

# Dental Abbreviations, Symbols and Acronyms



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## **Dental Abbreviations, Symbols and Acronyms**

### **Acknowledgements**

This publication was developed by the Council on Dental Practice.

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### **The Council on Dental Practice Mission Statement**

The mission of the Council on Dental Practice is to recommend policies and provide resources to empower our members to continue development of the dental practice, and to enhance their personal and professional lives for the betterment of the dental team and the patients they serve.

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## Dental Abbreviations, Symbols and Acronyms

### Introduction:

Abbreviations, acronyms and symbols are often used in dental charting or in dental publications as a convenience. The Council on Dental Practice (CDP) maintains this listing of dental abbreviations, symbols and acronyms in an effort to give uniformity for authors, educators, practitioners, oral health care students and others who may have a need to use or know common dental and dental-related abbreviations, symbols and acronyms.

You will notice that there may be more than one meaning for an abbreviation and/or acronym, or more than one common way to abbreviate a term. The lists provided here reflect current usage as reported to the Council on Dental Practice. It is always important to keep in mind the context of the entry when using or interpreting an abbreviation or acronym.

The Council recommends that dentists select their own approved list of abbreviations, symbols and/or acronyms for their offices. This list should be made part of your office policies so that all team members use uniform terminology. A form is provided for this purpose in this publication. Dentists may wish to consider making this form available when complying with a patient's or other lawful request for records.

Acronyms, abbreviations and symbols selected should have single meanings in your office. Dentists should avoid using abbreviations, symbols or acronyms that are obscure. Unique abbreviations, symbols or acronyms may not be understood by others and may cause a variety of problems in both a clinical and legal setting. If there is any doubt about the understanding of an abbreviation, symbol or acronym, it should not be used. Dentists are advised to consult with their own legal counsel, professional liability insurers or risk management representatives for specific advice.

Abbreviations or acronyms should not be used on patient informed consent forms. Dentists are also advised to refrain from using abbreviations when writing prescriptions for patients. While these may be commonly used in charting, prescriptions given to patients should be completely legible and no abbreviations should be used. Recommendations from the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP) are included in this text.

Finally, this listing is not complete. Comments and suggestions from readers regarding additions or deletions to future editions of this publication are welcome. Please submit your comments or suggestions to:

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## Commonly Used Dental Charting Abbreviations and Symbols

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
/	per
"X" or "="	missing tooth or pontic
/kg	per kilogram
/lb	per pound
↺	rotated counterclockwise
↻	rotated clockwise
<	lesser than
>	greater than
Δ	change; diagnosis
ΔΔ	differential diagnosis
√	check
≈	approximately equal
≠	fracture
↑	increased
↓	decreased
↔	no difference
^	diastema
	open contact
→   midline   ←	drifted mesially
←   midline   →	drifted distally
°C	Celsius
°F	Fahrenheit
♀	female
♂	male
1° or 1'	primary
2° or 2'	secondary
+ (number)	degree of mobility
6MR	six month recall

ABBREVIATION	WORD OR TERM
<b>A</b>	
a	before
A(LFH)	(Anterior) Lower Facial Height [anterior nasal spine-menton]
A(TFH)	(Anterior) Total Face Height [nasion-menton]
AAA	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
ab	abutment
abc	abscess
ABCD	Asymmetry, Borders, Color, Diameter
abf	abfraction
abn	abnormal
abr	abrasion
abs	abscess
abut	abutment
Ac	acute
ac	before meals
acc	accessory
ACM	Acetaminophen
acr	acrylic
acry	acrylic
AD	Alzheimer's Disease
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
adj	adjust(ed) (ment)
adv	advanced
AED	Automatic External Defibrillator
AG	attached gingival
Ag	silver
Ag pt	silver point
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
air abr	air abrasion
AL	attachment loss
alg	alginate

algin	alginate
ALL	Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
alv	alveol(us) (ar)
alvect	alveolectomy
alvy	alveolectomy
AM	before noon
am	amalgam
AM BU	amalgam buildup
Amal	amalgam
AMO	Anterior Maxillary Osteotomy
amp	amputation
An	Angle
ANB	A point Nasion B point
anes	anesthesia; anesthetic
ant	anterior
ante	before
ANUG	Acute Necrotizing Ulcerative Gingivitis
aob	alcohol on breath
AP	adult prophylaxis
AP	anterior-posterior
AP	Adult Periodontitis
AP	addicted patient
ap	apex
APAP	acetaminophen, paracetamol; N- acetyl-para-aminophenol
apeo	Apicoectomy
APF	acidulated phosphate fluoride
apico	apicoectomy; apical root canal surgery
appl	appliance
appl	application
appt	appointment
APT	Active Periodontal Treatment
aq	water
AR	amalgam restoration
ARC	AIDS Related Complex
as lib	freely; as needed
ASA	aspirin; acetylsalicylic acid

asap	as soon as possible
asst	assistant; dental assistant
asst	assorted
atr	atrophy
att	attachment
attr	attrition
atyp	atypical
Au	gold
ausc	auscultation
aux	auxilliary
av	avulsion
AVC	Active Vertical Corrector treatment
ave	average
aver	average
avg	average
aw	arch wire
aw adj	archwire adjustment
AZT	Azidothymidine
<b>B</b>	
B	buccal
b/u	build up
BA	broken appointment
bb	bad breath
BBTD	Baby Bottle Tooth Decay
bbti	bisque bake try in
BC	bone crest
BD	bony defect
BD	base of defect
BD	buccal distal
BDF - H	bony defect fill – horizontal
BDF - V	bony defect fill – vertical
bf	bone fragment
bg	bone graft
BGW	bigonial width
bi	bicuspid
BI	biologic indicators
bid	twice a day

BII	bridge supported by two implants
bil	bilateral
bis-gma	bisphenol-a-glycidyl methacrylate
bkt	bracket
BL	bone loss
bldup	build up
BMS	Burning Mouth Syndrome
bn	bon(e) (y)
BOP	bleeding on probing
bp	blood pressure
BR	by report
br	bridge
br	fixed partial denture
br bx	brush biopsy
brdg	bridge
brdg	fixed partial denture
brk	bracket
BRM	Biological Response Modifier
brux	brux(er) (ism)
BSSO	Bilateral Sagittal Split Osteotomy
BTI	bleeding time index
bu	build up
buc	buccal
BUN	Blood Urea Nitrogen level
bw	bitewing x-ray
bwx	bite wing x-ray
bwxr	bite wing x-ray
bx	biopsy
<b>C</b>	
— c	with
C	coarse
C & B	crown and bridge
C & S	culture and sensitivity
C/	complete upper denture
/C	complete lower denture
c/o	complaining of
ca	approximately
ca	circa

CA	cancer
CAB	Coronary Artery Bypass
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease
CAD/ CAM	computer-aided design/ computer-aided manufacture
CAL	clinical attachment level
calc	calculus
canc	cancel(lation)
CaOH	Calcium Hydroxide
caps	capsules
car	caries
Car Prev Tx	Caries Prevention Treatment
carp	carpule
CAT	computerized axial tomography
cav	cavity
CBC	complete blood count
cc	caries control
cc	chief complaint
cc	cubic centimeter
CD	chemical dependency
CE	cervical erosion
CEJ	cementoenamel junction
cem	cement(ation)
ceph	cephalometric image
ceram	ceramic
CFA	craniofacial analysis
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure
chk	check
chk	observe
chr	chronic
cit acid	citric acid
CL	cleft lip
CL	crown lengthening
cl & sh	cleansing and shaping
cl I	classification of jaw relation; Angle Class I
cl II	classification of jaw relation; Angle Class II
cl III	classification of jaw relation; Angle Class III
CL/CP	cleft lip, cleft palate

CLD	complete lower denture
cldy	cloudy
CLP	cleft lip and palate
clr	clear
cm	centimeter
CMB	Chronic Mouth Breathing
cmpd	compound
CMV	cytomegalovirus
CO	centric occlusion
COC	Calcifying Odontogenic Cyst (Gorlin Cyst)
COD	condition on discharge
comp	complete
comp	composite
Comp BU	composite buildup
con bar	connector bar
conc	concentrat(e) (ion)
cond	condition
cong	congenital
cons	consultation
cons sed	conscious sedation
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
COS	curve of Spee
COW	curve of Wilson
CP	centric position
CP	child prophylaxis
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
cpd	compound
CPEC	comprehensive periodontal examination and charting
CPF	coronally positioned flap
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CPT	Caries Prevention Treatment
CR	centric relation
cr	crown
crl	cervical root lesion
crn	crown
crn lngth	crown lengthening
CRO	centric relation occlusion



