

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BHS
ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS LIST**

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
A	
(A)	Advocate
A&O	Alert and Oriented
AA	Alcoholic Anonymous
ac	Ante Cibum (before meals)
ACT	Assertive Community Treatment
ad lib	Ad Libitum (as desired, at pleasure)
AD	Advanced Directive(s)
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
Adm	Admission/admit
adol.	adolescent
ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction
AEB	As Evidenced By
Afib	Atrial fibrillation
AH	Auditory Hallucination
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIMS	Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale
AKA	Also known as
ALOS	Average Length of Stay
alc	alcohol
Alk. phos	Alkaline phosphatase
AMA	Against Medical Advice
AM	ante meridian (morning; before noon)
Amphet	Amphetamine
Anon	anonymous
Ans	answer
Ante	before
AOT	Assisted Outpatient Treatment
Apt	apartment
approx	approximately
appt	appointment
APS	Adult Protective Services
AOASOC	Adult/Older Adult System of Care
ASA	Aspirin
ASAP	As Soon As Possible
Asnmt	assignment
assmt.	Assessment
ASW	Associate Social Worker (BBS)
AT	Activity Therapy
attn	attention
Atty	attorney
A/VH	auditory/visual hallucinations
AWOL	Absent Without Leave/abscond

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
B	
B&C	Board and Care
B&R	Book and Release
BAL	blood alcohol level
BHS	Behavioral Health Services
BI	Brain Injured/Injury
BIB	Brought in By
bid	twice a day
Bio	Biological
BM	Bowel Movement
BMI	Body Mass Index
BMOD	behavior modification
BP	Blood Pressure
BPD	Borderline Personality Disorder
BS	Blood Sugar
BSAR	Behavior, Stimuli, Action, Response
btw	between
BUN	Blood Urea Nitrogen
BW	Body Weight
Bx	behavior
C	
ć	with
Ca	calcium
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
CAH	command auditory hallucinations
Cal	Calorie
cap(s)	capsule(s)
CAT	Computerized Axial Tomography
cath	catheter
CAUC	Caucasian
CBC	complete blood count
CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
cc	cubic centimeter
CC	Chief Complaint
C/O or c/o	complains of
CD	Chemical Dependency
CDC	Center for Disease Control
Cert	Certification (14-day hold)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CFT	Child Family Team
chem dep	chemical dependence
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
ChgN	Charge Nurse
chol	cholesterol
CI	Crisis Intervention
CLT/clt	Client
CM	Case Manager
CMA	Case Management Assistant
CME	County Medical Examiner

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
CMgt	Case Management
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CN	Cranial Nerve
CNS	Central Nervous System
Cnty	County
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
COD	Co-occurring Disorders
Cog	cognitive/cognition
Col	Collateral
combo	combination
Cons	Conservatorship
cont	continue(d)
conv	conversations
coord	coordination
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder
CP	Client Plan
CPK	Creatine Phosphokinase
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CPS	Child Protective Services
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
Creat	Creatinine
CRF	Chronic Renal Failure
Crystal	Crystal-methamphetamine
CSF	Cerebrospinal Fluid
CSU	Crisis Stabilization Unit
CT	Computerized Tomography
ctr	center
Ctry	Country
CV	Cardiovascular
CVA	Cerebrovascular Accident
CVD	Cardiovascular Disease
CWS	Child Welfare Services
Cx	Cervix
CXR	Chest X-Ray
D	
D.O.	Doctor of Osteopathy
D/C	Discontinue/discharge
d/o	disorder
DBT	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
DDx	Differential Diagnosis
DD	Developmentally Disabled
DEC	decanoate
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
del.	delusions
depr	depression
dept	department

