

Acceptable Prescribing Terms and Abbreviations

Intended meaning	Acceptable term or abbreviation
Dose frequency or timing	
(in the) morning	morning, mane
(at) midday	midday
(at) night	night, nocte
twice a day	bd
three times a day	tds
four times a day	qid
every 4 hours	every 4 hrs, 4 hourly, 4 hrly
every 6 hours	every 6 hrs, 6 hourly, 6 hrly
every 8 hours	every 8 hrs, 8 hourly, 8 hrly
once a week	once a week and specify the day in full
three times a week	three times a week and specify the days in full
when required	prn
immediately	stat
before food	before food
after food	after food
with food	with food
Dose forms	
capsule	cap
cream	cream
drops	drops
injection	inj
metered dose inhaler	metered dose inhaler, inhaler, MDI
mixture	mixture
ointment	ointment, oint
patient controlled analgesia	PCA
pessary	pess
powder	powder
suppository	supp
tablet	tablet, tab

Intended meaning	Acceptable term or abbreviation
Route of administration	
ear	ear(s) specify left, right or both
epidural	epidural
eye	eye(s) specify left, right or both
inhale, inhalation	Inhale, inhalation
intraarticular	intraarticular
intramuscular	IM
intranasal	intranasal
intrathecal	intrathecal
intravenous	IV
irrigation	irrigation
left	left
naso-gastric	NG
nebulised	neb
oral	PO
percutaneous enteral gastrostomy	PEG
per rectum	PR
per vagina	PV
peripherally inserted central catheter	PICC
right	right
subcutaneous	subcut
sublingual	subling
topical	topical
Units of measure and concentration	
gram(s)	g
litre(s)	L
milligram(s)	mg
millilitre(s)	mL
microgram(s)	microgram, microg
millimole	mmol
international unit(s)	international unit(s)
unit(s)	unit(s)
percentage	%