CRP	C-reactive protein
crs	coarse
CS	coronal scaling
CS	conscious sedation
CT	computerized tomography
CTS	Cracked Tooth Syndrome
cu	cause unknown
CUD	complete upper denture
cur	curettage
CV	Curriculum Vitae
CVA	Cerebral Vascular Accident
Cx	control tooth
<b>D</b>	
d	day
d	depth
D	distal
d/c	discontinue
d/c	discharged
d/e	double ended instrument
d/w	discussed with
D/W	dextrose/water
da	dental assistant
daw	dispense as written
DB	distal buccal
DBA	dentin bonding agents
dbl	double
DC	dentigerous cyst
DD	differential diagnosis
DDR	direct digital radiography
debrd	debridement
dec	decrease
dec	deciduous
decid	deciduous
decid	primary
def	defective
del	deliver(ed)
demo	demonstrate
dent	dent(al) (istry)(ition)(ure)

denthx	dental history
desen	desentiz(ation) (e)
dev	develop
DFDBA	demineralized freeze-dried bone allograft
dfdg	differential diagnosis
DFMT	decayed, filled or missing teeth
dg	diagnosis
dh	dental history
dhr	dental health record
DI	distal incisal
DI	Dentogenesis Imperfecta
dia	diameter
diag	diagnosis
dias	diastema
DigA	anterior digastric muscle
dil	dilute
dir	direct
disc	discussed
dist	distal
div	divide
DJD	Degenerative Joint Disease
DK	caries
DK	decay
DL	distal lingual
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
dnka	did not keep appointment
DO	distal occlusal
dob	date of birth
DOB	distal occlusal buccal
DOF	distal occlusal facial
DOT	directly observed therapy
dpc	direct pulp cap
dr	drain
drn	drain
drs	dressing
drsg	dressing
dt	decayed teeth
dtr	denture

du	drug user
dup	duplicate(d)
DV	domestic violence
DVT	Deep Vein Thrombosis
dwt	pennyweight
dx	diagnosis
DZP	diazepam
<b>E</b>	
E	extraction
E&E	excavate and evaluate
e.g.	for example
ea	each
EAL	electronic apex locator
EBV	Epstein-Barr Virus
ECC	early childhood caries
ecf	extended care facility
ECM	extra-cellular matrix
ED	effective dose
EDA	Ectodermal dysplasia
edent	edentulous
EGF	Epidermal Growth Factor
EM	Erythema Multiforma
emerg	emergency
EMG	electromyogram
EMO	edentulous mandibular overdenture
endo	endodontics
EO	extraoral
EOP	Early Onset Periodontal disease
epi	epinephrine
epin	epinephrine
epith	epitheli(um) (al)
EPT	electric pulp test
eq pts	equal parts
equil	equilibrate; equilibration
equiv	equivalent
esp	especially
ESRD	End Stage Renal Disease
est	estimate

e-surg	electro-surgery
etch	acid etch
etiolo	etiology
ETS	environmental tobacco smoke
eug	eugenol
eval	evaluat(ion) (e)
Ex	examination
ex.	example
exam	examination
exc	excision
excs	excision
exf	exfoliat(e) (ion) (ive)
exp	expos(ed) (ure)
ext	extract(ion)
ext bl	external bleaching
extr	extruded
<b>F</b>	
F	facial
f	fine
F	fluoride
F	failed appointment
F/	maxillary full denture
/F	mandibular full denture
F/C	fever or chills
F/F	full maxillary denture over full mandibular denture
F/L	full lower denture
F/P	full maxillary denture over partial mandibular denture
F/U	full upper denture
f/u	follow up
fa	failed appointment
fac	facing
famhx	family history
FAPA	Fever-Apthous ulcers-Pharyngitis-Adenitis
fb	foreign body
fc	flap curettage
fc	formocresol
fd	furcation depth

FDS	Flap Debridement Surgery
fem	female
ff	fine fine
FGC	full gold crown
fgg	free gingival graft
fgm	free gingival margin
fh	family history
FH	Frankfurt Horizontal
fl	fluid
fl	fluoride
FLD	full lower denture
FLK	Funny Looking Kid
fms	full mouth series
fmwk	framework
fmx	full mouth series
FN	false negative
FNA	fine needle aspiration
FNB	fine needle biopsy
FO	Flap with Osseous resection surgery
F-O	fiber optics
fom	floor of mouth
food imp	food impaction
FOTI	Fiber Optic Transillumination
FP	false positive
FPD	fixed partial denture
FR	Functional Regulator (Frankel Appliance)
frag	fragment
frenmy	frenectomy
freq	frequent
Ftx	fluoride treatment
FU(D)	full upper denture
func	function
fuo	fever of unknown origin
fur	furcation
furc	furcation
FX	fracture
fx	function
fx pros	fixed prosthodontics

fxd	fixed
Fxd	fixed prosthodontics
<b>G</b>	
g	gram
g ion	glass ionomer cement
ga	general anesthesia
gal	gallon
GBI	gingival bleeding index
GBS	gingival bleeding score
GCF	gingival crevicular fluid
gen	general; generalized
G-EOP	Generalized Early-onset Periodontitis
GERD	gastroesophageal reflux disease
gf	gold foil
GI	gastrointestinal tract
GI	Gingival Index
GI	glass ionomer
GIC	glass ionomer cement
ging	gingiva(l)
GIR	glass ionomer resin
GJP	Generalized Juvenile Periodontitis
gm	gram
gmh	general medical history
Gn	gnathion
Go	gonion
GP	general practitioner
gp	gutta percha
gplasty	gingivoplasty
grp	group
GTCS	Generalized Tonic-clonic Seizures (Grand Mal)
GTH	Gingival Thickness
gtmy	gingivectomy
GTR	guided tissue regeneration
gtt	drop
gvtv	gingivectomy
<b>H</b>	

H	history
H	hour
H&C	hot and cold
H&P	History and Physical
h/o	history of
H <sub>2</sub> O	water
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	hydrogen peroxide
HA	hydroxyapatite
ha	headache
HAOS	hard acrylic occlusal splint
HAV	Hepatitis A virus
HBD	has been drinking
hbp	high blood pressure
HBsAg	Hepatitis B surface antigen
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
hci	home care instructions
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
hemr	hemorrhage
Hg	mercury
HGH	Human Growth Hormone
HH	health history
hh	hard of hearing
HHV	Human Herpes Virus
hist	history
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HL	Hairy Leukoplakia
hl	hearing loss
HMO	Horizontal Mandibular Osteotomy
HNF	head-neck-face
hoh	hard of hearing
hoi	history of present illness
hosp	hospital
HP	handpiece
HPBL	horizontal probing bone level
HR	high risk
hr	hour
hrd	hard
HS	heavy smoker
hs	at bedtime

HSV	Herpes Simplex Virus
ht	height
htn	hypertension
htr	hard tissue replacement
hve	high volume evacuation
hw	healing well
hx	history
hyg	dental hygiene
I	
I	incisal
I & D	incise and drain
i.s.q.	no change
i.s.q.	in status quo
I/D	incise and drain
IA	inferior alveolar
IAL	incidental attachment loss
IBD	intraony defect
IBF	ibuprofen
IBI	Eastman Interdental Bleeding Index
IC	informed consent
ic med	intra canal medication
icp	intercuspal position
ID	identification
id	interior diameter
IDDM	Insulin-dependent Diabetes Mellitus (Type 1)
IDU	injection drug user
IFPD	implant fixed partial denture
IM	intramuscular
imm	immediate
immed	immediate
imp	imp(acted)(action)(roved)(lant)(ression)
impl	implant
impr	impression
in	inch
IN	intranasal
inc	incomplete

incl	include
incr	increase
incls	incised
indir	indirect
inf	inf(erior) (ected)
infl	inflammation
inj	injection
inj	injury
inl	inlay
inr	intermittent
ins	inserted
INS	insurance
instr	instruct(ed) (ion)
int	Internal
int bl	internal bleaching
intr	intruded
io	intraocular
ip	intercuspal position
ipc	indirect pulp cap
IPD	Inflammatory Periodontal Disease
IRM	intermediate restorative material
irrig	Irrigation
iv	Intravenous
ivdu	intravenous drug use
ivrf	incomplete vertical root fracture
<b>J</b>	
JRA	Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis
<b>K</b>	
kg	keratinized gingival
KS	Kaposi's sarcoma
<b>L</b>	
L	left
l	length
l	liter
L	lingual
l	lower
LA	labial

LA	local anesthesia
lab	laboratory
lac	laceration
lat	lateral
LCR	light cured resin
LE	Lupus Erythematosus
les	lesion
lft	left
lg	large
Li	lingual
lido	lidocaine
lig	liga(ment) (ture)
ling	lingual
liq	liquid
LJP	Localized Juvenile Periodontitis
LL	lower left
LLQ	lower left quadrant
LP	lichen planus
lpa	loss of periodontal attachment
LPM	lateral pterygoid muscle
LR	lower right
lrg	large
LRQ	lower right quadrant
<b>M</b>	
M	mesial
m	male
m	medium
MAA	Mandibular Advancement Appliance
malig	malignant
maloc	malocclusion
man	mandib(ular) (le)
mand	mandib(ular) (le)
MAS	masseter muscle
MAT	maxillary alveolar tenderness
max	maxi(lla) (llary) (mum)
MB	mesial buccal
mcg	microgram
mdl	midline

MDR-TB	Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis
med	medium
med hx	medical history
medic	medicament
meds	medications
mEq	milliequivalent
mf	medium fine
MF	mesial facial
MFL	mesial facial lingual
MFP	myofascial pain
mg	milligram
mg	mucogingival
MGJ	mucogingival junction
mh	medical history
MI	maximum intercuspation
MI	mesial incisal
MI	myocardial infarction
MID	mesial incisal distal
min	minute
min	minimal
miss	missing
MjAU	Major Aphthous Ulcers
ML	mesial lingual
ml	milliliter
mld	mild
MM	mucous membrane
mm	millimeter
MNVB	Mental Neurovascular Bundle
MO	mesial occlusal
mo	month
MOB	mesial occlusal buccal
MOD	mesial occlusal distal
mod	moderate
MODB	mesial occlusal distal buccal
MOL	mesial occlusal lingual
MP	mandibular plane (gonion-menton)
MPBI	Modified Papillary Bleeding Index
MPD	myofacial pain dysfunction

