |
| FLP        | Fasting lipid profile             |
| FM         | Fetal movement                    |
| FMF        | Fetal movement felt               |
| FNA        | Fine needle aspiration            |
| FNAB       | Fine needle aspirate biopsy       |
| FOB        | Faecal occult blood               |
| Fr. French | (catheter measurement)            |
| FROM       | Full range of movement/motion     |
| FS         | Frozen section                    |
| FSE        | Fetal scalp electrode             |
| FT         | Full term                         |
| FTA        | Failure to advance                |
| FTND       | Full term normal delivery         |
| FTT        | Failure to thrive                 |
| Fu         | Follow up                         |
| FVC        | Forced vital capacity             |
| FWB        | Full weight bearing               |

## **G**

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| g        | Gram                       |
| gA       | General anaesthetic        |
| gAMMA gT | Gamma glutamyl transferase |
| gBS      | Group B streptococcus      |
| gCS      | Glasgow coma scale         |
| gCT      | Glucose challenge test     |

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| gDM     | Gestational diabetes mellitus |
| gest.   | Gestation                     |
| gF      | Gluten free                   |
| gFR     | Glomerular filtration rate    |
| g&H     | Group and hold                |
| gI      | Gastro-intestinal             |
| gIT     | Gastro-intestinal tract       |
| gluts.  | Gluteal                       |
| gO      | gastro-oesophageal            |
| gP      | General Practitioner          |
| gravida | total number of pregnancies   |
| gT      | Gastrostomy tube              |
| gTT     | Glucose tolerance test        |
| GU      | Genito-urinary                |
| guM     | Genito-urinary medicine       |
| guR     | Genito-ureteric reflux        |
| gxM     | Group and cross match         |

## **H**

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| H          | Hour                         |
| Haem.      | Haematology                  |
| Hams.      | Hamstrings                   |
| Hb         | Haemoglobin                  |
| HBB        | Hand behind back             |
| HBV        | Hepatitis B virus            |
| HC         | Head circumference           |
| HCA        | Home care assistant          |
| HCg        | Human chorionic gonadotropin |
| HcRN       | Healthcare record number     |
| Hct.       | Haematocrit                  |
| HCV        | Hepatitis C virus            |
| HD         | Haemodialysis                |
| HDu        | High Dependency unit         |
| Hep. A/B/C | Hepatitis A/B/C              |
| HH         | Home help                    |
| HI         | Head injury                  |
| HIPE       | Hospital In Patient Enquiry  |
| HIV        | Human immunodeficiency virus |
| HL         | Hodgkin's lymphoma           |
| HM         | Hand movements               |
| HR         | Heart rate                   |
| HRT        | Hormone replacement therapy  |
| HSE        | Health Service Executive     |
| Ht.        | Height                       |
| HTN        | Hypertension                 |
| HV         | Home visit                   |
| HVS        | High vaginal swab            |
| Hx.        | History                      |
| HxPC       | History of present complaint |

## **I**

|     |                    |
|-----|--------------------|
| IAS | Interatrial septum |
|-----|--------------------|

