

NORTHEAST MEDICAL CENTER- PROHIBITED ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS AND DOSE EXPRESSIONS LIST

DO NOT WRITE	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
U	unit	Mistaken as zero, four or cc.	Write "unit"
IU	International Unit	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten).	Write "International Unit"
Q.D. Q.O.D	Latin abbreviation for once daily and every other day	Mistaken for each other. The period after the Q can be mistaken for an "i" and the "O" can be mistaken for an "I"	Write "daily" and "every other day"
Trailing zero* (5.0 mg)		Decimal point is missed	Never write a zero by itself after a decimal point; Write 5 mg
Lack of leading zero (.5 mg)		Decimal point is missed	Always use a zero before a decimal point; Write 0.5 mg
*Exception: Trailing zeros may be used when there is a clear need to demonstrate level of precision, e.g. lab test values, imaging studies, or catheter/tube sizes.			
MS MSO4 MgSO4	Morphine Sulfate Morphine Sulfate Magnesium Sulfate	Confused for one another. Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate	Write "morphine," "morphine sulfate," or "magnesium sulfate"