MPI	maximum permitted intake
MS	Multiple Sclerosis
MSBI	modified sulcular bleeding index
MVA	motor vehicle accident
MVP	mitral valve prolapse
MW	modified Widman surgery
<b>N</b>	
n/a	not applicable
n/c	no charge
n/d	not determined
N/S	no show
N/V	nausea and vomiting
N <sub>2</sub> O	nitrous oxide
na	not applicable
NaCl	sodium chloride
NAD	no apparent distress
NaF	sodium fluoride
nar	narrative
nc	no change in condition
NCP	non compliant patient
ncr	necrotic
NE	norepinephrine
nec	necrotic
NED	no evidence of disease
neg	negative
NERD	no evidence of recurrent disease
NHL	Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
ni	no insurance
nk	not known
NKA	no known allergies
NKDA	no known drug allergies
nl	normal limits
NNS	non-nutritive sucking
no.	number
non-vtl	non-vital
np	new patient
npc	no previous complaint
npe	new patient examination

nph	no previous history
npo	nothing by mouth
nr	next recall
nrc	nonrestorable caries
ns	non-smoker
ns	nothing significant
NSAID	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
nsf	no significant findings
NSPT	Non Surgical Periodontal Therapy
NUG	Necrotizing Ulcerative Gingivitis
nv	next visit
NVB	inferior alveolar neurovascular bundle
<b>O</b>	
O	occlusal
O <sub>2</sub>	oxygen
OAT	Oral Appliance Therapy
obj	objective
OC	open contact
OC	oral contraceptives
occ	occlus(al) (ion)
occl	occlus(al) (ion)
occl xr	occlusal x-rays
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
ocf	other clinical findings
od	outer diameter
OFD	Orofaciodigital Syndrome
oh	oral hygiene
ohi	oral hygiene instructions
ohr	oral health record
oi	occlusal interference
oint	ointment
OKC	Odontogenic Keratocyst
OMLP	Oral Mucosal Lichen Planus
OMSCC	Oral Mucosal Squamous Cell Carcinoma
onl	onlay
op	operat(ion) (ory)
ortho	orthodontics

OS	oral surgery
OSCC	Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma
oss	osseous
OTC	over the counter
oth	other
ov	office visit
oxy	oxygen
oz	ounce
<b>P</b>	
P	palatal
p	prophylaxis
P & C	post and core
P & E	prophylaxis and exam
P & M	papillae and marginal gingiva
P(TFH)	Posterior Total Facial Height (sella-gonion)
P/	maxillary partial denture
P/F	partial maxillary denture over full mandibular denture
P/P	partial maxillary denture over partial mandibular denture
P:	Treatment Plan
pa	periapical
PA	posterior-anterior
PA	preparatory appointment
PACR	post and core restoration
PAL	probing attachment level
palp	palpation
pan	panoramic image
pano	panoramic image
PAP	periapical pathology
part	partial
PASS	Plaque Assessment Scoring System
pat	patient
path	pathology
pax	periapical x-ray
Pb	lead
PBI	papillary bleeding index
PBI	Periodontal pocket Bleeding Index

PBS	papillary bleeding score
PC	periodontal chart
PC	porcelain crown
PC	poor contact
pc	after meals
pc	pulp cap
pcap	pulp cap
PCD	Periapical Cemental Dysplasia
PCN	penicillin
PCO	periodontal chart only
PCR	pseudo centric relation
PCT	plaque control techniques
PD	partial denture
pd	probing depth
PDC	preventive dentistry counseling
PDI	periodontal disease index
pdl	periodontal ligament
pecor	pericoronitis
pedo	pedodontics; pediatric dentistry
PEN	penicillin
per os	by mouth
perc	percussion
perf	perforation
periap	periapical
perio	periodont(al) (itis) (ics)
perio main	periodontal maintenance
perm	permanent
PFG	porcelain fused to gold
PFM	porcelain fused to metal
pfs	pit and fissure sealant
ph	past history
ph	(tele)phone
PI	plaque index
pit-fis	pits and fissures
PJC	porcelain jacket crown
pk	pocket
pkt	pocket
PL	partial lower denture
PLD	partial lower denture

PLP	palatal lift prosthesis
plpts	pulpitis
plq	plaque
PLV	porcelain laminate veneer
PM	after noon
PMC	porcelain to metal crown
pmh	past medical history
pmma	polymethylmethacrylate
PMO	Posterior Maxillary Osteotomy
pmrc	polyacid-modified resin composite material
pnxr	panoramic radiograph
po	by mouth
PO	post operative
poc	pocket
POI	post operative instructions
pol	polish
pom	porcelain on metal
pon	pontic
porc	porcelain
POS	point of service
pos	Positive
post	After
post	posterior
post op	post operative
POT	post operative treatment
pow ch	power chain
PPD	probing pocket depth
PPE	personal protective equipment
ppm(b)	parts per million (billion)
ppt	paper point
PR	per rectum
pre op	pre-operative
prec att	precision attachment
prefab	prefabricated
prelim	preliminary
premed	premedicate
prep	prepar(e) (ation)
prev	prevention



prim	primary
prn	as needed
pro	prophylaxis
prog	prog(nosis) (ress)
prophy	prophylaxis
pros	prosthodonti(cs) (st)
prosth	prosthodonti(cs) (st)
prov	provisional
prox	proximal
PRP	plasma rich protein
PRR	preventive resin restoration
PS	past smoker
PSA	posterior superior alveolar
PSR	periodontal screening and recording
PST	post surgical treatment
pt	patient
PUD	partial upper denture
pulp	pulp(otomy) (ectomy)
pulpo	pulpotomy
pur	purulent
PVS	polyvinyl siloxane
pwdr	powder
Px	prognosis
px	prophylaxis
P-XR	panoramic radiograph
Pxs	prophylaxis
<b>Q</b>	
Q	question
q	every
q 4 h (q 4°)	every 4 hours
q 6 h (q 6°)	every 6 hours
q1d	every day
qam	every morning
qd	every day
qh	every hour
qid	four times a day
god	every other day

qrtrs	quarters
qs	sufficient quantity
quad	quadrant
<b>R</b>	
R	right
R	recurrent decay
R & C	risks and complications
r/o	rule out
RA	right angle
RA	Rheumatoid Arthritis
rad	radiograph
RAP	recovering addicted patient
RAS	Recurrent Aphthous Stomatitis
RAU	Recurrent Aphthous Ulcer
RBFPD	resin-bonded fixed partial denture; Maryland bridge
rc	residual cyst
rc	root canal
rcf	root canal filling
rct	root canal therapy
RD	recession depth
R-D	rubber dam
RDH	registered dental hygienist
rdk	recurrent decay
re	regarding
reapp	reappoint(ment)
reappt	reappoint(ment)
reb	rebase
rec	gingival recession
rec	recommend(ed)
rec	record
recem	recement
recon	reconstruction
red	reduc(ed) (tion)
ReDK	recurrent decay
re-eval	re-evaluation
ref	reference
reg	regular
reimpl	reimplantation

rel	reline
rem	removable
rem pros	removable prosthodontics
repl	replac(ed) (ing)
res	resin
resp	respiration
rest	restor(ation) (e)
ret	retained
RME	rapid maxillary expansion
RMGI	resin modified glass ionomer
RMH	reviewed medical history
ro	radiopaque
ROH	alcohol
ROHic	alcoholic
ROM	range of motion
RP	retruded position
rp	root planing
rp/sc	root planing and scaling
RPD	removable partial denture
RPE	rapid palatal expansion
RPS	root planing and scaling
rrr	residual ridge resorption
rt	right
RTC	return to clinic
rw	recession width
Rx	Prescription
<b>S</b>	
$\bar{s}$	without
s	surface
s sut	silk suture
S&RP	scaling and root planing
S&Sx	signs and symptoms
S/D	systolic / diastolic blood pressure
s/e	single ended instrument
S/S	signs and symptoms
SAOS	soft acrylic occlusal splint
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

SBE	Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis
SBI	sulcular bleeding index
SBP	systolic blood pressure
SC	subcutaneous
sc	scaling
sd	sterile dressing
seal	sealant
sed	sedative
sens	sensitive
sft	soft
sgl	single
SH	social history
sh	shade
Sig	directions; take as follows
sl	slightly
SL	sublingual; under the tongue
SLE	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
SM	study models
SM	space maintainer
sm	small
SM	submucosal
SMA	study model analysis
SNA	sella-nasion-A-point
SNB	sella-nasion-B-point
SnF	stannous fluoride
SPT	supportive periodontal treatment
sr	silver restoration
SRP	scaling and root planing
ssc	stainless steel crown
ssn	social security number
st	student
st	smokeless tobacco
stat	immediately
std	standard
STD	sexually transmitted disease
STL	soft tissue lesion
STM	soft tissue management
sut	suture
sub	subgingival; submarginal

subcut	subcutaneous
subggv	subgingival
subging	subgingival
subl	sublingual
subling	sublingual
subm	submucosal
subq	subcutaneous
sugg	suggestion
sup	superior
super	above
super	additional
supnum	supernumerary
supp	supperation
supra ggv	supragingival
supra marg	supramarginal
sur	surface
surf	surface
surg	surg(ery) (ical) (eon)
surg ext	surgical extraction
susp	suspension
susp	suspect
SVOS	soft vinyl occlusal splint
sx	sometimes
Sx	symptoms
sxt	sextant
sym	symmetric
symp	symptoms
syr	syrup
sys	system (ic)
sz	size
<b>T</b>	
t cond	tissue condition(er) (ing)
T/t	time/temperature
tab	tablet
tb	toothbrush
TB	Tuberculosis
TBA	Tooth Brush Abrasion