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
DET	Detention for Evaluation and Treatment
detox	Detoxification
DHCS	Department of Healthcare Services
dict	Dictated
diff	differential
disorg	disorganized
disp	dispense
DJD	Degenerative Joint Disease
dl	deciliter
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
D/O	disorder
DOA	Date of Assignment
DOB	Date Of Birth
doc	documentation
DOI	Date Of Inquiry/Date Of Injury
DON	Director of Nursing
DOS	Date of Service
DP	Discharge Planning
DP/SNF	District Part/Skilled Nursing Facility
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
DR	Day Rehabilitation
DRG	Diagnostic Related Group
drsg.	dressings
DSM V	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V
DSS	Department of Social Services
DTO	Danger to Others
DTS	Danger to Self
DTSO	Danger to Self and Others
DTs	Delirium Tremens
DV	Domestic Violence
Dx	Diagnosis
E	
Ea	each
EBP	Evidence Based Practices
EBT	Electronic Benefits Transfer
e.g.	exempli gratia (for example)
ECT	Electroconvulsive Therapy
ed	education
EEG	Electroencephalogram
EENT	Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat
eff	effective
EHR	Electronic Health Record
EKG/ECG	Electrocardiogram
EMDR	Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing
EMG	Electromyogram

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Medical Team
EMTALA	Emergency Treatment and Labor Act
ENT	Ear, Nose, Throat
EOB	Explanation of Benefits
EPS	Extrapyramidal Symptoms
EPU	Emergency Psychiatric Unit
ER	Emergency Room
Et.Al.	(Et alli) and others
etc	et cétera
ETOH	Ethyl Alcohol
eval	Evaluation
exp	expired
ext	extract/external

F

F	Female
FA	Father
fam	family
fax	facsimile
FBS	Fasting Blood Sugar
FC	Foster Care
Fe	Iron
FeSO ₄	Ferrous Sulfate
FH	Family History
fl	fluid
FP	Foster Parent
FS	finger stick
FSH	Follicle Stimulating Hormone
Ft	feet
FT	Family Therapy
FTT	Failure to Thrive
f/u	follow up
Fx	Fracture
fxn	function

G

G1, G2, etc.	Gravidity: number of pregnancies
GABHS	Group A Beta-Emolytic Streptococcus
GB	Gallbladder
GC	Gonorrhea
gc	gross confusion
GD	Gravely Disabled
GE	Gastroenterology
GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disorder
gf	girlfriend
GFa/GMo	Grandfather/Grandmother
GFR	Glomerular Filtration Rate
GG	Gamma Globulin

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
GH	Group Home
GI	Gastrointestinal
Gluc	Glucose
gm	gram
GMEC	Graduate Medical Education Committee
Grp tx	Group Therapy
GSW	Gunshot Wound
gtt/gtts	gutta (a drop)/guttae (drops)
GU	Genitourinary
GYN	Gynecology

H

H&H	Hemoglobin and Hematocrit
H&P	History and Physical
h.s/hs	hora somni (at bedtime)
H/A	Headache
H/O	History Of
H ₂ O	Water
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen Peroxide
Hal	Haloperidol
halluc	hallucinations
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HC	Hydrocortisone
HCG	Human Chorionic Gonadotropin
Hct	Hematocrit
HCTZ	hydrochlorothiazide
HEENT	Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Throat
hemat	Hematology
hgb	hemoglobin
HGH	Human Growth Hormone
HHSA	Health and Human Services Agency
HI	Homicidal Ideation
HIMS	Health Information Management Services
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMEC	Hospital Medical Executive Committee
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
HOH/HH	hard of hearing
hosp	hospital
HPI	History Of Present Illness
HR	Heart Rate
hr	hour
hs	at bedtime, hour of sleep
Ht	Height
HTN	hypertension
HW	Homework

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
Hx	History
I	
I&J	Insight and Judgment
I&O	Intake and Output
i.e	id est (that is)
IBW	Ideal Body Weight
IC	Infection Control
ICD-10CM	International Classification of diseases – Tenth Revision – Clinical Modification
ICM	Intensive Case Management
ICN	Institutional Charge Nurse
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
ID	Identification
IDDM	Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IgA, IgG	immunoglobulin A, immunoglobulin G, etc.
ILF	Independent Living Facility
IM	Intramuscular
IMD	Institute of Mental Disease
IMF	Intern – Marriage Family Therapist
immun.	Immunization
IMR	Illness Management and Recovery
IN	Information Notice
in situ	in (natural or original) position
Inappro	Inappropriate
Ind/individ	individual
info	information
inh	inhalation
inj	injection
Inpt/I/P	Inpatient
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Services
ins	insurance
Invol	Involuntary
IOR	Ideas of Reference
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
IRB	Institutional Review Board
irreg	irregular
ISP	Individual Service Plan
IT	Information Technology
ITP	Individual Treatment Plan
IU	International Unit
IUD	Intrauterine Device
IV	Intravenous

