

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary  
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations  
04/01/2018

- 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

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- 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
- CO<sub>2</sub> 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
  
- D<sub>10</sub> 10% dextrose
- d/c discontinue, discharged
- DCAP-BLTS – deformities, contusions, punctures/penetrations, burns, tenderness, lacerations
- Diff difficulty , or “diffocole”, 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- MVA            motor vehicle accident
  
- n/a, N/A       not applicable
- NaBicarb      sodium bicarbonate
- NAD            no apparent distress
- NaHCO<sub>3</sub>      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
  
- O<sub>2</sub>             oxygen
- O<sub>2</sub> 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              orogastric
- 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

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- 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 psychialtric
- 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

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- 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)

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- xfr transfer
- xport transported
  
- y/o, yo years old
- yr(s) year, years
  
- 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
  - OCMC 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.



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- 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:

The Joint Commission (2016). Facts about the Official “Do Not Use” List of Abbreviations.

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