



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

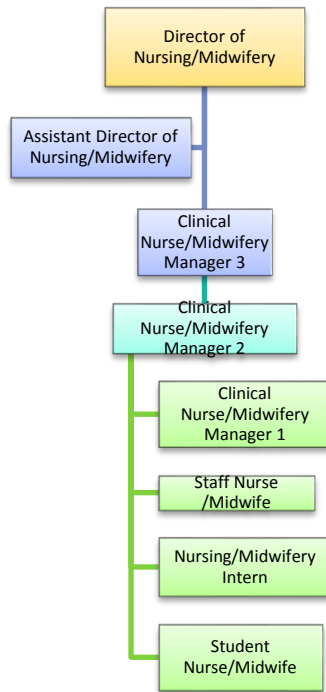
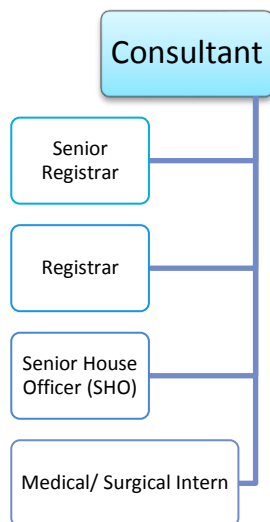


Figure 2. Typical structure of a Medical team in a Hospital



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

C₂H₅OH Alcohol
Ca. Carcinoma
CA²⁺ 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 ₂	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
D	
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
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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
J	
JIA	Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
JVP	Jugular venous pressure
K	
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 ² 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 ₂	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
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Y

YO	Year old
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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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