The following abbreviations are acceptable in EMS documentation (see Pg. 8 for hospital name abbreviations):

- @ at
- AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm
- Abd abdomen
- ABC airway, breathing circulation
- abn abnormal
- abnl abnormal
- AC antecubital
- ACLS advanced cardiac life support
- AED automatic external defibrillator
- AEMT advanced EMT
- A-fib atrial fibrillation
- ALOC altered level of consciousness
- AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome
- ALS advanced life support
- ALTE acute life threatening event
- AKA also known as OR above the knee amputation
- am morning
- AMA against medical advice
- AMI acute myocardial infarction
- Amt amount
- AO ambulance operator
- AOS arrived on scene
- AOX Awake/alert and oriented by -- (also AAOX--)
- APA automatic paramedic alarm
- APGAR newborn assessment scale
- APS Adult Protective Services
- ASA aspirin
- ASHD arteriosclerotic heart disease
- B&C Board & Care facility
- BB back board
- BBB bundle branch block
- BG blood glucose
- BH base hospital
- BHC base hospital contact
- BHO base hospital order
- BIB brought in by
- Bilat bilateral
- BKA below the knee amputation
- BLS basic life support
- BM bowel movement
- BOW bag of waters
- BP blood pressure
- BR bathroom
- BRB bright red blood
- BRUE brief resolved unexplained event
- BS breath sounds, blood sugar (use with caution)
- BSA body surface area
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations

