



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Policy No. 4110
Reviewed 01/07

Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: APPROVED ABBREVIATIONS

AMR/EMSIA Approved Abbreviations

<	less than
>	greater than
@	at
A.Fib	atrial fibrillation
abd	abdomen
A/O, A and O	alert and orientated
ALOC	altered level of consciousness
AM	before noon; time should be expressed in 24 h format
AMA	against medical advice
Approx.	approximately
ASA	acetylsalicylic acid, aspirin
ASAP	as soon as possible
auto	automobile

BG chem	blood glucose level
BM	bowel movement
BP	blood pressure
bpm	beats per minute
BSA	body surface area
BVM	bag valve mask
C/C	chief complaint
C/o	complaint of
C/P	chest pain
CA	cancer
CAD	coronary artery disease
CBL, clear bilat.	Clear bilaterally
CCU	coronary care unit
CHF	congestive heart failure
CNS	central nervous system
con't	continued
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CRIC	needle cricothyroidotomy
CT	Computerized tomography
CVA	cerebral vascular accident
DC, d/c	discontinue
DOD	Doctor's On Duty
DH	Dominican Hospital
dl	deciliter
DOE	dyspnea on exertion
DX	diagnosis

ECG	electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency Department
EKG	electrocardiogram
EMT-D	provider of BLS service and the ALS service automated defibrillation
EMT	provider of BLS service only
EMT-P	EMT-Paramedic, provider of BLS and ALS level of services; also MICP, Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic
epi	epinephrine
ET	endotracheal
ETA	estimated time of arrival
ETI	endotracheal intubation
ETOH	alcohol
exam	examination
f/u	follow-up
fx	fracture
GCS	Glasgow Coma Scale
GI	gastrointestinal
Gm	gram
GSW	gunshot wound
Gtt	drop
GYN	gynecological
H&P	history and physical
H ₂ O	water
HA	headache
HazMat	Hazardous Material
HCTZ	hydrochlorothiazide
HR	heart rate
HTN	hypertension

Hx	history
ICU	intensive care unit
IM	intramuscular
IN	Intranasal
IO	intraosseous
IV	intravenous
IVP	intravenous push
JVD	jugular venous distension
Kg	kilogram
Lpm	liter per minute
Lac.	laceration
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LMP	last menstrual period
LTD	King Laryngeal Tube
LOC	loss of consciousness
LS	lung sounds
LUQ	left upper quadrant
m/o	month old
MAE	moves all extremities
MCA	motorcycle accident
mcg	microgram
MCL	mid-clavicular line
mEq	milliequivalent
mg	milligram
MI	myocardial infarction
MICN	Mobile Intensive Care Nurse; also ARN, Authorized Registered Nurse
ml	milliliter

MVA	motor vehicle accident
N/V	nausea and vomiting
NaCL	Sodium Chloride
NAD	no apparent distress
NC	nasal cannula
neuro	neurological
NKDA	no known drug allergies
NPA	nasopharyngeal airway
NRB	Non-rebreather mask
NS	normal saline
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
NTG	nitroglycerine
O ₂	oxygen
OB	obstetrics
OD	overdose
OPA	oropharyngeal airway
PTA	prior to arrival
pre	before
post	after
PAC	premature atrial contraction
PASTE	Provocation/Associated Chest Pain/Severity-Sputum/Time/Exercise Tolerance
PASTMEDS	Provocation/Associated Chest Pain/Severity/Time/Medications/Exercise Tolerance/Diagnoses/Sputum
PCN	penicillin
PE	physical examination
PEA	pulseless electrical activity
ped	pedestrian
pedi	pediatric

PERRL	pupils equal, round, reactive to light
PM	afternoon, time should be expressed in 24 h format
PMD	primary (private) physician
PND	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, difficulty breathing that awakens the patient from sleep or prevents sleep
PO	by mouth
POV	privately owned vehicle
post-op	post operative
PQRST	Provocation/Quality/Region-Radiation/Severity/Time
PR	per rectum
PRN	as needed
Pt	patient
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
RR	Respiratory rate
RAS	released at scene
Resp.	respiratory
RLQ	right lower quadrant
RMC	Regional Medical Center, San Jose
ROM	range of motion
RUQ	right upper quadrant
Rx	prescription
s/p	status post
s/s	signs and symptoms
SC	subcutaneous
SCMC	Santa Cruz Medical Clinic
SL	sublingual
SUMC	Stanford University Medical Center
SOB	shortness of breath, equivalent to dyspnea

ST	sinus tachycardia
stat	immediately
SQ	subcutaneous
SVT	supraventricular tachycardia
SX	symptom
Temp.	temperature
TB	tuberculosis
TIA	transient ischemia attack
TKO	to keep open
TOC	Transfer of care form
Tx	treatment
VMC	Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
V-tach	ventricular tachycardia
Vag.	vaginal
VS	vital signs
WCH	Watsonville Community Hospital
WNL	within normal limits
w/o	wide open
y/o	year old