

## Drug and solution measurements

cc cubic centimeter  
g or gm gram  
gal gallon  
gtt drop  
kg kilogram  
L liter  
mcg microgram  
mEq milliequivalent  
mg milligram  
ml milliliter  
Mx minim  
pt pint  
qt quart  
[bar]ss one-half  
Tbs tablespoon  
tsp teaspoon

## Drug and dosage forms

cap capsule  
DS double strength  
elix elixir  
LA long-acting  
liq liquid  
S.A. sustained action  
S.R. sustained release  
sol solution  
sp spirits  
supp suppository  
susp suspension  
syr syrup  
tab tablet  
tinct or tr tincture  
ung or oit ointment

## Routes of drug administration

A.D. right ear  
A.S. left ear  
I.M. intramuscular  
I.T. intrathecal  
I.V. intravenous  
IVPB intravenous  
piggyback  
(L) left  
NGT nasogastric tube  
V or P.V. vaginally  
OS left eye  
OD right eye  
OU each eye  
P.O. or p.o. by mouth  
R. or P.R. by rectum  
(R) right  
S.C. or SQ subcutaneous  
SL or sl sublingual  
S&S swish and swallow

## Times of drug administration

a.c. before meals  
ad lib as desired  
b.i.d. twice a day  
p.c. after meals  
p.r.n. as needed  
q.a.m. or Q.M. every morning  
q.h. every hour  
q2h every 2 hours  
q3h every 3 hours  
q.i.d. four times a day  
STAT immediately



DIG	digoxin	digitoxin
MVI	multivitamins without fat-soluble vitamins	multivitamins with fat-soluble vitamins
HCTZ	hydrochlorothiazide	hydrocortisone
ARA-A	vidarabine	cytarabine (ARA-C)

### Apothecary symbols

Avoid using these symbols; use their metric equivalent instead.

?? fluid ounce

?? fluidram

?? minim

?? scruple

Dosage directions

### Abbreviation intended meaning

AU	auris uterque (each ear)
h.s.	at bedtime
mg	microgram
o.d.	once daily
oj	orange juice
per os	orally
q.d.	every day
qn	nightly or at bedtime
qod	every other day
subq	subcutaneous
T/D	once daily
U or u	unit

## Abbreviation Misinterpretation

AU	Misinterpreted as "OU" (oculus uterque: each eye)
h.s.	Misinterpreted as xl dose or every night
mg	Misinterpreted as "mg" (milligram)
o.d.	Misinterpreted as "OD" (oculus dexter: right eye)
oj	Misinterpreted as "OD" (oculus dexter: right eye)
per os	The "os" is misinterpreted as "OS" (oculus sinister: left eye).
q.d.	The period after the "q" has sometimes been misinterpreted as "i" and the drug has been given q.i.d. (four times daily) rather than daily.
qn	Misinterpreted as "q.h." (every hour)
qod	Misinterpreted as "q.d" (daily) or "q.i.d."
subq	The "q" has been misinterpreted as "every:"
T/D	Misinterpreted as "t.i.d" (three times daily)
U or u	Misinterpreted as a "0" or a "4"

## Abbreviation How to avoid problems

AU	Write it out.
h.s.	Write it out.
mg	Use "mcg."
o.d.	Write out "daily."
oj	Write it out.
per os	Use "P.O." or "by mouth" or "orally."
q.d.	Write it out.
qn	Use "nightly"
qod	Use "q other day" or "every other day"

subq      Write it out or use "S.C."  
or "SQ."

T/D      Write it out.

U or u    Write it out.