

Patient Safety is in YOUR Hand!

# abbrev med nms on rx's

RI   ms   Pb   JL   py \*

Use complete **GENERIC**  
medication names.

Clear, complete prescriptions  
decrease medication errors.

\*Examples taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.  
Regular insulin, morphine sulfate, phenobarbital, Tylenol, Phenergan

# Lead, Don't Follow



**ALWAYS**

use a leading zero for doses less than one,

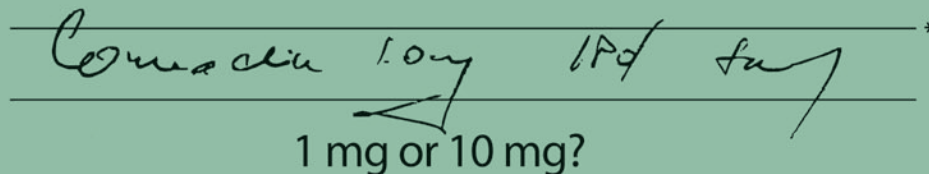
e.g. **0.2 mg**

**NEVER**

use a trailing zero for doses that are a whole number,

e.g. **2 mg**

Missed decimal points  
lead to medication errors.



\*Example taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.



# Rx Patient Safety is in Your Hand!

**Clear, complete prescriptions  
decrease medication errors.**

\_\_\_\_\_ \*

*Tylenol #3 1-2*

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Example taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.  
Tylenol #3, 1-2 tablets po q3h prn

# Put the Reason Next to the order

The indication for prescribing on a PRN (give as needed) order assists all health care professionals in administering and monitoring the intended therapy.

*lorazepam 1mg po/sl prn\**

For sleep? seizures? anxiety?

\*Example taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.

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# SUBSTITUTING sc, sq, and sl for SUBCUTANEOUS or SUBLINGUAL

**Leads to confusion  
and medication errors.**

*Scopolamine 0.5mg sl po \**

Subcutaneous or sublingual?

Clear, complete prescriptions  
decrease medication errors.

\*Example taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.

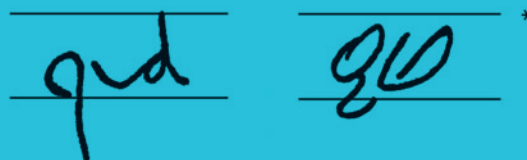
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# Spell it out DAILY!



Use **DAILY** to avoid confusion.

Abbreviations q.d., o.d., q1d can be misinterpreted resulting in medication errors.



Daily or four times daily?

\*Examples taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.

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# When U order units, don't abbreviate!



Use **'Units'**  
to prevent medication errors.

Handwritten U's can be misread  
as a zero, a four, or cc's, leading to overdoses.

Heparin 5000 SC BID \*  
500 U or 5000?

\*Example taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.

# It's worth the WEIGHT!



Medication orders for pediatric patients  
who weigh 50 kg or less  
must include the dosage by weight in

- mg/kg/day or
- mg/kg/dose or
- mg/m<sup>2</sup>

*Clindamycin 320mg iv q 6h\*  
(=40mg/kg/day)*

Clear, complete prescriptions  
decrease medication errors.

\*A clear and complete example  
taken from WRHA hospital prescriptions.