

# H/C HENRY COUNTY M/C MEDICAL CENTER

## Unacceptable Abbreviations

The following abbreviations will **no longer** be used at HCMC based on ISMP, and patient safety standards. See Abbreviations Policy and Procedures (8310.1.10.001).

UNACCEPTABLE ABBREVIATION	INTENDED MEANING	MISINTERPRETATION	APPROVED SUBSTITUTION	DATE
U or u	units	Read as (0) or (4) causing a 10-fold overdose or greater	Write "units"	08/05/02
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	magnesium sulfate	morphine sulfate	Write "Magnesium Sulfate"	08/05/02
MSO <sub>4</sub>	morphine sulfate	magnesium sulfate	Write Morphine, Morphine Sulfate, or MS	08/05/02
µg	mcg (microgram)	Mistaken for mg (milligram)	Use "microgram" or mcg	08/05/02
QD or qd	daily	Interpreted as qid	Write "daily" or "Q day"	07/25/03
QOD or q.o.d.	every other day	Interpreted as meaning "every once a day" or read as qid.	Write every other day	07/25/03
cc	cubic centimeter	Misread as zeros	Write mL	<u>Effective 07/01/05</u>
* Zero after decimal point.	Example: (1.0 mg)	Misread as (10 mg)	Do not use terminal zeros for doses expressed as whole numbers. Write the whole number. "1 mg"	07/25/03
*No zero before decimal dose.	Example: (.5 mg)	Misread as (5 mg)	Always use a zero before a decimal when the dose is less than a whole number.	07/25/03

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Date Approved: 3/10/05

Page 2 of 2

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			Write (0.5 mg)	
IU	International Units		Write "international units"	11/3/04
D	For days or doses		Write days or doses	11/3/04
ug			Write "mcg"	11/3/04
gr.			Write grains	11/3/04
AU			Write each ear	11/3/04
TIW			Write three times a week	11/3/04
O.D.			Write once daily	11/3/04
Ex. .25mg			Write 0.25 mg	11/3/04

**Reference:** *MEDical ABBREVIations: 24,000 Conveniences at the Expense of Communications and Safety.*  
 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2005. Neil M. Davis, MS, PharmD, FASHP

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