

Glossary of EMT-B abbreviations

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Here are some EMT-level abbreviations that I've come across and am working to incorporate into the *Subjective Assessment* and *Objective Physical Assessment* and *Comments* sections of my own PCR's (Prehospital Care Reports). I collected these from a number of sources and they are not necessarily reflective of conventions used in our responding area. I've tried to eliminate more esoteric abbreviations that may only be appropriate for ALS PCR's.

If you have any favorites of your own, comments on the ones here, or samples of realistic made-up PCR entries for me to post here (along with your name as submitter), please send them to me at mvfdwebmaster@wellhost.com. Whoever can make up the PCR entry that is most realistic and uses the most abbreviations wins the prize for succinctness (though not necessarily the prize for clarity!)

I have marked some of these as (diagnosis?), which means that it sounds to me like the kind of term you would use for diagnosis, not for the assessments that are currently favored in EMT-B protocols. It is possible, however, that such diagnostic terms would be appropriate in reporting the patient's medical history. Some terms are marked (ALS?) which means that I think these terms are more likely to be used by ALS folks, not EMT-B folks (see diagnosis above).

[up arrow]	Increased
[down arrow]	Decreased
[triangle]	change (delta)
[circle w/slash]	no, none, null
[wavy equal sign]	approximately
(+)	Present/Found (written as a circle with a plus sign in it)

MCI	Multiple Casualty Incident
MNFx4	Motor/Neural Function times 4 (extremities). (Obsolete, replaced by PMSx4)
MI	Myocardial Infarction (diagnosis?)
ml (mL)	MilliLiter
mm	MilliMeter
MOI	Mechanism Of Injury
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident

(-)	Not Present/Negative (written as a circle with a minus sign in it)
O+	Female (drawn as the female symbol, circle with a cross underneath, sometimes written sideways like here).
O->	Male (drawn as the male symbol, circle with an arrow on upper right, sometimes written sideways like here).
@	at
<	less than
><	greater than
AAO	Alert, Awake, and Oriented (see CAO)
abd	Abdomen
abn	Abnormal
Adm.	Administered
AM	Morning
AMA	Against Medical Advice
ant.	Anterior
APE	Acute Pulmonary Edema
ASAP	As Soon As Possible
ASA	Aspirin
ATT	At This Time
ausc	Auscultation
ax	Axillary
bilat	Bilateral
BP	Blood Pressure
BS	Breath Sounds
BSA	Body Surface Area
BVM	Bag-Valve Mask
c/o	Complaining Of
Ca	Cancer (diagnosis?)
CAO	Concious, Alert and Oriented, as in CAOx3 (Jeff made this up: "Concious, Alert and

n/c	Nasal Cannula
N&V (n/v)	Nausea & Vomiting
NA	Not Applicable
NAD	No Acute Distress (or, No Apparent Distress)
NB	NewBorn
NG	NasoGastric
NIDDM	Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitis
NKA	No Known Allergy/allergies
NKDA	No Known Drug Allergies
NPO	Nothing by mouth
NRB	Non-Rebreather Mask
NSR	Normal Sinus Rhythm (ALS?)
NTG	NitroGlycerin
O2	Oxygen
OB	Obstetrics
OD	Overdose
OD	right eye (possible confusion with OD: OverDose)
OLMC	OnLine Medical Control
OS	left eye
oz	Ounce
PASG	Pneumatic AntiShock Garment (e.g., MAST trousers)
PCN	Penicillin
PE	Physical Exam, as in <i>PE 2nd</i> ("Second Physical Exam")
PEARL	Pupils Equal And Reactive to Light
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PM	Afternoon/evening
PMH	Past Medical History
PMH/O	Past Medical History Of...
PMSx4	Pulse/Motor/Sensory times 4 (extremities). (Replaces MNFx4)

