



**THE QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**  
**List of Acceptable Terms and Abbreviations**

Intended meaning	Acceptable term or abbreviation
<b>Dose frequency or timing</b>	
in the morning	morning, mane
at midday	midday
at night	night, nocte
twice a day	bd
three times a day	tds
four times a day	qid
every 4 hours	every 4 hours, 4 hourly, 4 hrly
every 6 hours	every 6 hours, 6 hourly, 6 hrly
every 8 hours	every 8 hours, 8 hourly, 8 hrly
once week	once a week and specify the day in full
three times a week	three times a week and specify the days in full
when needed	prn
immediately	stat
before food	before food
after food	after food
with food	with food
<b>Route of Administration</b>	
epidural	epidural
inhale, inhalation	inhale, inhalation
intraarticular	intraarticular
intramuscular	IM
intrathecal	intrathecal
intranasal	intranasal
intravenous	IV
irrigation	irrigation
left	Left
nebulised	NEB
nasogastric	NG
oral	PO
percutaneous enteral gastrostomy	PEG
per vagina	PV



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per rectum	PR
peripherally inserted central catheter	PICC
right	Right
subcutaneous	subcut
sublingual	subling
topical	topical
Units of Measure and Concentration	
gram(s)	g
international unit(s)	international unit(s)
unit(s)	unit(s)
milligram(s)	mg
millilitre(s)	mL
microgram(s)	microgram, microg
percentage	%
millimole	mmol
Dose Forms	
capsule	cap
cream	cream
ear drops	ear drops
ear ointment	ear ointment
eye drops	eye drops
eye ointment	eye ointment
injection	inj
metered dose inhaler	metered dose inhaler, MDI
mixture	mixture
ointment	ointment
pessary	pess
powder	powder
suppository	supp
tablet	tablet, tab
patient controlled anaesthesia	PCA

Source: Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (2016), *Recommendations for terminology, abbreviations and symbols used in medicines documentation*. ACSQHC, Sydney.  
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Recommendations-for-terminology-abbreviations-and-symbols-used-in-medicines-December-2016.pdf>. Accessed January 2, 2017