

Medical Terminology Information Sheet:

Medical Chart Organization:

- Demographics and insurance
- Flow sheets
- Physician Orders
- Visit notes
- Laboratory results
- Radiology results
- Consultant notes
- Other communications

Types of Patient Encounter Notes:

- History and Physical
 - PE Physical Exam
 - Lab Laboratory Studies
 - Radiology
 - x-rays
 - CT and MRI scans
 - ultrasounds
 - Assessment- Dx (diagnosis) or DDx (differential diagnosis) if diagnosis is unclear
 - R/O = rule out (if diagnosis is unclear)
 - Plan- Further tests, consultations, treatment, recommendations
- The “SOAP” Note
 - S = Subjective (what the patient tells you)
 - O = Objective (info from PE, labs, radiology)
 - A = Assessment (Dx and DDx)
 - P = Plan (treatment, further tests, etc.)
- Discharge Summary
 - Narrative in format
 - Summarizes the events of a hospital stay
 - Subjective terminology is used in the history section (CC, HPI, etc.)
 - Physical examination terminology

Medical History Terms:

- CC Chief Complaint of Patient
- HPI History of Present Illness
- ROS Review of Systems
- PMHx Past Medical History
- PSHx Past Surgical History
- SHx & FHx Social & Family History
- Medications and medication allergies
- NKDA = no known drug allergies

Physical Examination Terms:

- PE= Physical Exam
- (+) = present
- (-) = Φ = negative or absent
- nl = normal
- wnl = within normal limits

Laboratory Terminology:

- CBC = complete blood count
- Chem 7 (or Chem 8, 14, 20) = chemistry panels of 7,8,14, or 20 chemistry tests
- BMP = basic Metabolic Panel
- CMP = complete Metabolic Panel
- LFTs = liver function tests
- ABG = arterial blood gas
- UA = urine analysis
- HbA1C= diabetes blood test

Medical Terms by Body System

HEENT – Head, Ears, Eyes, Nose & Throat:

- Occipital – back of the head
- Photophobia – intolerant of light
- Phonophobia – intolerant of sounds
- Diplopia – double vision
- Epistaxis – nosebleed
- Rhinorrhea – runny nose or nasal discharge
- Otorrhea – discharge from the ear
- Tinnitus – ringing noise in the ear
- NCAT = normocephalic, atraumatic
- PERRL = Pupils Equal Round and Reactive to Light
- Erythema = redness
- Exudate (tonsillar) = most commonly white spots on the tonsils, but can be any fluid or cellular matter deposited on any tissue
- Purulent = consisting of pus
- Injected = blood vessel congestion, such as red eye

Coronary & Pulmonary:

- Cor – Coronary (the heart)
- Pulm – Pulmonary (respiratory/breathing system)
- CTAB no rrw = Lungs are “Clear to auscultation bilaterally, no rales, rhonchi or wheezes”
- SOB Shortness of Breath = Dyspnea
- Productive cough = phlegm producing
- Hemoptysis = coughing up blood
- Pleuritic = worse with deep inspiration/breathing
- Retractions = visible skin retractions with inspiration
- Tachypnea = rapid breathing

Breathing sounds:

- Rales = crackles = crackling sounds like velcro being pulled
- Rhonchi = wheezes = whistling sounds
- Wheezing = high pitched sounds

Abdomen (Abd) or Gastrointestinal (GI):

- Anorexia – loss or lack of appetite
- Post-prandial – after eating
- Emesis – vomiting
- NBNB = non-bloody, non-bilious
- Hematemesis = bloody emesis
- Hematochezia – bloody stool

- BRBPR – Bright Red Blood per Rectum
- Melena – tarry black stool
- BS = bowel sounds – normoactive, hyperactive, hypoactive, absent
- TTP = Abdomen tender to palpation, often in a single quadrant/area
- Guarding = involuntary or voluntary guarding of painful area.
- Rebound pain = worse pain as examining hand is quickly pulled away

Genitourinary (GU):

- GenitoUrinary (GU)
- Dysuria = painful urination
- Hematuria = blood in the urine

Musculoskeletal & Extremities:

- Musculoskeletal (MS)
- Extremities (Ext)
- Myalgias = Muscle Aches
- Arthralgias = Joint Aches
- Edema = swelling
 - Peripheral
 - Pulmonary

Skin:

- Dermatologic (Derm)
- Pruritic and non-pruritic = itchy and non-itchy
- Spot
 - Macule - flat discoloration <10mm in diameter
- Bumps
 - Papule – bump 5mm or less
 - Nodule – well defined bump > 5mm
- Plaque – raised area
- Sacs
 - Vesicle – fluid filled sac <5mm
 - Bulla – fluid filled sac >5mm
 - Pustule – sac filled with pus
- Erosion – superficial loss of skin
- Ulcer – deeper loss of skin
- Scale – dry, flaky areas of skin
- Erythema – redness

