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Medical Abbreviations and Shorthand

1.1 Administration Routes

Gt (Gtt)	Drop(s)
IC	Intracardiac
ID	Intradermal
IM	Intramuscular
IN	Intranasal
IO	Intraosseous
IP	Intraperitoneal
IR	Intrarectal
IV	Intravenous
PO	Per os (by mouth)
SC, SQ	Subcutaneous
SL	Sublingual
TD	Transdermal
TM	Transmucosal

1.2 Anatomy

AA	Atlas-axis
AD	Right ear
AS	Left ear
AU	Both ears
AV	Atrioventricular
Cd	Caudal
Cr	Cranial
DV	Dorsoventral
GI(T)	Gastrointestinal (tract)
LA	Left atria
Lat	Lateral
LF	Left front
LH	Left hind
LPL	Left pelvic limb
LV	Left ventricle
LR	Left rear
LTl	Left thoracic limb
OD	Right eye
OS	Left eye
OU	Both eyes
RF	Right front
RH	Right hind
RPL	Right pelvic limb
RR	Right rear
RTL	Right thoracic limb
MV	Mitral valve
SA	Sinoatrial
SI	Small intestines
RA	Right atria
RV	Right ventricle
Stern	Sternal
TV	Tricuspid valve
VD	Ventrodorsal

1.3 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

CAB	Circulation, airway, breathing
CPA	Cardiopulmonary arrest
CPCR	Cardiopulmonary cerebral resuscitation
CPR	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
DNR	Do not resuscitate
RECOVER	Reassessment Campaign on Veterinary Resuscitation
ROSC	Return of spontaneous circulation

1.4 Diagnostics

ABG	Arterial blood gas
ACT	Activated clotting time
ACTH stim	Adrenocorticotrophic hormone stimulation
Alb	Albumin
A/T FAST	Abdominal/thoracic focused assessment with sonography for trauma
BG	Blood glucose
Bil/Bili	Bilirubin
BMBT	Buccal mucosal bleeding time
BP	Blood pressure
CBC	Complete blood count
Chem	Chemistry
CK	Creatine kinase
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid
CVP	Central venous pressure
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
Glu	Glucose
Hct	Hematocrit
HPF	High-power field
IOP	Intraocular pressure
Ket	Ketones
Lac	Lactate

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LE	Liver enzymes
Leu	Leukocytes
LPF	Low-power field
mRNA	Messenger ribonucleic acid
NH ₃	Ammonia
Nit	Nitrites
nRBC	Nucleated red blood cell
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PCV	Packed cell volume
Plt	Platelet
POCUS	Point-of-care ultrasound
Pro, Prt	Protein
PT	Prothrombin time
(a)PTT	(activated) Partial thromboplastin time
RBC	Red blood cell
Retic	Reticulocyte
SPO ₂	Pulse oximetry
T4	Thyroxine
Tbil	Total bilirubin
TEG	Thromboelastography
TP	Total protein
TS	Total solids
UA	Urinalysis
Uro	Urobilinogen
USG	Urine specific gravity
VCM	Viscoelastic coagulation monitor
vWF	von Willebrand's factor
WBC	White blood cell

1.5 Differentials and Diagnoses

Afib	Atrial fibrillation
AGASACA	Apocrine gland anal sac adenocarcinoma
AHDS	Acute hemorrhagic diarrhea syndrome

AIVR	Accelerated idioventricular rhythm
AKI	Acute kidney injury
ALI	Acute lung injury
ARDS	Acute respiratory distress syndrome
ARVC	Arrhythmogenic ventricular cardiomyopathy
ASD	Atrial septal defect
ATE	Arterial thromboembolism
AVBI	Atrioventricular block
(R/L)BBB	(Right/left) bundle branch block
BBD	Bit by dog
BDLD	Big dog, little dog
BOAS	Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome
CIRCI	Critical illness-related corticosteroid insufficiency
CHF	Congestive heart failure
CKD	Chronic kidney disease
DCM	Dilated cardiomyopathy
DI	Diabetes insipidus
DIB	Down in back
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulopathy
DKA	Diabetic ketoacidosis
DM	Diabetes mellitus
Dx	Diagnosis
DDx	Differential diagnosis
EPI	Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency
FATE	Feline aortic thromboembolism
FB	Foreign body
FCE	Fibrocartilaginous embolism
FeLV	Feline leukemia virus
FF	Free fluid
FIC	Feline idiopathic cystitis
FIP	Feline infectious peritonitis
FIV	Feline immunodeficiency virus
FLUTD	Feline lower urinary tract disease
FUO	Fever of undetermined origin; Fever of unknown origin

