

Montefiore Medical Center



Do not use abbreviations

Abbreviation/ Dose Expression	Intended Meaning (Do NOT use for these meanings)	Misinterpretation	Correct Terminology
U	Unit	Misread as zero, 4, or cc	Use "unit"
IU	International unit	Mistaken as IV (Intravenous) or 10(ten)	Write "international unit"
Q.D., QD, q.d., qd (daily)	Latin abbreviation for once daily.	Mistaken for Q.O.D. The period after the Q can be mistaken for an "I" and the "O" can be mistaken for an "l".	Write the word "daily"
Q.O.D, QOD, q.o.d., qod (every other day)	Latin abbreviation for every other day.	Mistaken for Q.O.D. The period after the Q can be mistaken for an "I" and the "O" can be mistaken for an "l".	Write the words "every other day".
Trailing zero	X.0 mg (Note: Prohibited only for medication-related notations)	Decimal point is missed.	Never write a zero by itself after a decimal point. Write X mg.
Lack of Leading zero	.X mg (Note: Prohibited only for medication-related notations)	Decimal point is missed.	Always use a zero before a decimal point. Write 0.X mg.
MS MSO ₄ MgSO ₄	Morphine Sulfate or Magnesium Sulfate	Confused for one another.	Write "morphine", "sulfate", or "magnesium sulfate".