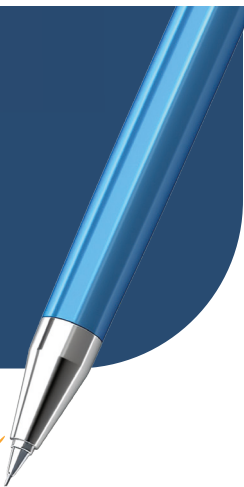
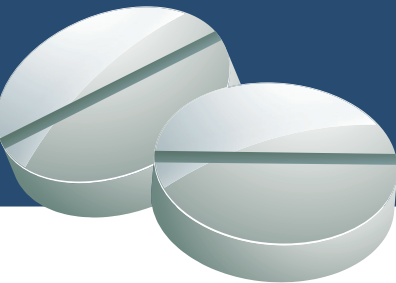


DO NOT USE

ABBREVIATIONS
SYMBOLS
DOSE DESIGNATIONS

Follow these best practices



ABBREVIATION	INTENDED MEANING	PROBLEM	RECOMMENDATION
U	Unit	Can be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“0” (zero)“4” (four) orcc	• “unit”
IU	International unit	Can be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“IV” (intravenous) or“10” (ten)	• “unit”
Abbreviations for drug names (excluding solutions)		Because there are similar abbreviations for multiple drugs e.g., MS MSO ₄ (morphine sulfate) MgSO ₄ (magnesium sulfate) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Can be misinterpretedCan be mistaken for each other	• Do not abbreviate drug names
QD	Every day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">QD and QOD are often mistaken for each otherMistaken for “qid” (four times a day)The Q has also been misinterpreted as “2” (two)	• “daily”
QOD	Every other day		• “every other day”
OD	Every day	Can also be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“Right eye” (OD = oculus dexter)	• “daily” • DIE
OS	Left eye	May be confused with one another	• “left eye”
OD	Right eye		• “right eye”
OU	Both eyes		• “both eyes”
AS	Left ear	May be confused with one another	• “left ear”
AD	Right ear		• “right ear”
AU	Both ears		• “both ears”
D/C	Discharge	Can be interpreted as <ul style="list-style-type: none">“Discontinue whatever medications follow”	• “discharge”
cc	Cubic centimetre	Can be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“u” (units)	• “mL” “millilitre”
µg	Microgram	Can be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“mg” (milligram) resulting in one thousand-fold overdose	• “mcg”

SYMBOL			
@	at	Can be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“2” (two)“5” (five)	• “at”
&	and	Can be mistaken for <ul style="list-style-type: none">“2” (two)	• “and”
x 3 d	Three doses	Can be misinterpreted as <ul style="list-style-type: none">“for 3 days”	• “three doses” • Other duration spelled out
x 3 d	For three days	Can be interpreted as <ul style="list-style-type: none">“3 doses”	• “for three days” • Other duration spelled out

DOSE DESIGNATIONS			
Trailing zero	x.0 mg	The decimal point is often overlooked resulting in 10-fold dose error	• Never use a zero by itself after a decimal point • “x mg”
Lack of leading zero	.x mg	The decimal point is often overlooked resulting in 10-fold dose error	• Always use a zero before a decimal point • “0. x mg”

Potential Errors



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