04/01/2017

- BTB back to bed
- BVM bag valve mask
- CA cancer
- CABG coronary artery bypass graft
- CAD coronary artery disease
- Cath catheter, catheterization
- Cc or c/c chief complaint
- CHF congestive heart failure
- cm centimeter
- CMS circulation, motor, sensation (see also PMS)
- CNS central nervous system
- c/o complains of
- CO carbon monoxide
- CO2 carbon dioxide
- COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- CP chest pain
- CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
- CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- CSF cerebral spinal fluid
- C-spine cervical spine
- CSM circulation, sensation, movement
- CT scan computerized axial tomography scan
- CT chest tube
- CVA cerebral vascular accident
- CVRC cardiovascular receiving center
- CXR chest x-ray
- D10 10% dextrose
- d/c discontinue, discharged
- DCAP-BLTS – deformities, contusions, punctures/penetrations, burns, tenderness, lacerations
- Diff difficulty, or “diffcoele”, as in “C. diff” infection
- DM diabetes mellitus
- DNR do not resuscitate
- DOA dead on arrival
- DOB date of birth
- DOE dyspnea on exertion
- DTs delirium tremens
- DVT deep vein thrombosis
- Dx diagnosis
- EB east bound
- EBL estimated blood loss
- ECG electrocardiogram
- ED emergency department
- EJ external jugular
- EKG electrocardiogram
- EMS Emergency Medical Services
- EMT Emergency Medical Technician
- ER emergency room
• ERC emergency receiving center
• ET(#) emergency transport (#)
• ETA estimated time of arrival
• ETOH ethyl alcohol
• ET or ETT endotracheal tube
• ETA estimated time of arrival
• Eval evaluation
• Ext external
• F female, Fahrenheit
• FB foreign body
• FC,F/C,f/c fluid challenge
• FD fire department
• FROM full range of motion
• Fwy freeway
• f/u follow up
• fx fracture
• G gravida
• GB gall bladder
• GCS Glasgow coma scale
• GI gastrointestinal
• gm grams
• GSW gun shot wound
• gtt drops
• GU genitourinary
• GYN gynecology
• H/A headache
• HEENT head, ears, eyes, nose, throat
• HIV human immune-deficiency virus
• Hosp hospital
• HR heart rate
• hr, hrs hour, hours
• ht Height
• HTN hypertension
• Hx history
• Hyper- above, high
• Hypo- below, low
• ICHART acceptable mnemonic for narrative documentation
• ICP intracranial pressure
• ICS intercostal space
• ICU intensive care unit
• IM intramuscular (better to say whole word)
• IN intranasal (better to say whole word)
• IO intraosseous
• IUP intrauterine pregnancy
• IV intravenous
• IVP intravenous push
- J joules
- JVD jugular venous distention
- KCL potassium chloride
- Kg kilograms
- KVO keep vein open
- L liter
- L, lt left
- L&D labor and delivery
- Lab laboratory
- Lac laceration
- Lat lateral
- lb pound(s)
- LBBB left bundle branch block
- LLE left lower extremity
- LLL left lower lobe
- LLQ left lower quadrant
- LMP last menstrual period
- LOC level or loss of consciousness
- L-spine lumbar spine
- LUE left upper extremity
- LUL left upper lobe
- LUQ left upper quadrant
- LVAD left ventricular assist device
- M male
- mA milliamperes, milliamps
- MAE moves all extremities
- MAEW moves all extremities well
- max maximum
- MC motorcycle
- MCA motorcycle accident
- mcg micrograms
- MCI Mass casualty incident
- MCL mid-clavicular line
- MD physician, medical doctor
- MDI metered dose inhaler
- Med(s) medication(s), medicine(s), medicated
- mEq milliequivalent
- meth methamphetamine(s)
- mg milligram
- MI myocardial infarction
- MICN mobile intensive care nurse
- min minimum, minutes
- MIVT mechanism of injury, injuries seen, vital signs, treatment provider
- mL milliliters
- Mod moderate
- MOI mechanism of injury
- MRI magnetic resonance imaging
- MVA  motor vehicle accident
- n/a, N/A  not applicable
- NaBicarb  sodium bicarbonate
- NAD  no apparent distress
- NaHCO3  sodium bicarbonate
- Narc  narcotic(s)
- NB  north bound
- NC  nasal cannula
- Neb  nebulizer, nebulized
- Neg  negative (avoid using the “-“ sign)
- NG  nasogastric
- NKA  no known allergies
- NKDA  no known drug allergies
- nl  normal
- NP  nurse practitioner
- npo  nothing by mouth
- NRB  non-rebreather mask
- NS  normal saline
- NSR  normal sinus rhythm
- NTG  nitroglycerine
- n/v  nausea, vomiting
- n/v/d  nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- O2  oxygen
- O2 sat  oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter
- OB  obstetrics, obstetrical physician
- OB/Gyn  obstetrics/gynecology
- OBS  organic brain syndrome
- OD  overdose, right eye (oculo dexter)
- ODT  oral dissolving tablet
- OG  oroantric
- OPA  oropharyngeal airway
- OPQRST  onset, provoking factors, quality, radiation, severity, time
- OS  left eye (oculo sinister) – not to be used as “on scene” – see “AOS”
- OSVS  orthostatic vital signs (avoid “orthos”)
- OTC  over the counter
- OU  both eyes
- Ox--  Oriented times ---
- P  para, pulse
- PA  physician assistant
- PAC  premature atrial contraction
- Palp  palpation
- PALS  pediatric advanced life support
- PCN  penicillin
- PCP  primary care physician
- PCT  patient contact time
- PD  police department
- PE  physical exam, pulmonary edema, pulmonary embolus
- PEA  pulseless electrical activity
Ped(s)  pediatric(s), pedestrian(s)
PERL  pupils equal, reactive to light
PERRL pupils equal, round, reactive to light
PERRLA pupils equal, round, reactive to light, accommodation
PJC  premature junctional contraction
pm  evening, paramedic
PMD  private/personal medical doctor
PMH  past medical history
PMS  pulses, motor, sensation (see also CMS)
po  by mouth
POC  position of comfort, products of conception (use with caution)
POLST  physician’s orders for life sustaining treatment
post  posterior, after
POV  privately owned vehicle
PQRST  provoking factors, quality, radiation, severity, time
Prim  primary
prn  as needed
pn  pain
PPV  positive pressure ventilation
PTRC  paramedic trauma receiving center
PSI  passenger space intrusion
PSVT  paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
Psych  psychiatric
Pt PT  patient, physical therapy
PTA  prior to arrival
Pulse ox  Pulse oximetry (avoid using “PO”)
PUTS  patient unable to sign
PVC  premature ventricular contraction
R, rt  right, respirations
Rehab  rehabilitation
Resp  respiratory, respirations
RLE  right lower extremity
RLQ  right lower quadrant
RN  registered nurse
r/o  rule out
ROM  range of motion
RR  respiratory rate
RSR  regular sinus rhythm
RUE  right upper extremity
RUQ  right upper quadrant
Rx  therapy, prescription
Sat/sat  saturation
SB  sinus bradycardia, south bound
Sec  seconds, secondary
SFR  single family residence
SIDS  sudden infant death syndrome
SL  saline lock, sublingual
SMR  spinal motion restriction
SNF  skilled nursing facility
• SNRC stroke-neuro receiving center
• SO standing order, Sheriff’s office/officer
• SOB shortness of breath, short of breath
• SpO2 oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter
• SR sinus rhythm
• SRW sting ray wound
• s/s or s/sx signs and symptoms
• ST sinus tachycardia
• START simple triage and rapid treatment
• SVT supraventricular tachycardia
• SW stab wound
• sx signs, symptoms
• sz seizure