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
J	
JCAHO	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
Jr	Junior
K	
K+	Potassium
KC10 ₄	Potassium Per Chlorate
KCAL	Kilogram Calorie
KCL	Potassium Chloride
Kg	kilogram
KUB	Kidney, Ureter, Bladder
L	
L	Left
l	liter
L/min	Liters per minutes
lab	laboratory
lac	laceration
lat	lateral
lb	pound
LBBB	Left Bundle Branch Block
LCSW	Licensed Clinical Social Worker
LDel	left deltoid
LDH	Lactic Dehydrogenase
LE	Law Enforcement
LED	Lowest Effective Dose
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LFT	Liver Function Tests
Li ⁺	Lithium
LiCO ₃	Lithium Carbonate
liq	liquid
LLE	Left Lower Extremity
LLL	Left Lower Lobe
LLQ	Left Lower Quadrant
LMFT	Licensed Marriage Family Therapist
LMHP	Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
LML	Left Middle Lobe
LMP	Last Menstrual Period
LOA	Loosening of associations/loose associations
LOC	Level of Care
LOS	Length Of Stay
LPCC	Licensed Prof. Clinical Counselor
LPHA	Licensed Practitioner of Healing Arts
LPN	Licensed Practical Nurse
LPS	Laterman-Petris-Short (conservatorship)
LPT	Licensed Psychiatric Technician
LSD	Lysergic Acid Diethylamide

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
LTC	Long Term Care
LUE	Left Upper Extremity
LUL	Left Upper Lobe
LUQ	Left Upper Quadrant
LVH	Left Ventricular Hypertrophy
LVN	Licensed Vocational Nurse
LWBS	Left without being seen
lymph	lymphatic
lymphs	lymphocytes
Lytes	electrolytes

M

M	Male
MAR	Medication Administration Record
Mat	Maternal
max	maximum
MCE	Medical Care Evaluation
mcg	microgram
MCH	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin
MCHC	Mean Corpuscular Hemoglobin Concentrate
MCP	Metacarpal-Phalangeal Joint
MCV	Mean Corpuscular Volume
M.D./MD	Medical Doctor
MDD	Major Depressive Disorder
MDT	Multidisciplinary Team
med	medication
MEDI-MEDI	Medical-Medicare
mEqL	Milliequivalent per Liter
Meth	Methamphetamine
mg	milligram
Mg+	Magnesium
MGM	Maternal Grandmother
Mgr	Manager
mgmt	management
MH	Mental Health
MHA	Mental Health Aide
MHC	Mental Health Counselor/ Mental Health Center
MHS	Mental Health Services
Mi	miles
MI	Myocardial Infarction
min	minute
MIS	Management Information System
Misc	miscellaneous
MJ	Marijuana
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
MMPI	Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
MMSE	Mini-Mental Status Examination
MO	Mother
Mo.	month
mod	moderate
MP	Metatarsal-phalangeal
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
MS	Multiple Sclerosis
MSE	Mental Status Examination
msg	message
MSW	Master Social Work
mtg(s)	meeting(s)

N

N&V	Nausea and Vomiting
N	North
N/A	Not Applicable
NA	Narcotics Anonymous
Na+	Sodium
NaCl	sodium chloride
NAD	No Acute Distress
NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness
NAS	No Added Salt
NC/AT	Normocephalic, Atraumatic
NCS	No Concentrated Sweets
neg	negative
neuro	Neurological
N/G	Nasal Gastric
NIDDM	Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus
NKA	No Known Allergies
NKDA	No Known Drug Allergies
No.	number
NOA	Notice of Action
NOABD	Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination
NOC	Night/Nocturnal
NOS	Not Otherwise Specified
NP	Nurse Practitioner
NPH	Type of Insulin (Isophane)
NPI	National Provider Identifier
NPO	Nil per os (Nothing By Mouth)
NR	no refill
NS	Normal Saline
N/S	No Show
NSAIDS	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
nsg	nursing
NSR	Normal Sinus Rhythm
NTE	Not To Exceed
NTG	Nitroglycerine