(Continued)

GDV	Gastric dilatation and volvulus
GIFB	Gastrointestinal foreign body
GSW	Gunshot wound
HBC	Hit by car
HCM	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
HE	Hepatic encephalopathy
HGE	Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis
HHS	Hyperosmolar, hyperglycemic syndrome
HONK	Hyperosmolar nonketotic
IBD	Inflammatory bowel disease
IBS	Irritable bowel syndrome
IMHA	Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia
IMPA	Immune-mediated polyarthritis
ITP	Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia
IVDD	Intervertebral disc disease
KCS	Keratoconjunctivitis sicca
Lar par	Laryngeal paralysis
MCT	Mast cell tumor
MDR	Multi-drug resistance
MMM	Masticatory muscle myositis
MMVD	Myxomatous mitral valve disease
MODS	Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
MRSP	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus pseudointermedius</i>
MUE	Meningoencephalitis of unknown etiology
PDA	Patent ductus arteriosus
PIMA	Precursor-targeted immune-mediated anemia
PLE	Protein-losing enteropathy
PLN	Protein-losing nephropathy
PPDH	Peritoneopericardial diaphragmatic hernia
PRAA	Persistent right aortic arch
PS	Pulmonic stenosis
PSS	Portosystemic shunt
PTE	Pulmonary thromboembolism
R&A	Resection and anastomosis
SCC	Squamous Cell Carcinoma
SIADH	Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone

SIRS	Systemic inflammatory response syndrome
SSS	Sick sinus syndrome
SVT	Supraventricular tachycardia
Sz	Seizure
TACO	Transfusion-associated circulatory overload
TBI	Traumatic brain injury
TCC	Transitional Cell Carcinoma
TRALI	Transfusion-related acute lung injury
UO	Urinary obstruction
URI	Upper respiratory infection
Vfib	Ventricular fibrillation
VSD	Ventricular septal defect
Vtach	Ventricular tachycardia
vWD	von Willebrand's disease

1.6 Miscellaneous

DI H ₂ O	Deionized water
EBVM	Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine
f	Factor
KNF	Key nutritional factor
PPE	Personal protection equipment
SOP	Standard operating procedure
TVI	Total volume infused
VI	Volume infused
VTBI	Volume to be infused

1.7 Nursing Notes

AO, A/O	Advised owner
ATH	At the hospital
Avail, Av	Available
Bx	Biopsy

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D̄	Diarrhea
Euth	Euthanasia
FC	Free choice
Fx	Fracture
Hx	History
LB	Litter box
LMOM, LMOVM	Left message on machine, left message on voicemail
NI	No interest
NPO	Nothing per os (Nothing by mouth)
Ō	Owner
P̄	Patient
PUPD	Polyuria, polydypsia
PROM	Passive range of motion
R̄	Regurgitation
Rx	Prescription
SWO	Spoke with owner
Sx	Surgery
TGH	To go home
Tx	Treatment
UOP	Urinary output
UTD	Up to date
UTO	Unable to obtain
V̄	Vomiting
Vax	Vaccine

1.8 Pharmacology

ACE	Angiotensin-converting enzyme
BBB	Blood–brain barrier
CO	Cardiac output
CRI	Constant rate infusion
D5W	5% dextrose in water
FFP	Fresh frozen plasma
FP	Frozen plasma
FWB	Fresh whole blood

HSS	Hypertonic saline solution
IG	Immunoglobulin
IVF	Intravenous fluids
IVIG	Intravenous immunoglobulin
KCl	Potassium chloride
KMax	Recommended maximum rate of potassium infusion
KPhos	Potassium phosphate
LRS	Lactated Ringer's solution
NaCl	Sodium chloride
NK	Neurokinin
NMDA	<i>N</i> -methyl- <i>D</i> -aspartate
NSAID	Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug
PPI	Proton pump inhibitor
pRBC	Packed red blood cells
PRP	Platelet-rich plasma
SAMe	<i>S</i> -adenosylmethionine
SSRI	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors
SV	Stroke volume
WB	Whole blood

