

Pharmacy Abbreviations

ac	before meals
ad	right ear
am	morning
as	left ear
ASAP	as soon as possible
au	both ears
bid	two times daily
tid	three times daily
qid	four times daily
q4h	every 4 hours
q	every
c	with
d	day
DAW	dispense as written
gtt	drop
h or hr	hour
i	one
ii	two
iii	three
iv	four
od	right eye
opth	ophthalmic
os	left eye
otic	for the ear
ou	both eyes
per	by or through
pc	after meals
pm	evening
po	by mouth
pr	rectally
prn	as needed
pV	vaginally
qd	every day
qs	quantity sufficient
qsad	add quantity
s	without
sig	write (on label)

Pharmacy Abbreviations (cont)

sl	sublingual
stat	immediately
supp	suppository
ud	as directed
syr.	syrup
tab	tablet
tbsp	tablespoon (15 mL)
TPN	total parenteral nutrition
w/o	without
tsp	teaspoon (5 mL)
ung	ointment
x	times

Pharmacy abbreviations and acronyms form the linguistic backbone of many prescriptions.

Knowing this 'language' helps you understand the meaning of prescriptions and, as such, forms an important part of the pharmacy technician syllabus.

Controlled Substance Schedules

Schedule	Examples
Schedule I - no accepted medical uses; very high potential for abuse	heroin, LSD, marijuana, ecstasy
Schedule II - high potential for abuse	morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl, methylphenidate, methadone, hydromorphone, amphetamine, meperidine
Schedule III - less potential for abuse but may cause low to moderate dependence	ketamine, tylenol with codeine, buprenorphine, depo-testosterone
Schedule IV - low potential for abuse compared to I-III	alprazolam, clonazepam, diazepam, lorazepam, carisoprodol
Schedule V - lowest potential for abuse; contain limited quantities of narcotics	robatussin AC, phenergan with codeine



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Page 1 of 2.

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DEA Forms

Form	Purpose
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DEA Form 222	To transfer or order Schedule II substances
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DEA Form 224	Pharmacies must complete this form to allowed to dispense controlled substances
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DEA Form 225	Application form required for the manufacture of controlled substances
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DEA 106	Documents loss or theft of controlled substances
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DEA 41	Documents destroyed controlled substances
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Parenteral Route

Intravenous	Into a vein
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Intramuscular	Into a muscle
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Subcutaneous	Under the skin
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Intraosseous	Into the bone
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Intravesical	Into the bladder
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Intravitreal	Through the eye
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Transdermal/topical	Through the skin
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Intrathecal	Into the spine
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Intra-articular	Into joint spaces
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Epidural	Into the epidural space
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These routes of administration are delivered into the body via routes other than the GI tract - for example by injection directly into the bloodstream

Enteral Routes

Oral	Through the mouth
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Buccal	Between cheek and gums
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Sublingual	Under the tongue
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Rectal	Into the rectum
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