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| IBW       | Ideal body weight                           |
| ICP       | Intracranial pressure                       |
| ICu       | Intensive Care unit                         |
| I&D       | Incision & drainage                         |
| ID        | Infectious disease                          |
| I:E Ratio | Inspiratory to expiratory ratio             |
| IHD       | Ischemic heart disease                      |
| IHF       | Irish Heart Foundation                      |
| IM        | Intramuscular                               |
| IMB       | Intermenstrual bleeding                     |
| Imp.      | Impression                                  |
| Incl.     | Including/included                          |
| Ind.      | Independent                                 |
| Inf.      | Inferior                                    |
| Info.     | Information                                 |
| iNO       | Inhaled nitric oxide                        |
| In Pt.    | In Patient                                  |
| INR       | International normalised ratio              |
| Int. Rot. | Internal rotation                           |
| I&O       | Intake and output                           |
| IOL       | Induction of labour                         |
| IP        | Intraperitoneal                             |
| IPD       | Intermittent peritoneal dialysis            |
| ISC       | Intermittent self catheterisation           |
| ISQ       | In Status Quo                               |
| IT        | Inspiratory time                            |
| ITT       | Insulin tolerance test                      |
| ITu       | Intensive Therapy unit                      |
| Iu        | International unit                          |
| IcD       | Intrauterine contraceptive device           |
| IuD       | Intrauterine death                          |
| IugR      | Intrauterine growth retardation/restriction |
| IV        | Intravenous                                 |
| IVC       | Inferior vena cava                          |
| IVDu      | Intravenous drug user                       |
| IVF       | In vitro Fertilisation                      |
| IVH       | Intraventricular haemorrhage                |
| IVI       | Intravenous infusion                        |
| IVP       | Intravenous pyelogram                       |
| IVS       | Interventricular septum                     |
| IVT       | Intravenous therapy                         |
| IVu       | Intravenous urogram                         |
| IVuS      | Intravascular ultrasound                    |
| IWA       | Irish Wheelchair Association                |
| Ix.       | Investigation                               |
| <b>J</b>  |   |
| JIA       | Juvenile idiopathic arthritis               |
| JVP       | Jugular venous pressure                     |
| <b>K</b>  |   |
| k+        | Potassium                                   |



|      |                              |
|------|------------------------------|
| kAFO | knee ankle foot orthosis     |
| kcal | kilocalorie                  |
| kCL  | Potassium chloride           |
| kg.  | kilogram                     |
| kJ   | kilo joules                  |
| kuB  | kidneys, ureters and bladder |
| kVO  | keep vein open               |

## **L**

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| L         | Litre                             |
| LA        | Local anaesthetic                 |
| Lab.      | Laboratory                        |
| Lat.      | Lateral                           |
| Lat. Rot. | Lateral rotation                  |
| LBP       | Low back pain                     |
| lbs.      | Pounds weight                     |
| LDH       | Lactate dehydrogenase             |
| LDL       | Low density lipoprotein           |
| LFTs      | Liver function tests              |
| LgA       | Large for gestational age         |
| LIF       | Left iliac fossa                  |
| LIH       | Left inguinal hernia              |
| LL        | Lower limb                        |
| LLQ       | Left lower quadrant               |
| LMP       | Last menstrual period             |
| LOA       | Left occipito-anterior            |
| LOC       | Loss of consciousness             |
| LOP       | Left occipito-posterior           |
| LOR       | Loss of resistance                |
| LP        | Lumbar puncture                   |
| LRot.     | Left rotation                     |
| LRTI      | Lower respiratory tract infection |
| LSA       | Left sacro-anterior               |
| LSCS      | Lower segment caesarean section   |
| LSF       | Left side flexion                 |
| LSL       | Left sacro-lateral                |
| LSpine    | Lumbar spine                      |
| LTC       | Long term care                    |
| LTM       | Long term memory                  |
| LTS       | Lateral tarsal strip              |
| LuQ       | Left upper quadrant               |
| LuS       | Lower uterine segment             |
| LVF       | Left ventricular failure          |
| LVS       | Low vaginal swab                  |
| Ly.       | Lying                             |

## **M**

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| m <sup>2</sup> Square | Metres body surface    |
| Mane                  | Morning                |
| MAS                   | Motor assessment scale |
| Max.                  | Maximum                |
| MDA                   | Misuse of Drugs Act    |

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| MDT     | Multidisciplinary team                      |
| MDu     | Medical Day unit                            |
| Med.    | Medial                                      |
| Meds.   | Medication                                  |
| Mets.   | Metastases                                  |
| mEq.    | Milli-equivalent                            |
| MFR     | Maximum flow rate                           |
| mg      | Milligram                                   |
| Mg2+    | Magnesium                                   |
| MI      | Myocardial infarction                       |
| Micro.  | Microbiology                                |
| Min.    | Minimum                                     |
| Mins.   | Minute                                      |
| mL      | Millilitre                                  |
| mm      | Millimetre                                  |
| mmHg    | Millimetres of mercury                      |
| mmol    | Millimole                                   |
| MMR     | Measles, mumps, rubella                     |
| MND     | Motor neuron disease                        |
| Mob.    | Mobility/mobilising                         |
| Mod.    | Moderate                                    |
| MRI     | Magnetic resonance imaging                  |
| MROP    | Manual removal of placenta                  |
| MS      | Multiple sclerosis                          |
| Msg.    | Message                                     |
| MRSA    | Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus |
| MSu     | Midstream specimen of urine                 |
| MSW     | Medical Social Worker                       |
| MuA     | Manipulation under anaesthetic              |
| Multip. | Multiparous                                 |
| MV      | Mitral valve                                |
| MWM     | Mobilisation with movement                  |