TBS	tris-buffered saline
tblsp	tablespoon
tc	tissue conditioning
Tem A	anterior temporalis muscle
Tem P	posterior temporalis muscle
Temp	temperature
temp	temporary
TENS	transcutaneous electric nerve stimulation
th	tooth
TID	three times per day
TMD	temporomandibular joint disorder
tmj	temporomandibular joint
TN	trigeminal neuralgia
tng	tongue
top	topical
TP	treatment plan
TP	therapeutic pulpotomy
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
TPT	thermal pulp test
tr	treatment
trans	transitional
tsp	teaspoon
tt	temporary treatment
TTC	tetracycline
Tx	treatment
Tyl	tylenol
<b>U</b>	
U	universal color
u	upper
U(A)FH	upper anterior facial height
UK	unknown
UL	upper left
ULQ	upper left quadrant
uncoop	uncooperative
uner	unerupted
ung	ointment
unilat	unilateral
unk	unknown

unsvc	unserviceable
UR	upper right
URQ	upper right quadrant
<b>V</b>	
v.s.	vital signs
var	varnish
vaso	vasoconstrictor
VD	venereal disease
VD	vertical dimension
VDO	vertical dimension of occlusion
vert bw	vertical bitewings
vert def	vertical defect
vert dim	vertical dimension
vit	vitamin
vs	vital signs
vtl	vital
VZV	Varicella Zoster Virus
<b>W</b>	
w	width
w/	with
w/f	with fluoride
w/fl	with fluoride
w/n	within

w-d	well developed
wgt	weight
WL	working length
w-n	well nourished
wnl	within normal limits
wt	weight
<b>X</b>	
X	times
xc	extra coarse
xf	extra fine
XR	x-ray
xs	excess(ive)
xt	extract (ion)
xxf	extra extra fine
xylo	Xylocaine
<b>Y</b>	
y/o	years old
<b>Z</b>	
ZDV	Zidovidine
ZnPO <sub>4</sub>	zinc phosphate
ZOE	zinc oxide eugenol

## Commonly Used Dental Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
<b>A</b>	
AAAHHC	Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care
AAE	American Association of Endodontists
AAFP	American Academy of Family Physicians
AAHD	American Association of Hospital Dentists
AAO	American Association of Orthodontists
AAOMP	American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
AAOMR	American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
AAOMS	American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
AAP	American Academy of Periodontology
AAP	American Academy of Pediatrics
AAPD	American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
AAPHD	American Association of Public Health Dentistry
AARP	formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons
ACE	ADA Clinical Evaluator
ACP	American College of Prosthodontics
ACP	American College of Physicians
ACS	American College of Surgeons
ADA	American Dental Association
ADAA	American Dental Assistants Association
ADABEI	ADA Business Enterprises, Inc.
ADAF	ADA Foundation
ADEA	American Dental Education Association
ADHA	American Dental Hygienists' Association
AGD	Academy of General Dentistry
AHA	American Heart Association
AHA	American Hospital Association
AHCPR	Agency of Health Care Policy and Research
AHIC	American Health Information Community
AHIP	America's Health Insurance Plans
AHRQ	Agency for Health Care Research and Quality
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ALARA	As Low As Reasonably Achievable (radiation)
AMA	American Medical Association
ANHB	Alaska Native Health Board

ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ANTHC	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
ANUG	Acute Necrotizing Ulcerative Gingivitis
APHA	American Public Health Association
ARC	Aids Related Complex
ASA	American Society on Aging
ASC	Accredited Standards Committee
ASDA	American Student Dental Association
ASO	Administrative services only
ASTDD	Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AwDA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AWWA	American Water Works Association
<b>B</b>	
BAT	Best Available Technology
BBP	Blood Borne Pathogen Standard
BCLS	Basic Cardiac Life Support
BEIR	Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation
BFE	Bacterial Filtration Efficiency
BLS	Basic Life Support
BMP	Best Management Practices
BMS	Burning Mouth Syndrome
BPHC	Bureau of Primary Health Care (HRSA)
<b>C</b>	
CAPMI	Computer Assisted Post Mortem Identification
CDA	Certified Dental Assistant
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDHC	Community Dental Health Coordinator
CDHP	consumer-driven health plan
CDL	Certified Dental Laboratory
CDO	Chief Dental Officer
CDPMA	Certified Dental Practice Management Assistant
CD-ROM	Compact Disk-Read Only Memory
CDT	Certified Dental Technician
CDT	Current Dental Terminology
CE	Continuing Education
CERP	Continuing Education Recognition Program
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFU	Colony Forming Units
CG	Center of Gravity
CHAMPUS	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services
CHAP	Community Health Aide Program
CHIN	Community Health Information Network
CHIP	Children's Health Insurance Program/Medicare-Medicaid
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CN	cranial nerves
CNS	Central Nervous System
COA	Certified Orthodontic Assistant
COB	Coordination of Benefits
COBRA	Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
CODA	Commission on Dental Accreditation
COHR	Computer-based Oral Health Record
COMSA	Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CPT	Current Procedural Terminology
CQI	Continuous Quality Improvement
CRC	Code Revision Committee
CTS	Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
CTS	Cracked Tooth Syndrome
CV	Curriculum Vitae
CVA	Cerebrovascular Accident
<b>D</b>	
D/E	Double-ended instrument
DANB	Dental Assisting National Board
DARW	Dental Assistant Recognition Week
DAT	Dental Aptitude Test
DBA	Doing Business As
DC	Dentigerous Cyst
DDS	Doctor of Dental Surgery
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
DeCC	Dental Content Committee
DEF	decayed, extracted, filled
DFMT	Decayed, Filled or Missing Teeth
DFT	decayed, filled teeth
DHAT	Dental Health Aide Therapist

DHMO	Dental Health Maintenance Organization
DICAD	Digital Image Capture in Dentistry
DICOM	Digital Imaging Communications in Medicine
DIT	Dental Identification Team
DMD	Doctor of Dental Medicine
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DPP	Dental Practice Parameters
DR	Direct Reimbursement
DRG	diagnosis-related groups
DSMO	Designated Standards Maintenance Organization
DUWS(L)	Dental unit water supply (line)
<b>E</b>	
EAP	Employee Assistance Programs
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EBD	Evidence-based Dentistry
ECF	extended care facility
ECP	electronic claims processing
ECP	exposure control plan
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EFI	Electronic File Interchange
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer
EHR	Electronic Health Record
EM	Erythema Multiforme
EMG	Electromyography
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EMT	Emergency Management Training
EOB	Explanation of Benefits
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPSDT	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program
ERA	Electronic Remittance Advice
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
ESAR-VHP	Emergency System for Advance Registration of Health Professions Volunteers
ESC	Electronic Study Club



<b>F</b>	
FAQ	frequently asked question
FDA	Food & Drug Administration
FDBI	Facial Dog Bite Injury
FDI	World Dental Federation
FDS	Federal Dental Service
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFS	Fee for Service
FGF	Fibroblast Growth Factor
FMV	Fair Market Value
FOTI	Fiber Optic Transillumination
FQHCs	Federally Qualified Health Centers
FTC	Federal Trade Commission
<b>G</b>	
GKAS	Give Kids A Smile
GLC	Gas-liquid Chromatography
GMT	Geometric Mean Titer
GPR	General Practice Residency
GRAS	Generally recognized as safe
GUI	Graphic User Interface
<b>H</b>	
HazMat	Hazard Communication Standard
HCPCS	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
HCQA	Health Care Quality Alliance
HCS	Hazard Communication Standard
HCW	health care worker
HEDIS	Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set
HHS	Health and Human Services
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
HITSP	Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization
HPSAs	Health Professional Shortage Areas
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration
HS	Head Start
HSA	Health Savings Account
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language

<b>I</b>	
IBWA	International Bottled Water Association
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
IG	Implementation Guide
IHCIA	Indian Healthcare Improvement Act
IHS	Indian Health Service
INDID	Individual Identifier
IOM	Institute of Medicine
IPA	Individual Practice Association
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISP	Internet Service Provider
<b>J</b>	
JADA	Journal of American Dental Association
JCAHO	Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
JCSMS	Joint Commission on Sports Medicine and Science
<b>K</b>	
<b>L</b>	
L(A)FH	Lower (Anterior) Facial Height
LAN	Local Area Network
LASER	Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
LD	lethal dose
LD <sub>50</sub>	lethal dose expected to kill 50%
LDH	Licensed Dental Hygienist
LE	Lupus Erythematosus
LEAT	Least Expensive Alternative Treatment
LHD	Local Health Department
LTC	long term care
LTG	long term goals
<b>M</b>	
MBTI	Meyers Briggs Type Indicator
MCHB	Maternal and Child Health Bureau
MCO	Managed Care Organization
MF	Mental Foramina
MM-DD_YYYY	month, day of month, year
MRC	Medical Reserve Corps
MRD	maximum recommended dose
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging

MSA	Medical Savings Account
MSD	Musculoskeletal Disorders
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
MTD	month to date
<b>N</b>	
n	unspecified number
NADL	National Association of Dental Laboratories
NADP	National Association of Dental Plans
NAIC	National Association of Insurance Commissioners
NAOH	National Alliance for Oral Health
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NCCHC	National Commission on Correctional Health Care
NCCSH	National Coordinating Committee on School Health
NCDHM	National Children's Dental Health Month
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NCOAL	National Council on the Aging
NCQA	National Committee on Quality Assurance
NCRP	National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements
NCVHS	National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
NDA	National Dental Association
NFAC	National Fluoridation Advisory Committee
NFDH	National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped
NHBPEP	National High Blood Pressure Education Program
NHII	National Health Information Infrastructure
NHSC	National Health Service Corps
NIDCR	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
NIDR	National Institute of Dental Research
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NIMS	National Incident Management Systems
NLM	National Library of Medicine
NOEL	No Observable Effects Level
NOHC	National Oral Health Conference
NOHIC	National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse
NPDB	National Practitioner Data Bank
NPI	National Provider Identifier
NPPES	National Plan and Provider Enumeration System
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
NPSF	National Patient Safety Forum

