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EMS Medical Director

Chief, Emergency Medical Services

I. INTENT:


To identify the Abbreviations and Symbols which an EMT-I or EMT-P may utilize for documentation purposes in Sacramento County.

II. AUTHORITY:


- A. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Ch. 4, Art. 1, §1797.220 & Ch. 5, §1798.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Ch. 4, Art. 2, §100147.

III. ABBREVIATIONS:


Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
♀	female
♂	male
⊖	negative
⊕	positive
Ⓛ	left
Ⓡ	right
1°	primary
2°	secondary
<	less than
>	greater than
@	at
Δ	change

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
↓	decrease(d)
↑	increase(d)
~	approximately
\bar{a}	before
A. Fib	Atrial fibrillation
AAL	anterior axillary line
abd	abdomen
A/O	alert and orientated
AKA	above the knee amputation
AM	before noon; time should be expressed in 24 h format
AMA	against medical advice
AOS	arrived on scene
approx	approximately
ASA	acetylsalicylic acid, aspirin
ASAP	as soon as possible
ausc	auscultation
auto	automobile
BBB	bundle branch block
BG	blood glucose
BHMD	Base Hospital Medical Director
BHP	Base Hospital Physician
BKA	below the knee amputation

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
BM	bowel movement
BP	blood pressure
bpm	beats per minute
BS	breath sounds
BSA	burn surface area
BS = BL	breath sounds bilaterally
BVM	bag valve mask
ċ	with
C/A	conscious/alert
C/A/O	conscious/alert/orientated
C/o	complaint of
C/P	chest pain
CA	cancer
CAD	coronary artery disease
CCU	coronary care unit
CF	control facility
CHF	congestive heart failure
CNS	central nervous system
con't	continued
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CPR	cardio pulmonary resuscitation
CRIC	needle cricothyroidotomy

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
CT	critical trauma, may not divert from hospital destination due to a patient's condition; for critical trauma requires transport to a designated trauma center
CV	cardioversion
CVA	cerebral vascular accident
DB	difficulty breathing
DBP	diastolic blood pressure
dc	discontinue
DCH	Dameron Community Hospital
DKA	diabetic ketoacidosis
DNO	did not obtain
DOE	dyspnea upon exertion
Drsg	dressing
DX	diagnosis
ECG	electrocardiogram
ED	Emergency Department
EKG	electrocardiogram
ELN	EMS liaison nurse
ELO	EMS liaison officer
EMSA	State EMS Authority
EMSMD	EMS Medical Director
EMT-I	Provider of BLS service only

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
EMT-P	EMT-Paramedic, provider of BLS and ALS level of services; also MICP; Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic
epi	epinephrine
ET	endotracheal
ETA	Estimated time of arrival
ETC	Esophageal Tracheal Combitube®
ETI	endotracheal intubation
ETOH	alcohol
ETT	endotracheal tube
exam	examination
f/u	follow-up
fl	fluid
fx	fracture
GB	gall bladder
GCS	Glascow Coma Scale
GI	gastrointestinal
gm	gram
grav	gravida
GSW	gunshot wound
gtt	drop
GU	genitourinary
GYN	gynecological

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
h	hour
H&P	history and physical
H ₂ O	water
HA	headache
HCTZ	hydrochlorothiazide
hosp	hospital
HR	heart rate
HTN	hypertension
Hx	history
ICU	intensive care unit
IM	intramuscular
IO	intraosseous
IV	intravenous
IVP	intravenous push
JVD	jugular venous distension
Kg	kilogram
KHN	Kaiser Hospital North
KHR	Kaiser Hospital Roseville
KHS	Kaiser Hospital South
L	liter
lac	laceration
LEMSA	local EMS agency

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
lg	large
lido	lidocaine
LLQ	left lower quadrant
LMH	Lodi Memorial Hospital
LMP	last menstrual period
LOC	loss of consciousness
LS	lung sounds
LUQ	left upper quadrant
m	min
m/o	month old
mA	milliamp
MAE	moves all extremities
MAL	mid-axillary
MCC	motorcycle crash
mcg	microgram
MCL	mid-clavicular line
mEq	milliequivalent
mg	milligram
MGH	Mercy General Hospital
mgtt	micro-drip
MHF	Mercy Hospital Folsom
MHS	Methodist Hospital

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
MI	myocardial infarction
MICN	Mobile Intensive Care Nurse
ml	milliliter
MOC	Medical Oversight Committee
MSJMC	Mercy San Juan Medical Center
MVC	motor vehicle crash
N/V	nausea and vomiting
NaCL	Sodium Chloride
NAD	no apparent distress
NC	nasal cannula
NCT	non-critical trauma
neuro	neurological
NKDA	no known drug allergies
NPA	nasopharyngeal airway
NRB	non-rebreather mask
NS	normal saline
NSR	normal sinus rhythm
NTG	nitroglycerine
NTI	nasotracheal intubation
O ₂	oxygen
OB	obstetrics

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
OD	overdose
OOC	Operational Oversight Committee
OPA	oropharyngeal airway
OTI	oro-tracheal intubation
P / T	prior to
P	pulse
\bar{p}	after
PAC	premature atrial contraction
para	parity, e.g. gravida 2, para 1 means the patient has been pregnant twice and given birth once, also written G2P1
PAT	paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
PCN	penicillin
PE	physical examination
PEA	pulseless electrical activity
ped	pedestrian
pedi	pediatric
PERRL	pupils equal, round, reactive to light
PJC	premature junctional contraction
PM	afternoon, time should be expressed in 24 h format
PMD	primary (private) physician
PND	paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, difficulty breathing that awakens the patient from sleep or prevents sleep
PO	by mouth

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
POV	privately owned vehicle
post-op	post operative
PR	per rectum
PRN	as needed
PRS	patient refused service
pt	patient
PTA	prior to arrival
PVC	premature ventricular contraction
q	every
R	respiration
RAS	released at scene
resp	respiratory
RLQ	right lower quadrant
ROM	range of motion
RUQ	right upper quadrant
Rx	prescription
\bar{s}	without
S-brady	sinus bradycardia
s/p	status post
s/s	signs and symptoms
SBP	systolic blood pressure
SC	subcutaneous

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
SCEMS	Sacramento County EMS
SGH	Sutter General Hospital
SJG	San Joaquin General Hospital
SJH	Saint Joseph's Hospital
SL	sublingual
sm	small
SMH	Sutter Memorial Hospital
SOB	shortness of breath, equivalent to dyspnea
SRMC	Sutter Roseville Medical Center
ST	sinus tachycardia
stat	immediately
SVT	supraventricular tachycardia
SX	symptom
T	temperature
TB	tuberculosis
TCN	tetracycline
TIA	transient ischemia attack
TKO	to keep open
torr	mm Hg, unit of blood pressure measurement
trans	transport
Tx	treatment
UCDMC	University of California Davis Medical Center

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Abbreviation / Symbol	Description
UTL	unable to locate
UTO	unable to obtain
V-tach	ventricular tachycardia
vag	vaginal
VF	ventricular fibrillation
VS	vital signs
w/c	wheelchair
WNL	within normal limits
w/o	wide open
wt	weight
y/o	year old
° F	degrees Fahrenheit