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 “diffocele”, 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  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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNRC</td>
<td>stroke-neuro receiving center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO</td>
<td>standing order, Sheriff's office/officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOB</td>
<td>shortness of breath, short of breath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpO2</td>
<td>oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR</td>
<td>sinus rhythm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRW</td>
<td>sting ray wound</td>
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<tr>
<td>s/s or s/sx</td>
<td>signs and symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>sinus tachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START</td>
<td>simple triage and rapid treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVT</td>
<td>supraventricular tachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>stab wound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sx</td>
<td>signs, symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sz</td>
<td>seizure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tach(y)</td>
<td>tachycardia, tachycardic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAH</td>
<td>total artificial heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>traffic collision, trauma center</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>transcutaneous pacemaker/pacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIA</td>
<td>transient ischemic attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKO</td>
<td>to keep open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans</td>
<td>transport, transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>tidal volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tx</td>
<td>treatment, transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unk</td>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UOA</td>
<td>upon our arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URI</td>
<td>upper respiratory infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTI</td>
<td>urinary tract infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTL</td>
<td>unable to locate</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAD</td>
<td>ventricular assist device</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vag</td>
<td>vaginal</td>
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<tr>
<td>VF</td>
<td>ventricular fibrillation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V-fib</td>
<td>ventricular fibrillation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vol</td>
<td>volume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vs</td>
<td>versus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VS</td>
<td>vital signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT</td>
<td>ventricular tachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTach</td>
<td>ventricular tachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w/</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>west bound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W&amp;D</td>
<td>warm and dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wk</td>
<td>week (not &quot;weak&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNL</td>
<td>within normal limits</td>
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<tr>
<td>w/o</td>
<td>without</td>
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<tr>
<td>WPW</td>
<td>Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>wt</td>
<td>weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xferr(ed)</td>
<td>transfer(red)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approved hospital name abbreviations

- AGMC Anaheim Global Medical Center
- ARMCM 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
- GGMCM 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
- LPH La Palma Intercommunity Hospital
- MHI 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