NQF	National Quality Forum
NRC	National Research Council
NRHA	National Rural Health Association
NRP	National Response Plan
NSAID	non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
NSF	nonsufficient funds
NTP	National Toxicology Program
<b>O</b>	
OCR	Office for Civil Rights
OESS	Office of E-Health Standards and Services
OMSS	Organized Medical Staff Section (AMA)
ORGID	Organization Identifier
ORGTYP	Organization Type
OSAP	Office Sterilization and Asepsis Procedures
OSAP	Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OTC	over the counter
<b>P</b>	
P & L	Profit and Loss statement
P.A.N.D.A.	Prevent Abuse and Neglect Through Dental Awareness
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PARCA	Patient Access to Responsible Care Act
PBR	paper based record
PC	personal computer
PCP	primary care physician
PCR	polymerase chain reaction testing
PEL	permitted exposure limit
PHD	public health dentistry
PHI	Protected Health Information
POE	Place of Employment
POS	point of service
PPE	personal protection equipment
PPO	Preferred Provider Organization
PPT	partial prothrombin time
PRO	Professional Review Organization
PT	Normal Prothrombin Time; protime
PTAC	Professional and Technical Advisory Committee

<b>Q</b>	
QA	Quality Assessment
QC	Quality Control
<b>R</b>	
RAM	Random-Access Memory
RBA	Risks, Benefits and Alternatives
RBC	red blood cells
RCT	Randomized Clinical Trial
RDAEF	Registered Dental Assistant in Expanded Functions
RDH	Registered Dental Hygienist
REL	Recommended Exposure Limit
RFGD	Radiofrequency Glow Discharge
RFI	Request for Information
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Quote
RMT	Retromolar Trigone
ROI	return on investment
RQ	Readiness Quotient
RR	Relative Risk
RUC	Relative Value System Update Committee
RVS	Relative Value System
<b>S</b>	
SAL	Sterilization Accuracy Level
SBE	Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis
SCD	Special Care Dentistry
SCDI	Standards Committee on Dental Informatics
SCDP	Standards Committee on Dental Products
SCHIP	State Children's Health Insurance Program
SDP	Survey of Dental Practice
SES	Socio-economic status
SNODENT	Systematized Nomenclature of Dentistry
SOAP	subject, objective, assessment and planning
SOP	standard operating procedure
SOPHE	Society for Public Health Education
SPT	Supportive Periodontal Therapy
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STG	short term goals

<b>T</b>	
TDD	Telecommunication Device for the Deaf
TDP/TFD	Tricare Dental Program / Tricare Family Dental Program
Tfx	Toxic effects
TJC	The Joint Commission
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
TMD	Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction
TMJ	Temporomandibular Joint
TOA	Table of Allowance
TPA	Third Party Administrator
TQM	Total Quality Management
TWA	Time-Weighted Average
<b>U</b>	
UCR	Usual, customary and reasonable
UEL	Upper Exposure Limit
UR	utilization review
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
USOC	United States Olympic Committee
USPHS	United States Public Health Service
UV	ultra-violet light
UVGI	Ultra-violet Germicidal Irradiation
<b>V</b>	
VA	Veterans Administration
VCD	Video Cephalometric Diagnosis
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory Test
VDT	Video Display Terminal
VFO	Video Fiber-Optic
<b>W</b>	
WHO	World Health Organizations
<b>X</b>	
XML	Extensible Markup Language
<b>Y</b>	
YOB	year of birth
YTD	year to date
<b>Z</b>	
z	unknown quantity

## Commonly Used ADA Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning	Division
<b>A</b>		
AADA	Alliance of the American Dental Association	
ACCTG	Department of Accounting	FINOP
ADABEI	ADA Business Enterprise, Inc.	Subsidiary
ADABFS	Business and Financial Services Division	ADABEI
ADAF	ADA Foundation (Charitable)	AS
ADAGAT	ADA Grassroots Action Team	GOVT
ADAPUB	ADA Publishing	
ADPAC	Department of Political Affairs/American Dental Political Action Committee	GOVT
AP	Acceptance Program	SCI
AS	Division of Administrative Services	
ASDA	American Student Dental Association	
<b>B</b>		
BFS	Business and Financial Services	ADABEI
BHM	Department of Board and House Matters	AS
BOT	Board of Trustees	
<b>C</b>		
CAPIR	Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations	DENPR
CAS	Contract Analysis Service	LEGAL
CAS	Council on ADA Sessions	CMS
CC	Council on Communications	COMM
CDBP	Council on Dental Benefit Programs	DENPR
CDEL	Council on Dental Education and Licensure	EDUC
CDP	Council on Dental Practice	DENPR
CEBJA	Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs	LEGAL
CELL	Center for Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning	DENPR
CERP	Continuing Education Recognition Program	EDUC
CGA	Council on Government Affairs	GOVT
CI	Council on Insurance	FINOP
CIDA	Center for International Development and Affairs	MDSS
CIPD	Committee on International Programs and Development	
CLA	Committee on Local Arrangements	CMS
CM	Council on Membership	MDSS
CMIRP	Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs	FINOP

CMS	Division of Conference and Meeting Services	
CND	Committee on the New Dentist	MDSS
CODA	Commission on Dental Accreditation	EDUC
COMM	Communication and Corporate Relations	
CRFA	Commission on Relief Fund Activities	ADAF
CSA	Council on Scientific Affairs	SCI
<b>D</b>		
DAD	Department of Application Development	ITSSM
DBIS	Dental Benefit Information Services	DENPR
DCA	Department of Congressional Affairs	GOVT
DCMS	Division of Conference and Meeting Services	CMS
DCS	Department of Central Services	FINOP
DCSMP	Department of Conference Services and Meeting Planning	CMS
DDI	Department of Dental Informatics	DENPR
DDSS	Department of Dental Society Services	MDSS
DEAG	Dental Ergonomics Advisory Group	POL
DEC	Department of Electronic Communications	COMM
DENPR	Division of Dental Practice	
DIIS	Department of Internet and Intranet Systems	ITSSM
DITP	Department of IT Projects	ITSSM
DLS	Department of Library Services	EDUC
DMCS	Department of Media and Creative Services	COMM
DMI	Department of Membership Information	MDSS
DMM	Department of Membership Marketing	MDSS
DMS	Department of Membership Services	MDSS
DOS	Department of Officer Services	AS
DPIE	Department of Public Information and Education	COMM
DR	Direct Reimbursement	
DSA	Department of Standards Administration	ITSSM
DSGA	Department of State Government Affairs	GOVT
DSM	Department of Salable Materials	
DSR	Dental Society Resources	
DT	Department of Technology	ITSSM
DTAP	Dental Team Advisory Panel	
DTS	Department of Testing Services	EDUC
DUPL	Duplicating	FINOP
DWAC	Dentists' Well-being Advisory Committee	



DWC	Department of Washington Communications	COMM
<b>E</b>		
EAC	Employee Advisory Committee	OED
EDSAC		
EDU	Executive Director's Update	
EDUC	Division of Education	
<b>F</b>		
FDI	Federation Dentaire Internationale (World Dental Fed.)	MDSS
FDS	Federal Dental Services Membership Office	MDSS
FINOP	Finance/Operations	
<b>G</b>		
GKAS	Give Kids A Smile	CAPIR
GOVT	Division of Government Affairs	
GSD	Guidelines and Standards Development	SCI
<b>H</b>		
HDQB	Headquarters Building	AS
HIPAA	Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	
HOD	House of Delegates	
HPA	Health Policy Analysis	
HPRC	Health Policy Resources Center	POL
HR	Department of Human Resources	AS
<b>I</b>		
IA	Internal Audit	FINOP
ITSSM	Division of Information Technology, Standards and Salable Materials	
<b>J</b>		
JCNDE	Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations	EDUC
<b>L</b>		
LARP	Department of Legislative and Regulatory Policy	GOVT
<b>M</b>		
MARCOM	Department of Marketing Communications	COMM
MDSS	Division of Membership and Dental Society Services	
MSC	Member Service Center	MDSS
MSOP	Membership Services Outreach Program	MDSS
<b>N</b>		
NCDHM	National Children's Dental Health Month	
NIDCR	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	

<b>O</b>		
OCCO	Office of the Chief Operating Officer	OED
OCPA	Office of the Chief Policy Advisor	POL
OED	Office of the Executive Director	
OS	Office Services	AS
OSA	Office of Student Affairs	MDSS
OSPC	Office of Strategic Planning and Consulting	POL
<b>P</b>		
PMC	Performance Management Cycle	
POL	Policy	
PRC	Paffenberger Research Center (ADA Foundation)	SCI
PSE	Products and Standards Evaluation	SCI
PUR	Purchasing	FINOP
<b>R</b>		
RES	Research and Laboratories	SCI
RI	Research Institute (ADA Foundation)	SCI
<b>S</b>		
SB	Safety and Biocompatibility	SCI
SC	Survey Center	DENPR
SCI	Division of Science	
SHRE	Shipping and Receiving/Mail Room	FINOP
SI	Scientific Information	SCI
SPC	Strategic Planning Committee	POL
<b>T</b>		
TGMI	Tripartite Grassroots Membership Initiative	MDSS
<b>W</b>		
WO	Washington Office (Location)	GOVT

## Designations for Teeth

### Permanent Dentition (Universal National System)

Maxillary Right		Maxillary Left
1	Third Molar	16
2	Second Molar	15
3	First Molar	14
4	Second Premolar	13
5	First Premolar	12
6	Canine	11
7	Lateral Incisor	10
8	Central Incisor	9

Mandibular Right		Mandibular Left
32	Third Molar	17
31	Second Molar	18
30	First Molar	19
29	Second Premolar	20
28	First Premolar	21
27	Canine	22
26	Lateral Incisor	23
25	Central Incisor	22

### Primary Dentition

Maxillary Right		Maxillary Left
A	Second Molar	J
B	First Molar	I
C	Canine	H
D	Lateral Incisor	G
E	Central Incisor	F

Mandibular Right		Mandibular Left
K	Second Molar	T
L	First Molar	S
M	Canine	R
N	Lateral Incisor	Q
O	Central Incisor	P



National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

## Council Recommendations

### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

#### Recommendations to Enhance Accuracy of Prescription Writing

*Adopted Sept. 4, 1996*

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*Personnel to whom this applies: Prescribers; Nursing or Pharmacy staff (who transcribe verbal prescription orders or rewrite transfer or admission orders when entering or leaving a health care facility); Health care administrators/managers.*

Technology plays an important role in the delivery of healthcare. Utilize technology, as appropriate, but evaluate its effectiveness on an ongoing basis. While technology can reduce medication errors and enhance patient safety, it also has the potential to cause new types of unintentional errors.

