

List of Unacceptable Abbreviations, Symbols and Acronyms

Dose/Abbreviation/Expression	Intended Meaning	Comments	Preferred Term
iu, IU	intrauterine, International Units	Mistaken for IV	"international unit" or "intrauterine"
MGSO4, MgSO4	magnesium sulfate	Mistaken as morphine sulfate	"magnesium sulfate"
MS	multiple meaning	Confusion due to multiple meanings	spell out
MSO4	morphine sulfate	Mistaken as magnesium sulfate	"morphine"
qd, QD	every day	Period after "Q" could be mistaken for an "I" and result in the drug being given "QID" (4 times daily)	"daily" or "every day"



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qid, QID	four times per day	Mistaken as "QD" (daily)	"4 times daily" or "4 times a day"
qod, QOD	every other day	Mistaken for every day or 4 times a day	"every other day"
Trailing 0 (zero) (ex: 1.0 mg)		Misread resulting in tenfold overdose if decimal point is not seen	Write dose as whole number
No zero before decimal point (ex: .5 mg)		Misread resulting in tenfold overdose if decimal point is not seen	Write zero before a decimal when the dose is less than a whole unit
u, U	unit	Handwritten "u" can be mistaken for a zero, "cc" or "urine"	"unit"



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