

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- The following abbreviations are acceptable in EMS documentation (see Pg. 8 for hospital name abbreviations):
 - @ at
 - AAA abdominal aortic aneurysm
 - Abd abdomen
 - ABC airway, breathing circulation
 - abn abnormal
 - abnl abnormal
 - AC antecubital
 - ACLS advanced cardiac life support
 - AED automatic external defibrillator
 - AEMT advanced EMT
 - A-fib atrial fibrillation
 - ALOC altered level of consciousness
 - AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome
 - ALS advanced life support
 - ALTE acute life threatening event
 - AKA also known as OR above the knee amputation
 - am morning
 - AMA against medical advice
 - AMI acute myocardial infarction
 - Amt amount
 - AO ambulance operator
 - AOS arrived on scene
 - AOx-- Awake/alert and oriented by -- (also AAOx--)
 - APA automatic paramedic alarm
 - APGAR newborn assessment scale
 - APS Adult Protective Services
 - ASA aspirin
 - ASHD arteriosclerotic heart disease

 - B&C Board & Care facility
 - BB back board
 - BBB bundle branch block
 - BG blood glucose
 - BH base hospital
 - BHC base hospital contact
 - BHO base hospital order
 - BIB brought in by
 - Bilat bilateral
 - BKA below the knee amputation
 - BLS basic life support
 - BM bowel movement
 - BOW bag of waters
 - BP blood pressure
 - BR bathroom
 - BRB bright red blood
 - BRUE brief resolved unexplained event
 - BS breath sounds, blood sugar (use with caution))
 - BSA body surface area

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- BTB back to bed
- BVM bag valve mask

- CA cancer
- CABG coronary artery bypass graft
- CAD coronary artery disease
- Cath catheter, catheterization
- Cc or c/c chief complaint
- CHF congestive heart failure
- cm centimeter
- CMS circulation, motor, sensation (see also PMS)
- CNS central nervous system
- c/o complains of
- CO carbon monoxide
- CO₂ carbon dioxide
- COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- CP chest pain
- CPAP continuous positive airway pressure
- CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- CSF cerebral spinal fluid
- C-spine cervical spine
- CSM circulation, sensation, movement
- CT scan computerized axial tomography scan
- CT chest tube
- CVA cerebral vascular accident
- CVRC cardiovascular receiving center
- CXR chest x-ray

- D₁₀ 10% dextrose
- d/c discontinue, discharged
- DCAP-BLTS – deformities, contusions, punctures/penetrations, burns, tenderness, lacerations
- Diff difficulty , or “diffocole”, as in “C. diff” infection
- DM diabetes mellitus
- DNR do not resuscitate
- DOA dead on arrival
- DOB date of birth
- DOE dyspnea on exertion
- DTs delirium tremens
- DVT deep vein thrombosis
- Dx diagnosis

- EB east bound
- EBL estimated blood loss
- ECG electrocardiogram
- ED emergency department
- EJ external jugular
- EKG electrocardiogram
- EMS Emergency Medical Services
- EMT Emergency Medical Technician
- ER emergency room

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- ERC emergency receiving center
- ET(#) emergency transport (#)
- ETA estimated time of arrival
- ETOH ethyl alcohol
- ET or ETT endotracheal tube
- ETA estimated time of arrival
- Eval evaluation
- Ext external

- F female, Fahrenheit
- FB foreign body
- FC,F/C,f/c fluid challenge
- FD fire department
- FROM full range of motion
- Fwy freeway
- f/u follow up
- fx fracture

- G gravida
- GB gall bladder
- GCS Glasgow coma scale
- GI gastrointestinal
- gm grams
- GSW gun shot wound
- gtt drops
- GU genitourinary
- GYN gynecology

- H/A headache
- HEENT head, ears, eyes, nose, throat
- HIV human immune-deficiency virus
- Hosp hospital
- HR heart rate
- hr, hrs hour, hours
- ht Height
- HTN hypertension
- Hx history
- Hyper- above, high
- Hypo- below, low

- ICHART acceptable mnemonic for narrative documentation

- ICP intracranial pressure
- ICS intercostal space
- ICU intensive care unit
- IM intramuscular (better to say whole word)
- IN intranasal (better to say whole word)
- IO intraosseous
- IUP intrauterine pregnancy
- IV intravenous
- IVP intravenous push

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- J joules
- JVD jugular venous distention