The Council recommends:

1. ...all prescription documents be legible. Verbal orders should be minimized. (See the Council's Recommendations to Reduce Medication Errors Associated with Verbal Medication Orders and Prescriptions)
2. ...prescription orders include a brief notation of purpose (e.g., for cough), unless considered inappropriate by the prescriber. Notation of purpose can help further assure that the proper medication is dispensed and creates an extra safety check in the process of prescribing and dispensing a medication. The Council does recognize, however, that certain medications and disease states may warrant maintaining confidentiality.
3. ...all prescription orders be written in the metric system except for therapies that use standard units such as insulin, vitamins, etc. Units should be spelled out rather than writing "U." The change to the use of the metric system from the archaic apothecary and avoirdupois systems will help avoid misinterpretations of these abbreviations and symbols, and miscalculations when converting to metric, which is used in product labeling and package inserts.
4. ...prescribers include age and, when appropriate, weight of the patient on the prescription or medication order. The most common errors in dosage result in pediatric and geriatric populations. The age (and weight) of a patient can help

dispensing health care professionals in their double check of the appropriate drug and dose.

5. ...medication orders include drug name, exact metric weight or concentration, and dosage form. Strength should be expressed in metric amounts and concentration should be specified. Each order for a medication should be complete. The pharmacist should check with the prescriber if any information is missing or questionable.
6. ...a leading zero always precede a decimal expression of less than one. A terminal or trailing zero should never be used after a decimal. Ten-fold errors in drug strength and dosage have occurred with decimals due to the use of a trailing zero or the absence of a leading zero.
7. ...prescribers avoid the use of abbreviations including those for drug names (e.g., MOM, HCTZ) and Latin directions for use. The abbreviations in the chart below are found to be particularly dangerous because they have been consistently misunderstood and therefore, should never be used. The Council reviewed the uses for many abbreviations and determined that any attempt at standardization of abbreviations would not adequately address the problems of illegibility and misuse.

Abbreviation	Intended meaning	Common Error
U	Units	Mistaken as a zero or a four (4) resulting in overdose. Also mistaken for "cc" (cubic centimeters) when poorly written.
µg	Micrograms	Mistaken for "mg" (milligrams) resulting in an overdose.
Q.D.	Latin abbreviation for every day	The period after the "Q" has sometimes been mistaken for an "I," and the drug has been given "QID" (four times daily) rather than daily.
Q.O.D.	Latin abbreviation for every other day	Misinterpreted as "QD" (daily) or "QID" (four times daily). If the "O" is poorly written, it looks like a period or "I."
SC or SQ	Subcutaneous	Mistaken as "SL" (sublingual) when poorly written.
T I W	Three times a week	Misinterpreted as "three times a day" or "twice a week."
D/C	Discharge; also discontinue	Patient's medications have been prematurely discontinued when D/C, (intended to mean "discharge") was misinterpreted as "discontinue," because it was followed by a list of drugs.
HS	Half strength	Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation "HS" (hour of sleep).
Cc	Cubic centimeters	Mistaken as "U" (units) when poorly written.

AU, AS, AD	Latin abbreviation for both ears; left ear; right ear	Misinterpreted as the Latin abbreviation "OU" (both eyes); "OS" (left eye); "OD" (right eye)
IU	International Unit	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10(ten)
MS, MSO <sub>4</sub> , MgSO <sub>4</sub>	Confused for one another	Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate

8. ...prescribers avoid vague instructions such as "Take as directed" or "Take/Use as needed" as the sole direction for use. Specific directions to the patient are useful to help reinforce proper medication use, particularly if therapy is to be interrupted for a time. Clear directions are a necessity for the dispenser to: (1) check the proper dose for the patient; and, (2) enable effective patient counseling.

In summary, the Council recommends:

**Don't Wait . . . Automate!**  
**When In Doubt, Write It Out!**  
**When In Doubt, Check It Out!**  
**Lead, Don't Trail**

## Alphabetical Index of Commonly Used Dental Abbreviations

Word or Term	Abbreviation
<b>A</b>	
A point Nasion B point	ANB
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	AAA
abfraction	abf
abnormal	abn
above	super
abrasion	abr
abscess	abc, abs
abutment	ab, abut
accessory	acc
acetaminophen	ACM
acetaminophen, paracetamol; N-acetyl-para-aminophenol	APAP
acid etch	etch
acidulated phosphate fluoride	APF
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	AIDS
acrylic	acr, acry
Active Periodontal Treatment	APT
Active Vertical Corrector treatment	AVC
acute	ac
Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia	ALL
Acute Necrotizing Ulcerative Gingivitis	ANUG
addicted patient	AP
additional	add,super
adjust(ed) (ment)	adj
Adult Periodontitis	AP
adult prophylaxis	AP
advanced	adv
after	post
after meals	pc
after noon	PM
AIDS Related Complex	ARC
air abrasion	air abr
alcohol	ROH
alcohol on breath	aob
alcoholic	ROHic
alginate	alg, algin
alveol(us) (ar)	alv
amalgam	am, amal
amalgam buildup	AM BU
amalgam restoration	AR

amputation	amp
anesthesia; anesthetic	anes
angle	An
anterior	ant
Anterior (Lower Facial Height) [anterior nasal spine-menton]	A(LFH)
Anterior (Total Facial Height) [nasion-menton]	A(TFH)
Anterior digastric muscle	DigA
Anterior Maxillary Osteotomy	AMO
anterior temporalis muscle	Tem A
anterior-posterior	AP
apex	ap
apicoectomy; apical root canal surgery	apeo, apico
appliance	appl
application	appl
appointment	appt
approximately	ca
approximately equal	≈
archwire	aw
archwire adjustment	aw adj
as needed	prn
as soon as possible	asap
aspirin; acetylsalicylic acid	ASA
assistant; dental assistant	asst
assorted	asst
Asymmetry, Borders, Color, Diameter	ABCD
at bedtime	hs
atrophy	atr
attached gingiva	AG
attachment	att
attachment loss	AL
Attention Deficit Disorder	ADD
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	ADHD
attrition	attr
atypical	atyp
auscultation	ausc
Automatic External Defibrillator	AED
auxiliary	aux
average	ave, aver, avg
avulsion	av
Azidothymidine	AZT

<b>B</b>	
Baby Bottle Tooth Decay	BBTD
bad breath	bb
base of defect	BD
before	a, ante
before meals	ac
before noon	AM
bicuspid	bi
bigonial width	BGW
bilateral	bil
Bilateral Sagittal Split Osteotomy	BSSO
biologic indicators	BI
Biological Response Modifier	BRM
biopsy	bx
bisphenol-a-glycidyl methacrylate	bis-gma
bisque bake try in	bbti
bite wing x-ray	bw, bwx, bwxr
bleeding on probing	BOP
bleeding time index	BTI
blood pressure	bp
Blood Urea Nitrogen level	BUN
bon(e) (y)	bn
bone crest	BC
bony defect fill - vertical	BDF - V
bracket	bkt, brk
bridge	br, brdg
bridge supported by two implants	BII
broken appointment	BA
brush biopsy	br bx
brux(er) (ism)	brux
buccal	B, buc
buccal distal	BD
build up	b/u, bldup, bu
Burning Mouth Syndrome	BMS
by mouth	per os, po
by report	BR
bony defect	BD
bony defect fill - horizontal	BDF - H
bone fragment	bf
bone graft	bg
bone loss	BL
<b>C</b>	

Calcifying Odontogenic Cyst (Gorlin Cyst)	COC
Calcium Hydroxide	CaOH
calculus	calc
cancel(lation)	canc
cancer	CA
capsules	caps
cardiopulmonary resuscitation	CPR
caries	car, DK
caries control	cc
Caries Prevention Treatment	Car Prev Tx, CPT
carpule	carp
cause unknown	cu
cavity	cav
Celsius	°C
cement(ation)	cem
Cementoenamel Junction	CEJ
centimeter	cm
centric occlusion	CO
centric relation occlusion	CRO
cephalometric image	ceph
ceramic	ceram
Cerebral Vascular Accident	CVA
centric position	CP
cervical erosion	CE
cervical root lesion	crI
change	Δ
check	√, chk
chemical dependency	CD
chief complaint	cc
child prophylaxis	CP
chronic	chr
Chronic Mouth Breathing	CMB
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	COPD
Circa	ca
citric acid	cit acid
classification of jaw relation; Angle Class I	cl I
classification of jaw relation; Angle Class II	cl II
classification of jaw relation; Angle Class III	cl III
cleansing and shaping	cl & sh
clear	clr
cleft lip	CL
cleft lip and palate	CLP
cleft lip, cleft palate	CL/CP



clinical attachment level	CAL
cloudy	cldy
coarse	c, crs
compound	cmpd, cpd
complaining of	c/o
complete	comp
complete blood count	CBC
complete lower denture	/C, CLD
complete upper denture	C/, CUD
composite	comp
composite buildup	Comp BU
computerized axial tomography	CAT
computerized tomography	CT
concentrat(e) (ion)	conc
condition	cond
condition on discharge	COD
congenital	cong
Congestive Heart Failure	CHF
connector bar	con bar
conscious sedation	cons sed, CS
consultation	cons
Continuous Positive Airway Pressure	CPAP
Control tooth	Cx
coronal scaling	CS
coronally positioned flap	CPF
Coronary Artery Bypass	CAB
Coronary Artery Disease	CAD
craniofacial analysis	CFA
C-reactive protein	CRP
crown	cr, crn
crown and bridge	C & B
crown lengthening	CL, crn lngth
cubic centimeter	cc
culture and sensitivity	C & S
curettage	cur
Curriculum Vitae	CV
curve of Spee	COS
curve of Wilson	COW
cytomegalovirus	CMV
comprehensive periodontal examination and charting	CPEC
<b>D</b>	
date of birth	DOB
day	d