Other:

- Neurologic (Neuro)
- Paresthesias = tingling sensation

Common Medical Abbreviations

O2	oxygen	cal	calorie
(R)	refused	cap.	capsule
A	before (ante)	card.	computerized axial tomography
a fib.	atrial fibrillation	CAT	(CT scan) complete blood count
a. tach.	atrial tachycardia	CC	chief complaint
a.c. or a/c	before meals	cc	cubic centimeter
A.D.L.	Activities of Daily Living	chol.	cholesterol
A.S.A.P.	as soon as possible	CL	chloride
A.T.	Activity Therapy	clav.	clavicle
Aa	of each	cm	centimeter
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous	CNS	central nervous system
Ab	abortion	CO2	carbon dioxide
Abd	abdomen	comf	comfortable
ABG	arterial blood gases	conc	concentrate
ABP	arterial blood pressure	cons	consultation
AD	Right ear	cont	continued
ad lib	As desired	contrib	contributory
ADA	American Diabetic Association	COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Adm.	admitted (admission)	COR 0	acute heart stoppage
Alc	alcohol	cpd	compound
Alt	alternate	CPR	cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
AM	morning	cran	cranial
AMA	against medical advise	CSF	cerebral spinal fluid
amb	ambulatory	CVA	cerebrovascular accident (stroke)
Amt	amount	D & C	dilatation & curettage
angio	angiogram	D.C.	Doctor of Chiropractic
Ant	anterior	D.O.	Doctor of Osteopathy
APC	Aspirin - Phenacetin - Caffeine	D/C	discharge
approx.	approximately	d/c	discontinue
appt.	appointment	D5W	dextrose 5% in water
aq.	water (aqueous)	DD	date dictated
art.	artery	decr	decreased
as tol	as tollerated	defib	defibrillation
ASA	acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin)	depr	depressed
AWOL	absent without leave	Diff	differential
Ax	axilla	dil	Dilute
b.i.d.	(BID) twice a day	dis	disease
B/P	blood pressure	dist	distal
BE	barium enema	dk	drunk
blad	bladder	dl	deciliters
BM	bowel movement	DOA	dead on arrival
BUN	blood urea nitrogen	DOB	date of birth
Bx	behavior	dr	dram
C	centigrade	Dr.	doctor
C	with	DS	discharge summary
C.S.	central service		
c/o	complains of		
Ca	cancer		
Ca. or Calc.	calcium		
CABG	coronary artery bypass & graft		

DTR's	deep tendon reflexes	hr	hour
DT's	delerium tremens	HS	hour of sleep
Dx	diagnosis	ht	height
ECT	electroconvulsive therapy	hx	history
EEG	electroencephalogram	hyst	hysterectomy
EENT	eyes, ears, nose & throat	I & D	Incision and drained
EKG	electrocardiogram	I & O	intake and output
Elev	elevate	I.C.	initial contact
ENT	ears, nose & throat	id	in diem (during the day)
EOM	Extraocular muscles (movements)	IM	intramuscular
ER	emergency room	inj	injured
EST	electric shock treatment	inpt.	inpatient
EtOH	alcohol	int	internal
etx.	external	IPPB	intermittent positive pressure breathing
extr	extremities	irreg	irregular
f/u	Follow up	irrig	irrigate
Fa	Father	IV	intravenous
FBS	fasting blood sugar	IVP	intravenous pyelogram
Fl	fluids	K+	potassium
ft.	foot	kg	kilogram
FUO	fever of unknown origin	KUB	kidneys, ureters, and bladder
Fx	fracture	L	Left
g or gm	gm	L & A	light and accomodation
GB	gall bladder	L.P.N.	licensed practical nurse
Gen	general	lab	laboratory
genit	genitalia	lac	laceration
GI	gastrointestinal	lap	laparotomy or laparoscopy
gluc	glucose	lat	lateral
Gp	group	lb	pound
gr.	grain	LE	lower extremities or Lupus
grav.	gravid	Leuc	Erythematosis
GSW	gun shot wound	Lg	leucocytes
GTT	glucose toloerance test	lig	large or leg
gtt.	drop	liq	ligament
Gtts.	drops	llq	liquid
GU	genitourinary	LLQ	lower left quadrant
Gyn	gynecology	LOA	leave of absence
H	hour	LP	Lumbar puncture
H2O	water	LUQ	Left upper quadrant
H2O2	hydrogen peroxide	lymphs	Lymphocytes
HA	headache	M.D.	Physician
Hb	husband	m.s.	multiple sclerosis,
Hbg	hemoglobin	M.T.	morphine sulphate
Hct	hematocrit	med	movement therapy
HCVD	hypertensive cardiovascular disease	max	maximum
Hd.	head	MCH	mean corpuscular hemoglobin
HEENT	head, eyes, ears, nose and throat	MCHC	mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration
hern	herniated	MCV	mean corpuscular volume
HR	heart rate	med	medical, medid
		meds	medicines