## **N**

|        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| N2     | Nitrogen                        |
| N2O    | Nitrous oxide                   |
| NA     | Not applicable                  |
| Na+    | Sodium                          |
| NaCL   | Sodium chloride                 |
| NAD    | No abnormality detected         |
| NAI    | Non accidental injury           |
| NB     | Note bene (important)           |
| NBFD   | Neville Barnes forceps delivery |
| NCA    | Nurse controlled analgesia      |
| NCHD   | Non consultant hospital doctor  |
| ND     | Naso duodenal                   |
| Neb.   | Nebuliser                       |
| NEC    | Necrotising enterocolitis       |
| Neg.   | Negative                        |
| Neuro. | Neurological                    |
| NFA    | No fixed abode                  |
| NFR    | Not for resuscitation           |

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| Ng      | Naso-gastric                 |
| NH      | Nursing Home                 |
| NHL     | Non Hodgkin's lymphoma       |
| NIBP    | Non invasive blood pressure  |
| NICu    | Neonatal Intensive Care unit |
| NIEL    | Not in established labour    |
| NIV     | Non invasive ventilation     |
| NJ      | Naso-jejunal                 |
| NkA     | No known allergies           |
| NkDA    | No known drug allergies      |
| NND     | Neonatal death               |
| No.     | Number                       |
| Nocte   | Night                        |
| NOF     | Neck of femur                |
| NOK     | Next of kin                  |
| NP      | New patient                  |
| NPL     | No perception of light       |
| NPO     | Nil per oral                 |
| NPu     | Not passed urine             |
| NTD     | Neural tube defect           |
| NTT     | Nasotracheal tube            |
| Nullip. | Nulliparous                  |
| N&V     | Nausea and vomiting          |
| NWB     | Non weight bearing           |

## **O**

|             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| O2          | Oxygen                         |
| OA          | Osteoarthritis                 |
| OAusc.      | On auscultation                |
| Obj.        | Objective                      |
| Obs.        | Observations                   |
| Occ.        | Occasional                     |
| Occ. Health | Occupational Health            |
| OCP         | Oral contraceptive pill        |
| OD          | Overdose                       |
| OE          | On examination                 |
| OFC         | Occipito-frontal circumference |
| OgTT        | Oral glucose tolerance test    |
| Onc.        | Oncology                       |
| O&P         | Ova and parasites              |
| OP          | Outpatient                     |
| OPD         | Outpatient Department          |
| Ortho.      | Orthopaedics                   |
| OT          | Occupational Therapy/Therapist |

## **P**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Paeds. | Paediatrics                                   |
| Para   | Parity -total number of delivered pregnancies |
| PC     | Presenting complaint                          |
| PCA    | Patient controlled analgesia                  |
| PD     | Peritoneal dialysis                           |
| PE     | Pulmonary embolus/embolism                    |