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
O	
O ₂	Oxygen
OA	Office Assistant
OU	Oculus Uterque (both eyes)
OB	Obstetrics
OD	Overdose
oint	ointment
OOB	Out Of Bed
OP, outpt	outpatient
OR	Operating Room
Ortho	Orthopedic(s)
OS	Oculus Sinister (left eye)
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OT	Occupational Therapy
OTC	Over The Counter
OU	Oculus uterque (both eyes)
oz	ounce
P	
P	pulse
P&A	Percussion & Auscultation
PCon	Permanent Conservator or Conservatorship
pm	noon – midnight
PA	Parole Agent
PT	Physical Therapist
P ₁ , P ₂ , etc	PARA ₁ , PARA ₂ , etc. (# of pregnancies)
PA & lat	Posterior-Anterior and lateral
PAP (smear)	Papanicolaou smear
PARA	Parity: number of pregnancies carried to viable gestational age
PAT	Paroxymal Atrial Tachycardia
path	pathology
pb	phenobarbital
P/c	phone call
PCN	Penicillin
PCP	Primary Care Physician/Provider
PD	Police Department
PDR	Physicians' Desk Reference
PE	Physical Examination
ped	pediatrics
per	through, according to
PERM	Payment Error Rate Measurement
PERRL	Pupils Equal, Round and Reactive to Light
PERRLA	Pupils Equal, Round and Reactive To Light and Accommodation

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
PERT	Psychiatric Emergency Response Team
PFT	Pulmonary Function Test
PG	Public Guardian
PH	Past History
ph	symbol for hydrogen ion concentrate
PHF	Psychiatric Health Facility
PHN	Public Health Nurse
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
Pharm.D.	Doctor of Pharmacy
PHP	Partial Hospitalization Program
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PID	Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
PIN	Personal Identification Number
PIR	Problem-Intervention-Response
Pkg	package
PKU	Phenylketonuria
PM	(post meridian) afternoon
PMH	Past Medical History
PMS	Pre-Menstrual Syndrome
po	by mouth
PO	Probation/Parole Officer
POB	Place of Birth
post-op	post-operative
PPD-S, PPD	Purified Protein Derivative, Tuberculin (Stabilized Solution)
PPT	Partial Prothrombin Time
pre-op	pre-operative
prep	preparation (for)
prev	previous
PRN	pro re nata (as needed, as necessary)
Prob	problem
pro time	prothrombin time
prog	Progress
PSU	Psychiatric Security Unit
Psy.D.	Doctor of Psychology
psych	psychology
psych test	psychological testing
Pt/pt	patient
PT	Physical Therapy/Therapist
PTSD	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
PUD	Peptic Ulcer Disease
Pvt	private
PVOL	Patient/Parent Voluntary
PW	Pregnant woman
Q	
q, Q	quaque (every)
q2h, q3h	Every 2 hours, every 3 hours, etc

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
Qam/QAM	quaque mane (every morning)
QD	every day
Qh/QH	quaque hora (every hour)
QHS	quaque hora somni (every bedtime)
QI	Quality Improvement
Qid/QID	quarter in die (4 times a day)
QOD	every other day
QM	Quality Management

R

R	Right
R&B	Room and board
R&R	rest and relaxation
R&S	Restraints and Seclusion
RD	Registered Dietician
R/O	Rule Out
RBBB	Right Bundle Branch Block
RBC	red blood cell
RC	Regional Center
RCA	Root Cause Analysis
re:	with regards to/regarding
rec	recreation
rec.	Recommend (-ed)(-ation)
Rec'd	received
ref	refused
Ref	Reference/referred
RET	Rational Emotive Therapy
rehab	rehabilitation
REM	rapid eye movement
RF	rheumatoid factor
RH	Rhesus (blood factor)
RTIS	Responding To Internal Stimuli
RLE	Right Lower Extremity
RLL	Right Lower Lobe
RLQ	Right Lower Quadrant
RML	Right Middle Lobe
RN	Registered Nurse
ROI	Release of Information
ROM	Range Of Motion
ROS	Review Of Systems
RPR	Rapid Plasma Reagin (test for syphilis)
RRR	Regular Rate & Rhythm
RT	Recreation Therapy/Therapist
RTC	Return to Clinic
RUE	Right Upper Extremity
RUL	Right Upper Lobe
RUQ	Right Upper Quadrant
RV	Right Ventricular
RVH	Right Ventricular Hypertrophy

