**Medication Administration Abbreviations**

**Doses**
- cc = cubic centimeter
- gm = gram
- gr = grain
- gtt = drop
- mcg = microgram
- mEq = milliequivalent
- mg = milligram
- mL = milliliter
- oz = ounce
- tsp = teaspoonful
- Tbsp = tablespoonful
- U = units (WARNING, ALWAYS SPELL OUT!)

**Times**
- ac = before meals
- BID = twice a day
- pc = after meals
- PRN = as needed (commonly written with a time frame and reason the medication is being given. For example “q 2-4 h prn for pain” meaning every 2-4 hours as needed for pain)
- Q = every
- QD = every day (WARNING, ALWAYS SPELL OUT!)
- QID = four times a day
- QOD = every other day (WARNING, ALWAYS SPELL OUT!)
- q h = every hour (so q2h would be every two hours)
- qhs = every bedtime (sometimes written as just hs)
TID = three times a day
Stat = immediately

**Routes of Administration**
AD = right ear
AS = left ear
AU = both ears
buc = inside the cheek
IM = intramuscular injection
IV = intravenous
IVPB = intravenous piggyback
OD = right eye
OS = left eye
OU = both eyes
opth. = pertaining to the eye
otic = pertaining to the ear
PO = by mouth
NPO = nothing by mouth
PER G.T. = through gastrostomy tube
PR = per rectum
SL = sublingual
SQ or sub-Q = subcutaneous (also written as SC)
Supp = suppository
Susp = suspension
TPN = total paternal nutrition
Tab = tablet
Other

c = with

s = without

MAR = medication administration record

OTC = over the counter

Sig = label

EC = enteric coated

DC = discontinue

Per = through or by

Always check your facilities approved abbreviation list, policies and protocols prior to utilizing. Remember it is the nurse’s responsibility to appropriately decipher the physician’s orders. When in doubt clarify with the physician.