

Unapproved Abbreviations

Please discontinue use of the following abbreviations.

Abbreviation	Potential Problem	Preferred Method/Term
Zero after a Decimal Point (1.0)	Misread as 10 if the decimal point is not seen.	Do not use terminal zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers.
No Zero Before Decimal Dose (.5 mg)	Misread as whole unit. (5 mg)	Always use zero before a decimal when the dose is less than a whole unit.
U or u	Mistaken as zero, four, or cc.	Write "unit."
q.d. or QD	Misinterpreted as q.i.d., especially if the period after the "q" or the tail of the "q" is misunderstood as an "i."	Use "daily" or "every day."
q.o.d. or QOD	Misinterpreted as "q.d." (daily) or "qid" (four times daily) if the "o" is poorly written.	Use "every other day."
IU	Misread as IV (intravenous).	Use "units."
MS or MS04	Misinterpreted as magnesium sulfate instead of morphine sulfate.	Use the complete spelling for drug names.
MgSO4	Misinterpreted as morphine sulfate instead of magnesium sulfate.	Use the complete spelling for drug names.