Abbreviations and symbols are commonly used as a form of shorthand in medical terminology. These can be used by many professions such as medical receptions & administration staff, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, insurance companies and even barristers and solicitors.

You cannot be expected to remember all abbreviations; however, over time you will become familiar with them. It is a good idea to practise them for fluency.

**Below are the most used abbreviations.**

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| **ac** | Before food/meals | **AMI** | Acute myocardial infarction |
| **bd** | Twice daily | **BS** | Blood sugar |
| **Ca** | Cancer | **CCU** | Coronary care unit |
| **COAD** | Chronic obstructive airways disease | **CPR** | Cardiopulmonary resuscitation |
| **CXR** | Chest x-ray | **c/w** | Consistent with |
| **DOA** | Dead on arrival | **DOB** | Date of birth |
| **ECG** | Electrocardiogram/graph | **ED** | Emergency department |
| **EDD** | Estimated date of delivery | **ENT** | Ear nose & throat |
| **FBC** | Full blood count | **Fx** | Fracture/family history |
| **GIT** | Gastrointestinal tract | **HNPU** | Has not passed urine |
| **Hx** | History | **ICU** | Intensive care unit |
| **IMI** | Intramuscular (injection) | **IVI** | Intravenous (injection) |
| **LE** | Left ear/eye | **LHS** | Left Hand Side |
| **LLQ** | left Lower quadrant | **LUQ** | Left upper quadrant |
| **NAD** | No abnormalities detected | **NBM** | Nil by mouth |
| **NG** | nasogastric | **NOF** | Neck of femur |
| **OD (od)** | Overdose (od) every day | **Pac** | Premature atrial contractions |
| **OA** | Osteoarthritis | **po** | Per oral |
| **PR** | Per rectum | **4WWF** | 4WWF |
| **prn** | As required/when necessary | **PV** | Per vaginal |
| **RE** | Right ear/eye | **RHS** | Right Hand Side |
| **RLQ** | Right lower quadrant | **RUQ** | Right upper quadrant |
| **Rx** | treatment | **sc** | subcutaneous |
| **SOB** | Shortness of breath | **T** | T inversion |
| **THR** | Total hip replacement | **Ua** | urinalysis |
| **URTI** | Upper respiratory tract infection | **UTI** | Urinary tract infection |
| **VEB** | Ventricular ectopic beat | **WCC** | White cell count |
| **WNL** | Within normal limits | **#** | fracture |
| **↓** | decrease | **↑** | increase |
| **qid** | Four (4) times per day | **q** | every |
| **OTC** | Over the counter | **tid** | Three (3) times a day |
| **NUM** | Nurse Unit Manager | **ANUM** | Acting Nurse Unit Manager |
| **OR** | Operating Room | **NPO** | Nothing by Mouth |
| **FBE** | Full Blood Examination | **INR** | International Normalised Ratio |
| **HDL** | High Density Lipids | **LDL** | Low Density Lipids |

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| **WK 1** | **Abbreviation** | **Meaning of the abbreviation** |
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| **WK 2** | **Abbreviation** | **Meaning of the abbreviation** |
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| **WK 3** | **Abbreviation** | **Meaning of the abbreviation** |
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| **WK 4** | **Abbreviation** | **Meaning of the abbreviation** |
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