

Accepted Abbreviations List

PURPOSE

The purpose of the abbreviation list is to define recommended abbreviations that may be used in the documentation of patient care within the CCEMS system.

Abbreviations are often used to facilitate and shorten written narratives. This is an acceptable practice as long as it is universally recognized and understood abbreviations are used. The following are medical abbreviations that are acceptable for use by EMS personnel in the CCEMSA region.

In situations where an abbreviation is not listed and the provider intends to use the abbreviation more than once in the patient care report (PCR) the provider may spell out the complete term to be abbreviated with the abbreviation immediately following the term enclosed in brackets (i.e., “()”).

- A. Unlisted abbreviations that are acceptable to use are the following:
- 1) Hospitals, clinics or other medical facilities: When abbreviating facilities use the first letter of each word of the proper title and only abbreviate the facility if it is already written in entirety on the PCR as the response location or destination.
 - 2) Fire: When abbreviating a fire department “FD” must follow any letters used to abbreviate the city or municipality fire department.
 - 3) Police: When abbreviating a police department or Police Officer response “PD” must follow any letters used to abbreviate the city or municipality police department.
 - 4) Sheriff: When abbreviating a sheriff department or Sheriff Officer “SO” must follow any letters used to abbreviate the city or municipality sheriff department.
- B. Abbreviations acceptable to use on PCRs in the CCEMSA systems are listed as follows (see table below).

Accepted Acceptable Abbreviations

-	Negative, without, decrease
&	And
?	Possible, questionable
^ or Δ	Change
+	Positive, with, increase
<	Less than
=	Equal
>	Greater than
♀, F	Female
♂, M	Male
11-44	Fatality or Deceased
2nd, 3rd, etc.	Used when describing order
5150	Danger to self, others, gravely disable with mental illness
A/OX1,2,3,4	Alert, and (1) Oriented to Person, (2) Place, (3) Time, and (4) Event.
Abd	Abdomen
Abr	Abrasion
ACE	Angiotension converting enzyme
AED	Automated External Defibrillator
A-fib	Atrial Fibrillation
A-flutter	Atrial Flutter
AICD	Automatic Internal Cardiac Defibrillator

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ALOC	Altered level of consciousness
ALS	Advanced life support
AM	Morning
AMI	Acute myocardial infarction
AOS	Arrived On Scene
AMS	Altered mental status
A-P	Anteroposterior (front to back)
APAP	Acetaminophen
APGAR	Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, Respiration
ASA	Acetylsalicylic acid
ASHD	Arteriosclerotic heart disease
AU	Both Ears
AV	Atrioventricular
BG	Blood glucose
BID	Twice a day
BLS	Basic life support
BM	Bowel movement
BP	Blood pressure
BVM	Bag-valve-mask
C/C	Chief complaint
C/o	Complains of
C1, C2	First, Second, etc., cervical vertebra
CA	Cancer or Carcinoma
Ca ⁺⁺	Calcium
CABG	Coronary artery bypass graft
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CALF	CalFire*
Cap	Capsule
CBC	Complete blood count
cc	Cubic centimeter
CCU	Coronary care unit
chemo	Chemotherapy
CHF	Congestive heart failure
CHP	California Highway Patrol*
cm	Centimeter
CNS	Central nervous system
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CP	Chest Pain
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CSF	Cerebral spinal fluid
CSMT	Circulation, sensation, movement, temperature
C-spine	Cervical precautions applied
CT or CAT	Computed tomography (Scan)
CVA	Cerebrovascular accident
D/C	Discontinue
DNR	Do not resuscitate
DOB	Date of birth
DOE	Dyspnea on exertion
DT	Delirium tremens

DVT	Deep vein thrombosis
Dx	Diagnosis
ECG or EKG	Electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency Department
EDC	Expected date of confinement
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EMT-P	Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic
ENT	Ears, nose, throat
ET or ETT	Endotracheal tube
ETCO ₂	End-Tidal Carbon Dioxide (level)
ETOH	Ethyl alcohol
FACTS	Mnemonic for: Focus, Activity, Color, Time (onset and duration), and Supplemental history.
Fe	Iron
FHR	Fetal heart rate
FHx	Family history
FR	First responder or French sizing
FTB	Full-Thickness Burn
Fx	Fracture
gm	Gram
g	Gauge
GB	Gallbladder
GCS	Glasgow coma score
GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disease
GI	Gastrointestinal
GPA	Gravida, Para, Abortus (i.e., G2, P1, A1)
GSW	Gunshot wound
gtt(s)	Drop(s)
GYN	Gynecology
H ₂ O	Water
HA	Headache
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HPI	History of present illness
HSV-1, HSV-2	Herpes simplex virus type 1 or 2.
HTN	Hypertension
Hx	History
I&O	Intake & output
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICU	Intensive care unit
IDDM	Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IM	Intramuscular
IO	Intraosseous
IV	Intravenous
IVDU	Intravenous drug use
JVD	Jugular vein distention
K+	Potassium
KED	Kendrick Extrication Device
Kg	Kilogram (1000 grams)
L1, L2	First, second, etc., lumbar vertebra
LA	Left atrium

