

# ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

## Disabilities, Health Conditions and Related Services

*Professionals frequently use abbreviations to form acronyms to describe terms. The disability field is no exception. This fact sheet lists some of the more commonly used acronyms and the terms each describes. These terms cover the areas of disabilities and health conditions, and services and related medical terms. This information is designed especially for parents of infants with disabilities and professionals serving those families.*

### Disabilities and Health Conditions

<b>ADD</b>	Attention Deficit Disorder	<b>MBD</b>	Minimal Brain Dysfunction
<b>ADHD</b>	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	<b>MD</b>	Muscular Dystrophy
		<b>MR</b>	Mental Retardation
		<b>MS</b>	Multiple Sclerosis
<b>BD</b>	Behavior Disorder		
<b>BPD</b>	Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia	<b>NEC</b>	Necrotizing Enterocolitis
		<b>NTD</b>	Neural Tube Defect
<b>CDH</b>	Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia		
<b>CF</b>	Cystic Fibrosis	<b>OH</b>	Orthopedically Handicapped
<b>CHD</b>	Congenital Heart Disease	<b>OM</b>	Otitis Media
<b>CMV</b>	Cytomegalovirus		
<b>CP</b>	Cerebral Palsy	<b>PDD</b>	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
<b>DD</b>	Developmental Disabilities	<b>PKU</b>	Phenylketonuria
		<b>PMR/PMH</b>	Profoundly Mentally Retarded/Handicapped
<b>ED/EH</b>	Emotional Disorder/Emotionally Handicapped		
<b>EMR/EMH</b>	Educable Mentally Retarded/Handicapped	<b>RDS</b>	Respiratory Distress Syndrome
<b>FAS</b>	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	<b>SGA</b>	Small for Gestational Age
<b>FHR</b>	Fetal Heart Rate	<b>SIDS</b>	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
<b>FTT</b>	Failure to Thrive	<b>SLD</b>	Specific Learning Disabilities
<b>HI/HH</b>	Hearing Impaired/Handicaps	<b>TMR/TMH</b>	Trainable Mentally Retarded/Handicapped
<b>ID</b>	Immune Deficiency	<b>URI</b>	Upper Respiratory Infection
<b>IH</b>	Infantile Hydrocephalus	<b>UTI</b>	Urinary Tract Infection
<b>IUGR</b>	Intrauterine Growth Retardation		
<b>IVH</b>	Intraventricular Hemorrhage	<b>VI/VH</b>	Visually Impaired/Handicapped
		<b>VLBW</b>	Very Low Birth Weight
<b>LBW</b>	Low Birth Weight		
<b>LD</b>	Learning Disability		

## Services and Related Medical Terms

<b>ADC</b>	Adult Disabled Children; Aid to Dependent Children (more commonly called <b>AFDC</b> )	<b>IHP</b>	Individualized Habilitation Plan
<b>ADL</b>	Activities of Daily Living	<b>I&amp;O</b>	Intake and Output
<b>AFDC</b>	Aid to Families with Dependent Children	<b>IQ</b>	Intelligence Quotient
<b>AT</b>	Assistive Technology	<b>I&amp;R</b>	Information & Referral
<b>CA</b>	Chronological Age	<b>IS</b>	Infant Stimulation
<b>CAN</b>	Child Abuse and Neglect	<b>IV</b>	Intravenous
<b>CAT Scan</b>	Computerized Axial Tomography (sometimes referred to as <b>CT scan</b> )	<b>LRE</b>	Least Restrictive Environment
<b>CBC</b>	Complete Blood Count	<b>MA</b>	Mental Age
<b>CDB</b>	Childhood Disability Benefit	<b>MDT</b>	Multidisciplinary Team
<b>CNS</b>	Central Nervous System	<b>MRI</b>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
<b>CPAP</b>	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure	<b>NICU</b>	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
<b>CS</b>	Cesarean Section	<b>NPO</b>	Nothing by mouth
<b>CSF</b>	Cerebrospinal Fluid	<b>NSVD</b>	Normal Spontaneous Vaginal Delivery
<b>DAC</b>	Disabled Adult Child	<b>OT</b>	Occupational Therapy
<b>D&amp;E</b>	Diagnosis and Evaluation	<b>PASS</b>	Plan for Achieving Self-Support
<b>Dx</b>	Diagnosis	<b>PCA</b>	Personal Care Attendant
<b>ECG</b>	Electrocardiogram	<b>PICU</b>	Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
<b>ECMO</b>	Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation	<b>PRN</b>	Whenever Necessary
<b>EEG</b>	Electroencephalogram	<b>PT</b>	Physical Therapy
<b>EI</b>	Early Intervention	<b>RT</b>	Recreational Therapy
<b>ENT</b>	Ear, Nose, and Throat	<b>Rx</b>	Prescription
<b>EPSDT</b>	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment	<b>SCAN</b>	Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect
<b>FAPE</b>	Free Appropriate Public Education	<b>SSDI</b>	Social Security Disability Income
<b>GI</b>	Gastrointestinal	<b>SSI</b>	Supplemental Security Income
<b>Hx</b>	History	<b>ST</b>	Speech Therapy
<b>IBC</b>	Infant Bioethics Committee	<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>ICRC</b>	Infant Care Review Committee	<b>TDD</b>	Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
<b>IDT</b>	Interdisciplinary Team	<b>TPN</b>	Total Parenteral Nutrition
<b>IEP</b>	Individualized Education Plan	<b>Tx</b>	Treatment
<b>IFSP</b>	Individual Family Service Plan	<b>VR</b>	Vocational Rehabilitation
		<b>VS</b>	Vital Signs
		<b>WIC</b>	Women, Infants and Children Program

# How to Decipher Prescription Lingo

Terms you are likely to encounter on a prescription:

**b.i.d.** - twice a day

**p.r.n.** - as needed, as often as necessary

**q.** - every

**q.h.** - every hour

**q.4h** - every four hours

**q.8h** - every eight hours

**q.i.d.** - four times a day

**q.n.** - every night

**t.i.d.** - three times a day

## Decoding Medical Terminology

(From Pass It On, NH Division of Public Health Services)

Have you ever read the notes in your child's medical chart or maybe even your own. Or when you listen to the doctors and nurses it may seem like they are speaking in a secret language. To decode what everybody's talking about, here's a list of commonly used medical abbreviations:

**a.c.** - before meals

**ad lib** - as needed, as desired

**ama** - against medical advice

**BP** - blood pressure

**BRP** - bathroom privileges

**Bx** - biopsy

**CA** - cancer

**CC** - chief complaint

**CCU** - coronary care unit

**CHF** - congestive heart failure

**ECG or EKG** - electrocardiogram

**FH** - family history

**Fx** - fracture

**GI** - gastrointestinal

**gravida** - pregnancies

**GTT** - glucose tolerance test

**HPI** - history of present illness

**h.s.** - at bedtime, before retiring

**I&O** - intake and output (measure fluids going in and out of body)

**IV** - intravenous

**LMP** - last menstrual period

**(m)** - murmur

**MI** - myocardial infarction (heart attack)

**n.p.o.** - nothing by mouth

**N&V** - nausea and vomiting

**OOB** - out of bed

**OT** - occupational therapy

**p.c.** - after meals

**p.o.** - by mouth

**pt** - physical therapy

**RBC** - red blood cell count

**SOB** - shortness of breath

**stat** - right away, immediately

**sx** - symptoms

**TIA** - transient ischemic attack (temporary obstruction of blood flow to brain)

**Tx** - treatment

**URI** - upper respiratory infection

**UTI** - urinary tract infection

**WBC** - white blood cell count