- KCL potassium chloride
- Kg kilograms
- KVO keep vein open

- L liter
- L, lt left
- L&D labor and delivery
- Lab laboratory
- Lac laceration
- Lat lateral
- lb pound(s)
- LBBB left bundle branch block
- LLE left lower extremity
- LLL left lower lobe
- LLQ left lower quadrant
- LMP last menstrual period
- LOC level or loss of consciousness
- L-spine lumbar spine
- LUE left upper extremity
- LUL left upper lobe
- LUQ left upper quadrant
- LVAD left ventricular assist device

- M male
- mA milliamperes, milliamps
- MAE moves all extremities
- MAEW moves all extremities well
- max maximum
- MC motorcycle
- MCA motorcycle accident
- mcg micrograms
- MCI Mass casualty incident
- MCL mid-clavicular line
- MD physician, medical doctor
- MDI metered dose inhaler
- Med(s) medication(s), medicine(s), medicated
- mEq milliequivalent
- meth methamphetamine(s)
- mg milligram
- MI myocardial infarction
- MICN mobile intensive care nurse
- min minimum, minutes
- MIVT mechanism of injury, injuries seen, vital signs, treatment provider
- mL milliliters
- Mod moderate
- MOI mechanism of injury
- MRI magnetic resonance imaging

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
 Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
 Updated: 05/07/2024

- MVA motor vehicle accident
- n/a, N/A not applicable
- NaBicarb sodium bicarbonate
- NAD no apparent distress
- NaHCO₃ sodium bicarbonate
- Narc narcotic(s)
- NB north bound
- NC nasal cannula
- Neb nebulizer, nebulized
- Neg negative (avoid using the “-“ sign)
- NG nasogastric
- NKA no known allergies
- NKDA no known drug allergies
- nl normal
- NP nurse practitioner
- npo nothing by mouth
- NRB non-rebreather mask
- NS normal saline
- NSR normal sinus rhythm
- NTG nitroglycerine
- n/v nausea, vomiting
- n/v/d nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

- O₂ oxygen
- O₂ sat oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter
- OB obstetrics, obstetrical physician
- OB/Gyn obstetrics/gynecology
- OBS organic brain syndrome
- OD overdose , right eye (oculo dexter)
- ODT oral dissolving tablet
- OG orogastric
- OPA oropharyngeal airway
- OPQRST onset, provoking factors, quality, radiation, severity, time
- OS left eye (oculo sinister) – not to be used as “on scene” – see “AOS”
- OSVS orthostatic vital signs (avoid “orthos”)
- OTC over the counter
- OU both eyes
- Ox-- Oriented times ---

- P para, pulse
- PA physician assistant
- PAC premature atrial contraction
- Palp palpation
- PALS pediatric advanced life support
- PCN penicillin
- PCP primary care physician
- PCT patient contact time
- PD police department
- PE physical exam, pulmonary edema, pulmonary embolus
- PEA pulseless electrical activity

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- Ped(s) pediatric(s), pedestrian(s)
- PERL pupils equal, reactive to light
- PERRL pupils equal, round, reactive to light
- PERRLA pupils equal, round, reactive to light, accommodation
- PJC premature junctional contraction
- pm evening, paramedic
- PMD private/personal medical doctor
- PMH past medical history
- PMS pulses, motor, sensation (see also CMS)
- po by mouth
- POC position of comfort, products of conception (use with caution)
- POLST physician's orders for life sustaining treatment
- post posterior, after
- POV privately owned vehicle
- PQRST provoking factors, quality, radiation, severity, time
- Prim primary
- prn as needed
- pn pain
- PPV positive pressure ventilation
- PTRC paramedic trauma receiving center
- PSI passenger space intrusion
- PSVT paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
- Psych psychialtric
- Pt PT patient, physical therapy
- PTA prior to arrival
- Pulse ox Pulse oximetry (avoid using "PO")
- PUTS patient unable to sign
- PVC premature ventricular contraction

- R, rt right, respirations
- Rehab rehabilitation
- Resp respiratory, respirations
- RLE right lower extremity
- RLQ right lower quadrant
- RN registered nurse
- r/o rule out
- ROM range of motion
- RR respiratory rate
- RSR regular sinus rhythm
- RUE right upper extremity
- RUQ right upper quadrant
- Rx therapy, prescription

- Sat/sat saturation
- SB sinus bradycardia, south bound
- Sec seconds, secondary
- SFR single family residence
- SIDS sudden infant death syndrome
- SL saline lock, sublingual
- SMR spinal motion restriction
- SNF skilled nursing facility

