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

- 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)
• 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
  • 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:
Broward County EMS (2016). Approved Medical EMS Abbreviations. From Reference and Resource Material for Broward County EMS.
Indiana University (n.d.). Abbreviations and Acronyms.
Los Angeles County EMS Policy and Procedure Manual
County of San Diego Treatment Protocol – Abbreviation List