

List of medical abbreviations: Latin abbreviations

The main discussion of these abbreviations in the context of [drug prescriptions](#) and other [medical prescriptions](#) is at *List of abbreviations used in medical prescriptions*. Some of these abbreviations are best not used, as marked and explained [here](#).

Abbrev.	Meaning	Latin (or New Latin) origin
a.c.	before <u>meals</u>	ante cibum
a.d., ad, AD	right ear	auris dextra
a.m., am, AM	<u>morning</u>	<u>ante meridiem</u>
nocte	every night	Omne Nocte
a.s., as, AS	left ear	auris sinistra
a.u., au, AU	both ears together or each ear	aures unitas or auris uterque
b.d.s, bds, BDS	2 times a day	bis die sumendum
b.i.d., bid, bd	twice a day / twice daily / 2 times daily	bis in die
gtt., gtts	<u>drop(s)</u>	<u>gutta(e)</u>
h., h	<u>hour</u>	<u>hora</u>
h.s., hs	<u>at bedtime</u> or half strength	hora somni
ii	two tablets	duos doses
iii	three tablets	três doses
n.p.o., npo, NPO	nothing by mouth / not by <u>oral administration</u>	nil per os
o.d., od, OD	once a <u>day</u> right <u>eye</u>	omne in die oculus dexter
o.s., os, OS	left <u>eye</u>	oculus sinister
o.u., ou, OU	both <u>eyes</u>	oculus uterque
p.c.	after <u>food</u>	post cibum
p.m., pm, PM	<u>afternoon</u> or <u>evening</u>	<u>post meridiem</u>
p.o., po, PO	orally / by <u>mouth</u> / <u>oral administration</u>	<u>per os</u> / <i>nonstandard form</i> <u>per orem</u>
p.r., pr, PR	<u>rectally</u>	<u>per rectum</u>
p.r.n., prn, PRN	as needed, (also Pertactin - a key antigen of ac.Pertussis vaccine)	<u>pro re nata</u>
q.	every	<u>quaque</u>
q.1.d., q1d	every <u>day</u>	quaque die
q.1.h., q1h	every <u>hour</u>	quaque hora
q.2.h., q2h	every 2 hours	quaque secunda hora

Abbrev.	Meaning	<u>Latin</u> (or <u>New Latin</u>) origin
q.4.h., q4h	every 4 hours	quaque quarta hora
q.6.h., q6h	every 6 hours	quaque sexta hora
q.8.h., q8h	every 8 hours	quaque octava hora
q.a.m., qAM, qam	every <u>morning</u>	quaque ante meridiem
q.d., qd	every day / daily	quaque die
q.h.s., qhs	every night at bedtime	quaque hora somni
q.d.s, qds, QDS	4 times a day	quater die sumendum
q.i.d, qid	4 times a day	quater in die
q.h., qh	every <u>hour</u> , hourly	quaque hora
q.o.d., qod	every other <u>day</u> / alternate days	quaque altera die
q.p.m., qPM, qpm	every <u>afternoon</u> or <u>evening</u>	quaque post meridiem
q.s., qs	a sufficient quantity (<u>enough</u>)	<u>quantum sufficiat</u>
q.wk. also qw	weekly (once a week)	
Rx, R _x , R	<u>prescription</u>	<u>recipe</u>
Sig., S.	<u>directions</u>	<u>signa</u>
Stat.	immediately, with no delay, now	<u>statim</u>
t.d.s, tds, TDS	3 times a day	ter die sumendum
u.d., ud	as <u>directed</u>	ut dictum

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