debridement	debrd
decay	DK
decayed teeth	dt
deciduous	dec, decid
decrease	dec
decreased	↓
Deep Vein Thrombosis	DVT
defective	def
Degenerative Joint Disease	DJD
degree of mobility	+ (number)
deliver(ed)	del
demineralized freeze-dried bone allograft	DFDBA
demonstrate	demo
dent(al) (istry)(ition)(ure)	dent
dental assistant	da
dental health record	dhr
dental history	denthx, dh
dental hygiene	hyg
dentigerous cyst	DC
dentin bonding agents	DBA
Dentogenesis Imperfecta	DI
denture	dtr
depth	d
desentiz(ation) (e)	desen
develop	dev
dextrose/water	D/W
Diabetes Mellitus	DM
diagnosis	dg, diag, dx, Δ
diameter	dia
diastema	^, dias
diazepan	DZP
did not keep appointment	dnka
differential diagnosis	ΔΔ, DD, dfdg
dilute	dil
direct	dir
direct digital radiography	DDR
direct pulp cap	dpc
directions; take as follows	Sig
directly observed therapy	DOT
discharged	d/c
decayed, filled or missing teeth	DFMT
discussed with	d/w
dispense as written	daw
distal	D, dist

distal buccal	DB
distal incisal	DI
distal lingual	DL
distal occlusal	DO
distal occlusal buccal	DOB
distal occlusal facial	DOF
divide	div
domestic violence	DV
double	dbl
double ended instrument	d/e
drain	dr, drn
dressing	drs, drsg
drifted distally	← midline
drifted mesially	→ midline
drop	gtt
drug user	du
duplicate(d)	dup
discontinue	d/c
discussed	disc
<b>E</b>	
each	ea
early childhood caries	ECC
Early Onset Periodontal disease	EOP
Eastman Interdental Bleeding Index	IBI
Ectodermal dysplasia	EDA
edentulous	edent
edentulous mandibular overdenture	EMO
effective dose	ED
electric pulp test	EPT
electromyogram	EMG
electronic apex locator	EAL
electro-surgery	e-surg
emergency	emerg
Erythema Multiforme	EM
endodontics	endo
End Stage Renal Disease	ESRD
environmental tobacco smoke	ETS
especially	esp
estimate	est
etiology	etiol
eugenol	eug
evaluat(ion) (e)	eval
every	q

every 4 hours	q 4 h (q 4°)
every 6 hours	q 6 h (q 6°)
every day	q1d, qd
every hour	qh
every morning	qam
every other day	qod
examination	Ex, exam
example	ex.
excavate and evaluate	E&E
excess(ive)	xs
excision	exc, excs
exfoliat(e) (ion) (ive)	exf
expos(ed) (ure)	exp
extended care facility	ecf
external bleaching	ext bl
extra coarse	xc
extra extra fine	xxf
extra fine	xf
extra oral	EO
extra-cellular matrix	ECM
extract (ion)	E, xt, ext
extruded	extr
<b>F</b>	
facing	fac
Fahrenheit	°F
family history	famhx, fh
female	♀, fem
fever or chills	F/C
Fever-Apthous ulcers-Pharyngitis-Adenitis	FAPA
Fiber Optic Transillumination	FOTI
fiberoptics	F-O
fine	f
fine fine	ff
fine needle aspiration	FNA
fine needle biopsy	FNB
fixed	fxd
fixed partial denture	br, brdg, FPD
fixed prosthodontics	fx pros, Fxd
flap curettage	fc
Flap Debridement Surgery	FDS
Flap with Osseous resection surgery	FO
floor of mouth	fom

fluoride	F, fl
fluoride treatment	Ftx
follow up	f/u
food impaction	food imp
for example	e.g.
foreign body	fb
formocresol	fc
four times a day	qid
fracture	≠, FX
fragment	frag
framework	fmwk
Frankfurt Horizontal	FH
free gingival graft	fgg
free gingival margin	fgm
freely; as needed	as lib
frenectomy	frenmy
frequent	freq
full gold crown	FGC
Fahrenheit	°F
failed appointment	F, fa
false negative	FN
full maxillary denture over full mandibular denture	F/F
full maxillary denture over partial mandibular denture	F/P
full mouth series	fms, fmx
full upper denture	F/U, FU(D)
function	func, fx
Functional Regulator (Frankel Appliance)	FR
Funny Looking Kid	FLK
furcation	fur, furc
furcation depth	fd
full lower denture	F/L, FLD
<b>G</b>	
gallon	gal
gastroesophageal reflux disease	GERD
gastrointestinal tract	GI
general anesthesia	ga
general medical history	gmh
general practitioner	GP
general; generalized	gen
Generalized Early-onset Periodontitis	G-EOP
Generalized Juvenile	GJP

Periodontitis	
Generalized Tonic-clonic Seizures (Grand Mal)	GTCS
gingival(I)	ging
gingival bleeding index	GBI
gingival bleeding score	GBS
gingival crevicular fluid	GCF
Gingival Index	GI
gingival recession	rec
Gingival Thickness	GTH
gingivectomy	gtmy, gvty
gingivoplasty	gplasty
glass ionomer	GI
glass ionomer cement	g ion, GIC
glass ionomer resin	GIR
gnathion	Gn
gold	Au
gold foil	gf
gonion	Go
gram	g, gm
greater than	>
group	grp
guided tissue regeneration	GTR
gutta percha	gp
<b>H</b>	
Hairy Leukoplakia	HL
handpiece	HP
hard	hrd
hard acrylic occlusal splint	HAOS
hard of hearing	hh, hoh
hard tissue replacement	htr
has been drinking	HBD
headache	ha
head-neck-face	HNF
healing well	hw
health history	HH
hearing loss	hl
heavy smoker	HS
height	ht
hemorrhage	hemr
Hepatitis A virus	HAV
Hepatitis B surface antigen	HBsAg
Hepatitis B virus	HBV
Hepatitis C virus	HCV
Herpes Simplex Virus	HSV
high blood pressure	hbp

high risk	HR
high volume evacuation	hve
history	H, hist, hx
History and Physical	H&P
history of	h/o
history of present illness	hoi
home care instructions	hci
Horizontal Mandibular Osteotomy	HMO
horizontal probing bone level	HPBL
hospital	hosp
hot and cold	H&C
hour	h, hr
Human Growth Hormone	HGH
Human Herpes Virus	HHV
Human Immunodeficiency Virus	HIV
hydrogen peroxide	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
hydroxyapatite	HA
hypertension	htn
<b>I</b>	
ibuprofen	IBF
identification	ID
immediate	imm, immed
immediately	stat
inch	in
increased	incr, ↑
intraony defect	IBD
intra canal medication	ic med
intramuscular	IM
intranasal	IN
intermittant	inr
internal	int
internal bleaching	int bl
intruded	intr
intraocular	IO
intravenous	IV
intravenous drug use	IVDU
<b>J</b>	
Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis	JRA
<b>K</b>	
Kaposi's sarcoma	KS
keratinized gingiva	kg
<b>L</b>	

labial	LA
laboratory	lab
laceration	lac
large	lg, lrg
lateral	lat
lateral pterygoid muscle	lpm
lead	Pb
left	L, lft
length	l
lesion	les
lesser than	<
lichen planus	LP
lidocaine	lido
liga(ment) (ture)	lig
light cured resin	LCR
lingual	L, LI, ling
liquid	liq
liter	l
local anesthesia	LA
Localized Juvenile Periodontitis	LJP
loss of periodontal attachment	lpa
lower	l
lower left	LL
lower left quadrant	LLQ
lower right	LR
lower right quadrant	LRQ
Lupus Erythematosus	LE
<b>M</b>	
Major Aphthous Ulcers	MjAU
male	♂, m
malignant	malig
malocclusion	maloc
Mandibular Advancement Appliance	MAA
mandibular full denture	/F
mandibular partial denture	/P
mandibular plane (gonion-menton)	MP
masseter muscle	MAS
maxi(IIa) (IIary) (mum)	max
maxillary alveolar tenderness	MAT
maxillary full denture	F/
maxillary partial denture	P/
maximum intercuspation	MI
maximum permitted intake	MPI
medical history	med hx,

	mh
medicament	medic
medications	meds
medium	m, med
medium fine	mf
Mental Neurovascular Bundle	MNVB
mercury	Hg
mesial	M
mesial buccal	MB
mesial facial	MF
mesial facial lingual	MFL
mesial incisal	MI
mesial incisal distal	MID
mesial lingual	ML
mesial occlusal	MO
mesial occlusal buccal	MOB
mesial occlusal distal	MOD
mesial occlusal distal buccal	MODB
mesial occlusal lingual	MOL
microgram	mcg
midline	mdl
mild	mld
mandib(ular) (le)	man, mand
minute	min
missing	miss
missing tooth or pontic	"X" or "="
Mitral valve prolapse	MVP
moderate	mod
Modified Papillary Bleeding Index	MPBI
modified sulcular bleeding index	MSBI
modified Widman surgery	MW
month	mo
motor vehicle accident	MVA
mucogingival	mg
mucoginival junction	MGJ
mucous membrane	MM
Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis	MDR-TB
Multiple Sclerosis	MS
myocardial infarction	MI
myofacial pain dysfunction	MPD
Myofascial pain	MFP
<b>N</b>	
narrative	nar

nausea and vomiting	N/V
necrotic	ncr, nec
Necrotizing Ulcerative Gingivitis	NUG
negative	neg
new patient	np
new patient examination	npe
next recall	nr
next visit	nv
nitrous oxide	N <sub>2</sub> O
no apparent distress	NAD
no change	i.s.q.
no change in condition	nc
no charge	n/c
no difference	↔
no evidence of disease	NED
no evidence of recurrent disease	NERD
no insurance	ni
no known allergies	NKA
no known drug allergies	NKDA
no previous history	nph
no show	N/S
no significant findings	nsf
non compliant patient	NCP
Non Surgical Periodontal Therapy	NSPT
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	NHL
non-nutritive sucking	NNS
nonrestorable caries	nrc
non-smoker	ns
nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug	NSAID
non-vital	non-vtl
norepinephrine	NE
normal limits	nl
not applicable	n/a, na
not determined	n/d
not known	nk
nothing by mouth	npo
nothing significant	ns
number	no.
no previous complaint	npc
<b>O</b>	
objective	obj
observe	chk
Obsessive Compulsive	OCD