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- SNRC stroke-neuro receiving center
- SO standing order, Sheriff's office/officer
- SOB shortness of breath, short of breath
- SpO2 oxygen saturation by pulse oximeter
- SR sinus rhythm
- SRW sting ray wound
- s/s or s/sx signs and symptoms
- ST sinus tachycardia
- START simple triage and rapid treatment
- SVT supraventricular tachycardia
- SW stab wound
- sx signs, symptoms
- sz seizure

- T temperature
- Tach(y) tachycardia, tachycardic
- TAH total artificial heart
- TC traffic collision, trauma center
- TCP transcutaneous pacemaker/pacing
- TIA transient ischemic attack
- TKO to keep open
- Trans transport, transfer
- TV tidal volume
- Tx treatment, transport

- Unk unknown
- UOA upon our arrival
- URI upper respiratory infection
- UTI urinary tract infection
- UTL unable to locate

- VAD ventricular assist device
- Vag vaginal
- VF ventricular fibrillation
- V-fib ventricular fibrillation
- Vol volume
- vs versus
- VS vital signs
- VT ventricular tachycardia
- VTach ventricular tachycardia

- w/ with
- WB west bound
- W&D warm and dry
- wk week (not "weak")
- WNL within normal limits
- w/o without
- WPW Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome
- wt weight

- xferr(ed) transfer(red)

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- xfr transfer
- xport transported

- y/o, yo years old
- yr(s) year, years

- Approved hospital name abbreviations
 - AGMC Anaheim Global Medical Center
 - ARMC Anaheim Regional Medical Center
 - CGMC Chapman Global Medical Center
 - CHOC Children's Hospital of Orange County
 - FRMC Foothill Regional Medical Center
 - GGMC Garden Grove Medical Center
 - HHI Hoag Hospital Irvine
 - HMHP Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
 - HBH Huntington Beach Hospital
 - KPA Kaiser Permanente, Anaheim
 - KPD Kaiser Permanente, Downey
 - KPI Kaiser Permanente, Irvine
 - LPIH La Palma Intercommunity Hospital
 - MH LB Mission Hospital Laguna Beach
 - MHRMC Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center
 - OCMC Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center
 - OCGMC Orange County Global Medical Center
 - SMMC Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
 - SCGMC South Coast Global Medical Center
 - SJH St. Joseph Hospital
 - SJMC St. Jude Medical Center
 - WAMC West Anaheim Medical Center
 - UCI-FV UCI Health – Fountain Valley
 - UCI-LA UCI Health – Los Alamitos
 - UCI-PL UCI Health – Placentia Linda
 - UCI UCI Medical Center

- The following abbreviations should **be used with caution** as they may have multiple meanings
 - BS breath sounds, blood sugar
 - COA complaint on arrival, condition on admission, conditions of admission
 - HP hospital, hip, Hewlett Packard, Hoag Presbyterian, Highway Patrol
 - MS morphine sulfate, multiple sclerosis
 - OS on scene, oculo sinister (left eye)
 - PLOT plot, parking lot, private lot
 - POC position of comfort, products of conception
 - PR private residence, primary, probable, per rectum
 - SED sexual enhancement drugs, serious emotional disturbance, sedating/sedation, seeing eye dog

- The following abbreviations are **not acceptable** and may not be used:
 - Any "Emoji"
 - Qd Best practice is to spell out "daily" or "every day"
 - U Best practice is to spell out "unit" or "units"
 - Use of "-" (dash) as to mean "negative" or "without"

OCEMS Policy 300.31 – OC-MEDS Data Dictionary
Attachment 16 – eNarrative.01 Approved Abbreviations
Updated: 05/07/2024

- Use of 1 or 2 to mean primary or secondary.
- Use of decimals
 - Trailing zeroes are NOT recommended. Use 1mg, not 1.0mg
 - Leading zeroes ARE recommended. Use 0.3 mg, not .3 mg

References:

The Joint Commission (2016). Facts about the Official “Do Not Use” List of Abbreviations.

Institute for Safe Medication Practices (2015). ISMP’s List of Error-Prone Abbreviations, Symbols, and Dose Designations.

Broward County EMS (2016). Approved Medical EMS Abbreviations. From Reference and Resource Material for Broward County EMS.

Indiana University (n.d.). Abbreviations and Acronyms.

Los Angeles County EMS Policy and Procedure Manual

County of San Diego Treatment Protocol – Abbreviation List