mEq/l	milliequivalent per liter	Ph.D	Doctor of philosophy
Mg	milligram	phys	physical
MI	myocardial infarction (heart attack)	PM	afternoon
Mm	millimeter	PN	progress note
Mo	mother	pneu	pneumonia
MR	mental retardation	pos	positive
MR#	medical record number	post	posterior
NA	not available	postop	postoperative, after surgery
Na+	no applicable	PPD	purified protein derivative
NBS	no bowel sounds	preop	preoperative, before surgery
Neg	negative	prep	prepare for
Ng	naso-gastric	prev	previous
NKA	no known allergies	prn	whenever necessary
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance	pros	prostate
No.	number	prox	proximal
Noct	night	Psy. Ser.	psychological services
norm	normal	PT	physical therapy
NPN	non-protein nitrogen	pt	patient
NPO	nothing by mouth	pvc	preventricular contraction
nullip	nulleparous (no pregnancies)	pwd	powder
o.d.	once a day	q	every
O.T.	occupational therapy	q. ___h	every ___ hour
OB	obstetrics	q.d.	every day
OBS	organic brain syndrome	q.h.	every hour
OD	Right eye	q.i.d.	Four times a day
Od	over dose	q.n.	every night
Opd	out-patient department	q.o.d.	every other day
Ops	operations	QA	quality assurance
OR	operating room	QAC	quality Assurance Coordinator
Orth	orthopedic	QAP	quality Assurance Program
OS	Left eye	QAR	quality Assurance Review
OU	Both eyes	qns	quantity not sufficient
outpt	outpatient	R	right
Oz	ounce	R.D.	registered dietician
P	after	R.N.	registered nurse
P & A	percussion & auscultation	R.O.	reality orientation
P.E.	physical examination	R.T.P.	recreational Therapeutic Pass
P.I.D.	pelvic inflammatory disease	R/O	rule out
p.o.	by mouth	rad	radial
PA	postero-anterior	RBC	red blood count
palp	palpated	rbc	Red blood cells
PBI	protein bound iodine	rect	rectal
Pc	after meals	Rh	rhesus blood factor
Pdr	powder	RLQ	right lower quadrant
Ped	pediatrics	ROS	review of systems
Pen	penicillin	RR	respiratory rate
Per	by	RUQ	right upper quadrant
PERLA	pupils equal reactive to light and accomodation	Rx	prescription, take
pH	measure of acidity or alkalinity	s	without
		S.H.	state hospital
		S/A	sugar and acetone
		Sa	saline

Schiz.	schizophrenia	U.O.	urinary output
Sed rate	erythrocyte sedimentation rate	u/o	under observation
serol	serology	UA	urinalysis
SGOT	serum glutomie oxalacetic transaminase	UGI	upper gastrointestinal series (X-ray)
SGPT	serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase	UNK	unknown
Sibs	siblings	URI	upper respiratory infection
SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome	UTI	urinary tract infection
Sig	to write , to take	v. fib.	ventricular fibrillation
Sl	slight	v. tach.	ventricular tachycardia
SOAPE	subjective, objective, assessment, plan, evaluation	V.O.	verbal order
SOB	shortness of breath	Vag	vaginal
Soc. hx	social history	VC	vital capacity
Soc. Ser.	social service	VD	veneral disease
Sol	solution	VDRL	Serological test for syphilis
Sos	when necessary	vit.	vitamin
Sp	spine	vol	volume
sp. cd.	spinal cord	VS	vital signs
sp. fl.	spinal fluid	WBC	white blood count
sp. gr.	specific gravity	wbc	white blood cell
Spec.	specimen	wd	well developed
SQ	subcutaneous	wf	wife
Staph	staphylococcus	wk	week
Stat	immediately	wn	well nourished
Strep	streptococcus	WNL	within normal limits
subcut	subcutaneous	wt.	weight
Sup	superior	x	times
Surg	surgery	x-ray	radiology
Sx	symptoms	y/o	year old
Sys	system	yrs	years
T & A	tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		
T.A.	therapeutic assignment		
t.i.d.	three times a day		
T.O.	telephone order		
Tab	tablet		
TB	tuberculosis		
Tbsp.	tablespoon		
temp.	temperature		
thor	thorax		
thromb	thrombosis		
TLC	tender loving care		
TM	tympanic membrane (eardrum)		
TP	treatment plan		
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration		
tsp.	teaspoon		
Tx	treatment		