Disorder	
occlus(al) (ion)	occ, occl
occlusal	O
occlusal interference	oi
occlusal x-rays	occl xr
Odontogenic Keratocyst	OKC
office visit	ov
ointment	oint, ung
onlay	onl
open contact	
open contact	OC
operat(ion) (ory)	op
Oral Appliance Therapy	OAT
oral contraceptives	OC
oral health record	ohr
oral hygiene	oh
oral hygiene instructions	ohi
Oral Mucosal Lichen Planus	OMLP
Oral Mucosal Squamous Cell Carcinoma	OMSCC
Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma	OSCC
oral surgery	OS
Orofaciodigital Syndrome	OFD
orthodontics	ortho
osseous	oss
other	oth
other clinical findings	ocf
ounce	oz
outer diameter	od
over the counter	OTC
oxygen	Oxy, O <sub>2</sub>
<b>P</b>	
Palatal	P
palatal lift prosthesis	PLP
palpation	palp
panoramic image	pan, pano
panoramic radiograph	pnxr, P-XR
paper point	ppt
papillae and marginal gingiva	P & M
papillary bleeding index	PBI
papillary bleeding score	PBS
partial	part
partial denture	PD
partial lower denture	PL, PLD
partial maxillary denture over	P/F

full mandibular denture	
partial maxillary denture over partial mandibular denture	P/P
partial upper denture	PUD
parts per million (billion)	ppm(b)
past history	ph
per	/
per kilogram	/kg
per pound	/lb
permanent	perm
personal protective equipment	PPE
pit and fissure sealant	pfs
pits and fissures	pit-fis
plaque	plq
Plaque Assessment Scoring System	PASS
plaque control techniques	PCT
plaque index	PI
pocket	Pk, pkt, poc
point of service	POS
preventive resin restoration	PRR
primary	1°, 1', prim, decid
probing attachment level	PAL
pontic	pon
poor contact	PC
porcelain crown	PC
porcelain fused to gold	PFG
porcelain fused to metal	PFM
porcelain jacket crown	PJC
porcelain laminate veneer	PLV
porcelain on metal	pom
porcelain to metal crown	PMC
positive	pos
post and core	P & C
post and core restoration	PACR
post operative	PO, post op
post operative instructions	POI
post operative treatment	POT
post surgical treatment	PST
posterior	post
Posterior Maxillary Osteotomy	PMO
posterior superior alveolar	PSA
posterior temporalis muscle	Tem P
Posterior Total Facial Height (sella-gonion)	P(TFH)

posterior-anterior view	PA
powder	pwdr
power chain	pow ch
precision attachment	prec att
prefabricated	prefab
preliminary	prelim
premedicate	premed
pre-operative	pre op
prepar(e) (ation)	prep
preparatory appointment	PA
prescription	Rx
prevention	prev
preventive dentistry counseling	PDC
preventive resin restoration	PRR
	1° or 1', decid, prim
primary	
probing attachment level	PAL
probing depth	pd
probing pocket depth	PPD
prog(nosis) (ress)	prog
prognosis	Px
	p, pro, prophy, px, Pxs
prophylaxis	
prophylaxis and exam	P & E
	pros, prosth
prosthodonti(cs) (st)	
provisional	prov
proximal	prox
pseudo centric relation	PCR
pulp cap	pc, pcap
pulp(otomy) (ectomy)	pulp
pulpitis	plpts
pulpotomy	pulpo
purulent	pur
<b>Q</b>	
quadrant	quad
quarters	qrtrs
question	Q

<b>R</b>	
radiograph	rad
radiopaque	ro
range of motion	ROM
rapid maxillary expansion	RME

rapid palatal expansion	RPE
	reapp, reappt
reappoint(ment)	
rebase	reb
recement	recem
recession depth	RD
recession width	rw
recommend(ed)	rec
reconstruction	recon
record	rec
recovering addicted patient	RAP
Recurrent Aphthous Stomatitis	RAS
Recurrent Aphthous Ulcer	RAU
	R, rdk, ReDK
recurrent decay	
reduc(ed) (tion)	red
re-evaluation	re-eval
reference	ref
regarding	re
registered dental hygienist	RDH
regular	reg
reimplantation	reimpl
reline	rel
removable	rem
removable partial denture	RPD
removable prosthodontics	rem pros
replac(ed) (ing)	repl
residual cyst	rc
residual ridge resorption	rrr
resin	res
resin modified glass ionomer	RMGI
resin-bonded fixed partial denture; Maryland bridge	RBFPD
respiration	resp
restor(ation) (e)	rest
retained	ret
retruded position	RP
return to clinic	RTC
reviewed medical history	RMH
Rheumatoid Arthritis	RA
right	R, rt
right angle	RA
risks and complications	R & C
root canal	rc
root canal filling	rcf
root canal therapy	rct
root planing	rp

root planing and scaling	rp/sc, RPS
rotated clockwise	↻
rotated counterclockwise	↺
rubber dam	R-D
rule out	r/o
<b>S</b>	
scaling	sc
scaling and root planing	s&rp, SRP, S&RP
sealant	seal
secondary	2° or 2'
sedative	sed
sella-nasion-A-point	SNA
sella-nasion-B-point	SNB
sensitive	sens
sextant	sxt
sexually transmitted disease	STD
shade	sh
signs and symptoms	S&Sx, S/S
silk suture	s sut
silver	Ag
silver point	Ag pt
silver restoration	sr
single	sgl
single ended instrument	s/e
six month recall	6MR
size	sz
slightly	sl
small	sm
smokeless tobacco	st
social history	SH
social security number	ssn
sodium chloride	NaCl
sodium fluoride	NaF
soft	sft
soft acrylic occlusal splint	SAOS
soft tissue lesion	STL
soft tissue management	STM
soft vinyl occlusal splint	SVOS
sometimes	sx
space maintainer	SM
stainless steel crown	ssc
stannous fluoride	SnF
sterile dressing	sd
student	st

study model analysis	SMA
study models	SM
Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis	SBE
subcutaneous	SC, subq subcut,
subgingival	subggv, subging
subgingival; submarginal	sub
sublingual	subl, subling
sublingual; under the tongue	SL
submucosal	SM, subm
sufficient quantity	qs
suggestion	sugg
sulcular bleeding index	SBI
superior	sup
supernumerary	supnum
standard	std
supperation	supp
supportive periodontal treatment	SPT
supragingival	supraggv
supramarginal	Supra- marg
surface	s, sur, surf
surg(ery) (ical) (eon)	surg
surgical extraction	surg ext
suspect	susp
suspension	susp
suture	su, sut
symmetric	sym
symptoms	Sx, symp
syrup	syr
system (ic)	sys
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	SLE
systolic blood pressure	SBP
systolic / diastolic blood pressure	S/D
<b>T</b>	
tablespoon	Tbsp
tablet	tab
teaspoon	tsp
telephone	ph
temperature	Temp
temperature, pulse, respiration	TPR
temporary	temp



temporary treatment	tt
temporomandibular joint	tmj
temporomandibular joint disorder	TMD
tetracycline	TTC
therapeutic pulpotomy	TP
thermal pulp test	TPT
three times per day	TID
time/temperature	T/t
times	x
tissue condition(er) (ing)	t cond
tissue conditioning	tc
tongue	tng
tooth	th
Tooth Brush Abrasion	TBA
toothbrush	tb
topical	top
transcutaneous electric nerve stimulation	TENS
transitional	trans
treatment	tr, Tx
Treatment Plan	P:, TP
trigeminal neuralgia	TN
tris-buffered saline	TBS
tuberculosis	TB
twice a day	bid
tylenol	Tyl
<b>U</b>	
uncooperative	Uncoop
unerupted	uner
unilateral	unilat
universal color	U
unknown	UK, unk
unserviceable	unsvc
upper	u
upper anterior facial height	U(A)FH
upper left	UL
upper left quadrant	ULQ
upper right	UR
upper right quadrant	URQ

<b>V</b>	
Varicella Zoster Virus	VZV
varnish	var
vasoconstrictor	vaso
venereal disease	VD
vertical bitewings	vert bw
vertical defect	vert def
vertical dimension	VD
vertical dimension of occlusion	VDO
vital	vtl
vital signs	v.s., vs
vitamin	vit
<b>W</b>	
water	aq, H <sub>2</sub> O
weight	wgt, wt
well developed	w-d
well nourished	w-n
width	w
with	w/
with (insert line over c; can't find symbol)	c
with fluoride	w/f, w/fl
within	w/n
within normal limits	wnl
without	— s
working length	WL
<b>X</b>	
x-ray	XR
xylocaine	xylo
<b>Y</b>	
years old	y/o
<b>Z</b>	
Zidovidine	ZDV
zinc oxide eugenol	ZOE
zinc phosphate	ZnPO <sub>4</sub>





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