1.9 Physical Exam

(Listed as they may appear in a medical record and not alphabetically)

PE	Physical exam
Wt	Weight
BCS	Body condition score
MCS	Muscle condition score
TPR	Temperature, pulse, respiration
LOC	Level of consciousness
Att/Ment	Attitude/mentation
Anes	Anesthetized
Anx	Anxious
BAR	Bright, alert, responsive

(Continued)

Coma	Comatose
Con	Confused
Dep	Depressed
Dys	Dysphoric
Frac	Fractious
Obt	Obtunded
QAR	Quiet, alert, responsive
QDR	Quiet, depressed/dull, responsive
Sed	Sedate
Stup	Stuporous
T, Temp	Temperature
HR	Heart rate
bpm	Beats per minute
RR	Respiratory rate
brpm	Breaths per minute
NE	Normal effort
RE	Respiratory effort
MM	Mucous membranes
Blk	Black
BrPk	Bright pink
Gry	Grey/gray
Cy/Cyan	Cyanotic
Ict	Icteric
Inj	Injected
LtPk	Light pink
Mud	Muddy
Pk	Pink
PIPk/PP	Pale pink
CRT	Capillary refill time
MGCS	Modified Glasgow Coma Score

1.10 Procedures

BAL	Bronchoalveolar lavage
FHO	Femoral head osteotomy
Hemi	Hemilaminectomy
MPL	Medial patellar luxation
NPWT	Negative pressure wound therapy
OHE	Ovariohysterectomy
PPN	Partial parenteral nutrition
PU	Perineal urethrostomy
SUB	Subcutaneous ureteral bypass
TECA(BO)	Total ear canal ablation (and bulla osteotomy)
THR	Total hip replacement
TIVA	Total intravenous anesthesia
TPE	Therapeutic plasma exchange
TPLO	Tibial plateau leveling osteotomy
TPN	Total parenteral nutrition
Vslot	Ventral slot

1.11 Professional Acronyms

CrVT	Credentialed Veterinary Technician
CVT(g)	Certified Veterinary Technician (Technologist)
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
LVMT(g)	Licensed Veterinary Medical Technician (Technologist)
LVT(g)	Licensed Veterinary Technician (Technologist)
NAVLE	North American Veterinary Licensing Exam
pDVM	Primary Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
rDVM	Referring Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
RVT(g)	Registered Veterinary Technician (Technologist)
VA	Veterinary Assistant
VMD	Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris
VTNE	Veterinary Technician National Exam
VTs	Veterinary Technician Specialist

1.12 Signalment

CM (MC)	Castrated male (male castrated)
DLH	Domestic long hair
DMH	Domestic medium hair
DSH	Domestic short hair
MBD	Mixed breed dog
NM (MN)	Neutered male (male neutered)
SF (FS)	Spayed female (female spayed)

1.13 Time Frequencies

(Listed in chronological order and not alphabetically)

SID	Once daily
q24hr	Every 24 hours
BID	Twice daily
q12hr	Every 12 hours
TID	Three times daily
q8hr	Every 8 hours
QID	Four times daily
q6hr	Every 6 hours
AC	Before meal
PC	After meal
prn	As needed

1.14 Tubes and Catheters

Art line	Arterial line
CL	Central line
E-tube	Esophagostomy tube
G-tube	Gastrostomy tube
IVC	Intravenous catheter
J-tube	Jejunostomy tube

JP drain	Jackson–Pratt drain (“Grenade”)
NET	Nasoesophageal tube
NGT	Nasogastric tube
PEG tube	Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube
PICC	Peripherally inserted central catheter
Ucath	Urinary catheter

Further Reading

- 1 Romich, J.A. (2015). *An Illustrated Guide to Veterinary Medical Terminology*, 4e. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.
- 2 Silverstein, D.C. and Hopper, K. (ed.) (2023). *Small Animal Critical Care Medicine*. 3 St. Louis: Elsevier.