	Oriented times 3", the "3" meaning Person, Place, Time.
CC	Chief Complaint
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure (diagnosis?)
CO	Carbon Monoxide, note: this is not the same as CO ₂ . Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion (e.g., poorly ventilated oil burners) and attaches to the Oxygen receptors on hemoglobin, interfering with the bodies ability to achieve respiration.
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide, note: this is not the same as CO. CO ₂ is a natural product of respiration.
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, e.g., emphysema
CSF	Cerebral-Spinal Fluid, this might appear as a clear fluid draining from ears or nose in the case of a head injury (implying the need for head immobilization).
CVA	CerebroVascular Accident (stroke) (diagnosis?)
cx	Chest
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
DNR	Do Not Resuscitate (there is a form for this in NYS that some patients or their families may produce -- see the NYS protocol)
DOA	Dead On Arrival
DOE	Dyspnea on Exertion
DSD	Dry, Sterile Dressing
dsg	Dressing
Dx	Diagnosis (diagnosis?)
EBL	Estimated Blood Loss
EENT	Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat

post.	Posterior
PO (p.o.)	by mouth, orally
PP	Post Partum (after delivery of a baby)
PR	Pulse Rate (also, see HR)
PRN	as needed
PSM	Pulse, Sensory & Motor functions
PSDE	Painful, Swollen, Deformed Extremity
Pt.	Patient
Qd	Every Day
Qh	Every Hour
qid	4 times per day
(R)	Right (written as circle with "R" inside)
R/O	Rule Out (ALS? - term/concept not currently in favor with EMT-B)
RLQ	Right Lower Quadrant
RMA	Refused Medical Assistance/aid (be sure to get release signed!)
ROM	Range Of Motion
RSR	Regular Sinus Rhythm (ALS?)
RUQ	Right Upper Quadrant
Rx	prescription, therapy, treatment
S/S (S/Sx)	Signs & Symptoms
SL	Sub-Lingual
SLUDGE	Salivation, Lacrimation, Urination, Defecation, Gastrointestinal Distress, Emesis
SOB	Shortness of Breath, as in (+)SOB ("Present: Shortness of Breath")
SSCP	Sub-Sternal Chest Pain

ENT	Ears, Nose, and Throat
ET	Endotracheal
ETOH	Alcohol
fd	Found, as in <i>fd 29 y/o wm Pt. c/o cx pain</i> ("found 29 year-old white male patient complaining of chest pain")
FH	Family History of...
fv	Fever
fx	Fracture (diagnosis? In EMG-B assessments, we tend to use non-diagnostic terms, like PSDE)
GCS	Glasgow Coma Score (more information if you report the scores in triplets, as in 4/5/6=15)
GI	GastroIntestinal
GSW	Gun Shot Wound
h.	Hour
H&P	History and Physical examination
H/A	HeadAche
H/S	History (also used: hx)
H2O	Water
HEENT	Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat
HPI	History of Present Illness
HR	Heart Rate (also, see PR) (include Strength and Regularity)
HTN	Hypertension (high blood pressure)
hx	History (also used: H/S)
IDDM	Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitis
JVD	Jugular Venous Distension, as in (-)JVD ("negative jugular venous distension")
kg	Kilogram (1 kg = 2.2 lb)

stat	immediately
SW	Stab Wound
Sx	Symptoms
Sz	Siezure
T	Temperature
TIA	Transient Ischemic Attack (sounds to me like a diagnosis, not an assessment)
tid	3 times per day
TPR	Temperature, Pulse and Respiration
TX	Therapy (possible confusion with tx: transport)
txp (tx)	Transported, as in <i>txp -> PCH</i> ("Transported to Putnam County Hospital")
U	Unit
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection (diagnosis?)
V-Fib (VF)	Ventricular Fibrillation (ALS?)
VS (v/s)	Vital Signs, as in <i>VS Slightly Elevated</i>
V-Tach	Ventricular Tachycardia (ALS?)
VSWNL	Vital Signs Within Normal Limits
w/	With...
w/o	Without...
WOI	WithOut Incident
WNL	Within Normal Limits
wt	Weight
X	Times, as in <i>3x/d</i> ("3 times per day")
y/o (y.o.)	Year Old, as in <i>29 y/o wm</i> ("29 year-old white male")

(L)	Left (written as circle with "L" inside)
L	Liter
L/m	Liters per Minute
L/S	Lung Sounds (also see LS), as in <i>L/S CL bilat</i> ("lung sounds clear, bilaterally")
lb	Pound (1 lb = 0.45 kg, 100 lbs = 45 "Kilos")
LLQ	Left Lower Quadrant
LOC	Loss Of Consciousness
LUQ	Left Upper Quadrant
LS	Lung Sounds (also see L/S)
LZ	Landing Zone

Sample PCR statements

- ? fd 29 y/o wm Pt. c/o cx pain (Jeff Kelley)
Found 29 year-old white male patient complaining of chest pain
- ? txp -> WCMC WOI (Jeff Kelley)
Transported to Westchester County Medical Center without incident