

# Prescription Abbreviations Decoded

Ever wonder what all of those cryptic initials mean on the prescription your doctor hands you to be filled by the pharmacist? Many of the abbreviations you see are derived from Latin, which can make it even more difficult to try and make sense of them. Here is a handy guide to some of the most frequently used abbreviations for prescriptions:



**a.c. = before meals**

**a.d. = right ear**

**a.m. = morning**

**a.s. = left ear**

**a.u. = each ear**

**aq. = water**

**b.i.d. = twice daily**

**b.i.n. = twice a night**

**bis = twice**

**BP = blood pressure**

**c. = with**

**cap. = capsule**

**CBC = complete blood count**

**cc = cubic centimeter**

**D = dose**

**delb. alt. = every other day**

**dieb. tert. = every third day**

**dil. = dilute**

**disc or D.C. = discontinue**

**disp. = dispense**

**div. = divide**

**dos. = dose**

**dr = dram**

**e.m.p. = as directed**

**et = and**

**ex aq. = in water**

**fl or fld = fluid**

**g = gram**

**gr. or gr = grain**

**gtt. = drop**

**h. or hr. = hour**

**h.s. = at bedtime**

**HBP = high blood pressure**

**HT = hypertension**

**IM = intramuscular**

**IV = intravenous**

**llq = liquid**

**m. et n. = morning and night**

**mg = milligram**

**ml = milliliter**

**N.R. = do not repeat**

**NPO = nothing by mouth**

**o.d. = right eye**

**o.l. or o.s. = left eye**

**oz. = ounce**

**p.c. = after meals**

**p.m. = afternoon, evening**

**p.o. = by mouth**

**p.r.n. = as needed**

**q = every**

**qd = every day**

**qh = every hour**

**qid = four times a day**

**qod = every other day**

**R = rectal**

**s. = without**

**Sig. = write on label**

**SOB = shortness of breath**

**sol. = solution**

**ss. = one-half**

**stat. = immediately**

**Subc or subq =**

**subcutaneously**

**sum. tal. = take one each**

**sup. = suppository**

**susp. = suspension**

**syr. = syrup**

**tab. = tablet**

**tbsp = tablespoon**

**tid = three times a day**

**tiw = three times a week**

**top = topically**

**tsp. = teaspoon**

**U or u = unit**

**u.d. or ut dict = as directed**

**URI = upper respiratory**

**Infection**

**UTI = urinary tract infection**

**w/ = with**

**w/o = without**

**x = times**

**y.o. = year old**