• T temperature
• Tach(y) tachycardia, tachycardic
• TAH total artificial heart
• TC traffic collision, trauma center
• TCP transcutaneous pacemaker/pacing
• TIA transient ischemic attack
• TKO to keep open
• Trans transport, transfer
• TV tidal volume
• Tx treatment, transport

• Unk unknown
• UOA upon our arrival
• URI upper respiratory infection
• UTI urinary tract infection
• UTL unable to locate

• VAD ventricular assist device
• Vag vaginal
• VF ventricular fibrillation
• V-fib ventricular fibrillation
• Vol volume
• vs versus
• VS vital signs
• VT ventricular tachycardia
• VTach ventricular tachycardia

• w/ with
• WB west bound
• W&D warm and dry
• wk week (not “weak”)
• WNL within normal limits
• w/o without
• WPW Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome
• wt weight

• xferr(ed) transfer(red)
Approved hospital name abbreviations

- AGMC Anaheim Global Medical Center
- ARMC Anaheim Regional Medical Center
- CGMC Chapman Global Medical Center
- CHOC Children's Hospital of Orange County
- FRMC Foothill Regional Medical Center
- FVRMC Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center
- GGMC Garden Grove Medical Center
- HHI Hoag Hospital Irvine
- HMHP Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
- HBH Huntington Beach Hospital
- KPA Kaiser Permanente, Anaheim
- KPD Kaiser Permanente, Downey
- KPI Kaiser Permanente, Irvine
- LPIH La Palma Intercommunity Hospital
- MH LB Mission Hospital Laguna Beach
- MHRMC Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center
- OCMMC Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
- OCGMC Orange County Global Medical Center
- PLH Placentia Linda Hospital
- SMMC Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
- SCGMC South Coast Global Medical Center
- SJH St. Joseph Hospital
- SJMC St. Jude Medical Center
- WAMC West Anaheim Medical Center
- UCI UCI Medical Center

The following abbreviations should be used with caution as they may have multiple meanings

- BS breath sounds, blood sugar
- COA complaint on arrival, condition on admission, conditions of admission
- HP hospital, hip, Hewlett Packard, Hoag Presbyterian, Highway Patrol
- MS morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis
- OS on scene, oculo sinister (left eye)
- PLOT plot, parking lot, private lot
- POC position of comfort, products of conception
- PR private residence, primary, probable, per rectum
- SED sexual enhancement drugs, serious emotional disturbance, sedating/sedation, seeing eye dog

The following abbreviations are not acceptable and may not be used:

- Any “Emoji”
- Qd Best practice is to spell out “daily” or “every day”
- U Best practice is to spell out “unit” or “units”
- Use of “-” (dash) as to mean “negative” or “without”
- Use of 1 or 2 to mean primary or secondary,
• Use of decimals
  • Trailing zeroes are NOT recommended. Use 1mg, not 1.0mg
  • Leading zeroes ARE recommended. Use 0.3 mg, not .3 mg

References:
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