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| PFA      | Plain film of abdomen            |
| PFO      | Patent foramen ovale             |
| PFR      | Pelvic floor repair              |
| PFTs     | Pulmonary function tests         |
| PgE      | Prostaglandin E                  |
| PHN      | Public Health Nurse              |
| PHT      | Pulmonary hypertension           |
| Physio.  | Physiotherapist/Physiotherapy    |
| PICu     | Paediatric Intensive Care unit   |
| PID      | Pelvic inflammatory disease      |
| Pku      | Phenylketonuria                  |
| PL       | Perception of light              |
| PLTS     | Platelets                        |
| p.m.     | Afternoon                        |
| PMB      | Post menopausal bleeding         |
| PMHx.    | Past medical history             |
| PMs.     | Passive movements                |
| P&N      | Pins and needles                 |
| PN       | Parenteral nutrition             |
| PND      | Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnoea    |
| PO       | Per oral                         |
| PO4      | Phosphate                        |
| POD      | Progression of disease           |
| PON&V    | Post operative nausea & vomiting |
| POP      | Plaster of Paris                 |
| Pos.     | Positive                         |
| Post.    | Posterior                        |
| Post Op. | Post operation                   |
| PPH      | Post-partum haemorrhage          |
| PR       | Per rectum                       |
| Prem.    | Premature                        |
| Premed.  | Premedication                    |
| Pre Op   | Pre operation                    |
| p.r.n.   | As required                      |
| Prox.    | Proximal                         |
| PSW      | Psychiatric Social Worker        |
| PT       | Prothrombin time                 |
| PTSD     | Post traumatic stress disorder   |
| Pu       | Passed urine                     |
| PuD      | Peptic ulcer disease             |
| Pul.V    | Pulmonary veins                  |
| PuO      | Pyrexia of unknown origin        |
| PV       | Per vagina                       |
| PVD      | Peripheral vascular disease      |
| PWB      | Partial weight bearing           |

## Q

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| q.d.s./q.i.d. | Four times daily |
| Quads.        | Quadriceps       |

**R**

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| RBC     | Red blood cells              |
| RBg     | Random blood glucose         |
| RC      | Roman Catholic               |
| RCC     | Red cell concentrate         |
| RCN     | Registered Children's Nurse  |
| Re.     | Regarding                    |
| Rec'd   | Received                     |
| Recom.  | Recommended                  |
| Re.-ed. | Re-educate                   |
| Reg.    | Registrar                    |
| Rehab.  | Rehabilitation               |
| REM     | Rapid eye movement           |
| Reps.   | Repetition                   |
| Resp.   | Respiration                  |
| Rev.    | Revision                     |
| RgN     | Registered General Nurse     |
| Rh.     | Rhesus                       |
| RhA.    | Rheumatoid arthritis         |
| RHS     | Right height sensation       |
| RIF     | Right iliac fossa            |
| RIP     | Rest in peace/Deceased       |
| RLQ     | Right lower quadrant         |
| RM      | Registered Midwife           |
| RNI     | Reference nutrient intake    |
| RNP     | Registered Nurse Prescriber  |
| RO      | Removal of                   |
| ROM     | Range of movement/motion     |
| ROS     | Removal of sutures           |
| Rot.    | Rotation                     |
| RPN     | Registered Psychiatric Nurse |
| RR      | Respiratory/respiration rate |
| RSF     | Right side flexion           |
| RSI     | Repetitive strain injury     |
| RSLy.   | Right side lying             |
| RT      | Radiotherapy                 |
| RTA     | Road traffic accident        |
| RTI     | Respiratory tract infection  |
| RTW     | Returned to ward             |
| RuQ     | Right upper quadrant         |
| Rv.     | Review                       |
| Rx.     | Treatment                    |

**S**

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| s                | Second                      |
| SAD              | Seasonal affective disorder |
| SaO <sub>2</sub> | Oxygen saturation           |
| SB               | Seen by                     |
| SBA              | Stand-by assistance         |
| SBBE             | Small bowel barium enema    |
| SBR              | Serum bilirubin rate        |
| SC               | Subcutaneous                |

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| SCBu     | Special Care Baby unit            |
| SFD      | Small for dates                   |
| SgA      | Small for gestational age         |
| SHO      | Senior House Officer              |
| SHx.     | Social history                    |
| SIC      | Self-intermittent catheterisation |
| SIDS     | Sudden infant death syndrome      |
| SIJ      | Sacroiliac joint                  |
| Sitt.    | Sitting                           |
| SL       | Sublingually                      |
| SLE      | Systemic lupus erythematosus      |
| SLR      | Straight leg raise                |
| SM       | Staff Midwife                     |
| SN       | Staff Nurse                       |
| Snr.     | Senior                            |
| SOB      | Shortness of breath               |
| SOBAR    | Shortness of breath at rest       |
| SOBOE    | Shortness of breath on exertion   |
| Soc. Hx. | Social history                    |
| SOP      | Standard operating procedure      |
| S&P      | Syringing and probing             |
| SP       | Supra pubic                       |
| SpR      | Specialist Registrar              |
| SROM     | Spontaneous rupture of membranes  |
| SSM      | Senior Staff Midwife              |
| SSN      | Senior Staff Nurse                |
| STAT     | At once/Immediately               |
| Stats.   | Statistics                        |
| STI      | Sexually transmitted infection    |
| STM      | Short term memory                 |
| SVD      | Spontaneous vaginal delivery      |
| SW       | Social Worker                     |