Lat	Lateral
LBBB	Left bundle branch block
LLE	Left lower extremity
LLQ	Left lower quadrant
LNMP	Last normal menstrual period
LOC	Loss of consciousness
LP	Lumbar puncture
LR	Lactated ringers
Lt	Left
LUE	Left upper extremity
LUQ	Left upper quadrant
LV	Left ventricle
LVH	Left ventricular hypertrophy
LVN	Licensed vocational nurse
MAE	Moves all extremities
MCC	Motor cycle collision
mcg	Micrograms
MD	Medical Doctor
MDMA	3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine commonly known as Ecstasy
Meds or Med	Medications
meth	Methamphetamine
mg	Milligram (1/1000 gram)
MI	Myocardial infarction
ml	Milliliter (1/1000 liter)
mm	Millimeter (1/1000 meter)
MOI	Mechanism of injury
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MS	Morphine sulfate
MVC	Motor vehicle collision
N/V/D	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
NA	Nerve Agent (Tabun, Sarin, Soman, GF, VX)
Na+	Sodium
NC	Nasal cannula
NIDDM	Non-insulin dependent diabetes
NKA	No known allergies
NKDA	No known drug allergies
NP or FNP	Nurse practitioner / family nurse practitioner
NPA	Nasal pharyngeal airway
NPO	Nothing by mouth
NRB	Non-rebreather
NRS	Numeric Rating Scale (1-10) (1= Low, 10=High)
NS	Normal saline
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
NSR	Normal sinus rhythm
NTG	Nitroglycerin
O.D.	Right eye
O.S.	Left eye
O.U.	Both eyes
O ₂	Oxygen
OA	Osteoarthritis
OD	Overdose
OOS	Out of Service

OPA	Oral pharyngeal airway
OPQRST	Mnemonic for: Onset, Provoke, Quality, Radiates, Severity, and Time.
P	Pulse
PA	Physician assistant
PAC	Premature atrial contraction
PASTE	Mnemonic for: Progression, Associated chest pain, Sputum, Time, Exertion.
PASTMED	Mnemonic for: Provocation, Associated chest pain, Sputum (color and amount), Time, Medications, Exertion, and Diagnosis.
PE	Physical examination or pulmonary embolism
PEA	Pulseless electrical activity
PERRL	Pupils equal, round, and reactive to light
PFSH	Mnemonic for: Past, Family and Social History
PID	Pelvic inflammatory disease
PM	Afternoon
PMD	Primary medical doctor
PMH	Past medical history
PN	Pain
PND	Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
PNS	Peripheral nervous system
POP	Pain on palpation
PRN	As needed
Pt	Patient
PTA	Prior to arrival
PTB	Partial-Thickness Burn
PVC	Premature ventricular contraction
Q	Every
QH	Each hour
QID	Four times a day
Resp.	Respirations
RR	Respiratory Rate
R/O	Rule out
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis or Right Atrium
RBBB	Right bundle branch block
RBC	Red blood cell
RLE	Right lower extremity
RLQ	Right lower quadrant
RMCT	Refusal of medical care and/or transport
RN	Registered nurse
ROM	Range of motion
ROS	Review of symptoms
RSV	Respiratory syncytial virus
Rt	Right
RUE	Right upper extremity
RUQ	Right upper quadrant
RV	Right ventricle
Rx	Prescription
S/S	Signs and symptoms
SA	Sinoatrial node
SAMPLE	Mnemonic for: Signs and symptoms, Allergies, Medications, Past history, Last oral intake, Events leading up to.

Sc or Sq	Subcutaneous
SL	Sublingual
SLUDGEM	Mnemonic for: Salivation, Lacrimation, Urination, Defecation, Gastrointestinal distress, Emesis and Miosis.
SNF	Skilled nursing facility
SOAP	Mnemonic for: Subjective, Objective, Assessment, and Plan.
SOB	Shortness of breath
SpO ₂	Oxygen Saturation of peripheral Hgb
START	Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment
Stat	Immediately
STB	Superficial-Thickness Burn
STD	Sexually transmitted disease
STEMI	S-T elevation myocardial infarction
Strep	Streptococci (bacteria)
Sx	Symptoms
T or Temp.	Temperature
T1, T2	First, second, etc., thoracic vertebra
TA	Traffic Accident
Tab	Tablet
TB	Tuberculosis
TC	Traffic Collision
TIA	Transient ischemic attack
TID	Three times a day
TKO	To keep open
Trans	Transport
TTJl	Transtracheal jet insufflation
Tx	Treatment
Unk	Unknown
URI	Upper respiratory infection
UTL	Unable to locate
V/S	Vital signs
VF	Ventricular fibrillation
VT or V-Tach	Ventricular tachycardia
W/ or C _{Bar}	With, C _{Bar} is a "C" with a line over.
W/O or S _{Bar}	Without, S _{Bar} is a "S" with a line over.
WBC	White blood cell
WMD	Weapon of mass destruction
WNL	Within normal limits
X	Times (used as multiplication sign)
Y/O	Year(s) old

* The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and CalFire (CALF) have specific abbreviations because their response areas are in the entire CCEMSA region; hence they are not covered in section A of the listed abbreviations.