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
Rx	Prescription
rxn	reaction
S	
ś	without
S/E	side effects
SW	Social Worker
S/P	Status Post
S ₁ , S ₂	first heart sound, second heart sound
sa	substance abuse
SA	Suicide Attempt
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
Sat	saturated
Schiz	Schizophrenia
S.D./SD	San Diego
SDCPH	San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital
SDPD	San Diego Police Department
SEC	Supported Employment Counselor
Sec8	Section Eight
SED	Severely Emotionally Disturbed
sed	Sedimentation
sed rate	erythrocyte sedimentation rate
SGOT	Serum Glutamic Oxaloacetic Transaminase
SGPT	Serum Glutamic Pyruvic Transaminase
SH	Social History
SI	Suicidal Ideation
Sib(s)	sibling(s)
sig	Directions to Patient ("write on label")
SL	Sublingual
SLE	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
SLF	Sober Living Facility
SMI	Serious Mental Illness
SMO	Second medical opinion
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SO	Significant Other(s)
SOB	Shortness Of Breath
soc	social/socialization
sol	solution
SPA	State Plan Amendment
Spec Ed	Special Education
spec	specimen
SPMI	Serious Persistent Mental Illness
Sr.	Senior
SRO	single room occupancy
SS	Social Security
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSD	Social Security Disability

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
SSI	Social Security Income
SSN	Social Security Number
SSRI	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor
staph	Staphylococcus
START	Short Term Acute Residential Treatment (crisis house)
STAT	Statim (immediately)
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
Strep	Streptococcus
sub.q.	subcutaneous
SUD	Substance Use Disorder
Sup.	Supervisor
supp	suppository
surg	surgery
susp.	Suspension
Svc	service
Sx(s)	symptom(s)
Sx Mgmt	symptom management
sz dis	seizure disorder
T	
T	Therapist
T ₁ ,	First Thoracic Vertebrae,
T ₂	Second, Thoracic Vertebrae
T ₃	Triiodothyronine
T ₄	Thyroxine
Tab(s)	tablet(s)
TB/tb	Tuberculosis
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TBS	Therapeutic Behavioral Services
Tbs	tablespoon
TC	Thought Content
TCon.	Temporary Conservator or Conservatorship
TCM	Targeted Case Management
Tel	Telephone
TEMP	Temperature
TENS	Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation
THC	marijuana
TIA	Transient Ischemic Attack
TID	ter in die (three times a day)
TIW	three times per week
TLC	tender loving care
top	topically
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
Trg	training

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
TSH	Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone
tsp	teaspoon
Tx	treatment/therapy
TxP	Treatment Plan
TxTm	Treatment Team
U	
UA	Urinalysis
UBx	unpredictable behavior
UCR	Usual, Customary and Reasonable
UDS	Urine Drug Screen
UE	Upper Extremity
unauth	unauthorized
Unk	unknown
UM	Utilization Management
UR	Utilization Review
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection
Urol	Urology
UTI	Urinary Tract Infection
V	
VA	Veteran's Administration
VO	Verbal Order
Voc Rehab	Vocational Rehabilitation
Vag	Vagina/Vaginal
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (blood test for syphilis)
Vets	Veterans
VH	Visual Hallucinations
VM	Voice Mail
voc	vocational
VS	Vital Signs
vs.	Versus
W	
w/	with
W/C	Wheel Chair
W/D	Withdrawal
w/o	without
wa	while awake
WAIS-R	Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised
WBC	White Blood Count
WD, WN	Well Developed, Well Nourished
WHO	World Health Organization
WISC-III	Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – third edition
wk	Week
wkly	weekly

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
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WNL	Within Normal Limits
wt	weight

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
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X, Y, Z

x	Times
Yd	yard
y/o	year (s) old
yr.	year
YTD	Year to Date

Symbols

=	equal to
%	percent
&	and
#	pounds/number
1:1	one-to-one/individual session
Ox4	oriented times four (person, place, time, situation)
~	Approximately