## **T**

|               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| TAH           | Total abdominal hysterectomy        |
| TB            | Tuberculosis                        |
| TBI           | Traumatic brain injury              |
| TBg           | True blood glucose                  |
| TBL           | Total blood loss                    |
| TCI           | To come in                          |
| T1DM          | Type 1 diabetes mellitus            |
| T2DM          | Type 2 diabetes mellitus            |
| t.d.s./t.i.d. | Three times daily                   |
| TEdS          | Thrombo-embolic deterrent stockings |
| TF            | Transfer                            |
| TFTs          | Thyroid Function Tests              |
| Tg.           | Triglycerides                       |
| THR           | Total Hip Replacement               |
| TkR           | Total knee Replacement              |
| TL            | Tubal ligation                      |
| TOP           | Termination of pregnancy            |
| TPN           | Total parenteral nutrition          |

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| TRACHY | Tracheostomy                  |
| Trigs  | Triglycerides                 |
| T&A    | Tonsillectomy & Adenoidectomy |
| TSpine | Thoracic spine                |
| TVS    | Transvaginal scan             |

## U

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| uA     | Urinalysis                        |
| uAC    | Umbilical arterial catheter       |
| uBW    | Usual body weight                 |
| uC     | Urinary catheter                  |
| u&E    | Urea and electrolytes             |
| uL     | Upper limb                        |
| uO     | Urinary output                    |
| uRTI   | Upper respiratory tract infection |
| uS/uSS | Ultrasound/ultrasound scan        |
| uST    | Ultrasound therapy                |
| uTI    | Urinary tract infection           |
| uVC    | Umbilical venous catheter         |
| uWSD   | Underwater seal drain             |

## V

|      |                                   |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| Veg. | Vegetables                        |
| Vol. | Volume                            |
| VQ   | Ventilation perfusion quotient    |
| VR   | Vision right                      |
| VRE  | Vancomycin resistant enterococcus |
| VSD  | Ventricular septal defect         |
| VVF  | Vesico vaginal fistula            |
| VVs  | Varicose Veins                    |
| Vx.  | Vertex                            |

## W

|         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| WB      | Weight bear/bearing       |
| WBC     | Whole blood count         |
| WC      | Water Closet/Toilet       |
| WCC     | White cell count          |
| W.chair | Wheelchair                |
| W.end   | Weekend                   |
| WFD     | Word Finding Difficulties |
| WFL     | Within Functional Limits  |
| WL      | Waiting List              |
| WNL     | Within Normal Limits      |
| WR      | Ward round                |
| Wt.     | Weight                    |
| WZF     | Wheeled Zimmer Frame      |

## X

|         |            |
|---------|------------|
| x-match | Crossmatch |
|---------|------------|

## Y

|    |          |
|----|----------|
| YO | Year old |
|----|----------|

## **Z**

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| ZF       | Zimmer frame        |
| Zn       | Zinc                |
| ZN Stain | Ziehl Neelsen stain |

## **CONVERSIONS**

**cc and ml:** approximately the same measurement

5 cc = 1 teaspoon

15 cc = 1 tablespoon (or 1/2 fluid ounce)

**Kilogram (kg):** 2.2 pounds in a kilogram.

A 5 kg baby weighs 11 pounds (2.2 x 5)

**Centimetre (cm):** 2.5 centimetres in an inch.

A 45 cm baby measures 18 inches (45 cm divided by 2.5 = 18 inches)

**Centigrade (C) temperature vs. Fahrenheit (F):**

37 degrees C = 98.6 degrees F.

Multiply the Centigrade (C) degrees by 1.8 and add 32 to convert to Fahrenheit (F).

If your temperature is 38.2 C, it is 100.8 F ( $38.2C \times 1.8 + 32 = 100.8F$ ).

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