



Clark Memorial Hospital

A Norton and LifePoint Partnership

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Owner: JENNIFER LITER: DIRECTOR,
 MED SURG

Policy Area: Nursing - Patient Care

References:

Applicability: Clark Memorial Hospital

Abbreviations "Do Not Use" List

Policy Statement:

To ensure the continuity of correct abbreviations and patient safety a recommended Do Not Use Abbreviations list will be utilized throughout the facility for patient care needs.

Procedure:

The following have been identified as potential safety issues and are recommended **NOT** to be used in any area of patient care, i.e., patient record, progress orders, medication sheets, etc.

WHO:	DOES WHAT:		
HCP	DO NOT USE LIST.		
	Do Not Use	Potential Problem	Use Instead
	U (unit)	Mistaken for "0", the number "4", or "cc"	Write "unit"
	IU (International Unit)	Mistaken for IV (Intravenous) or the number 10 (ten)	Write "International Unit"
	Q.D., QD, q.d., qd (daily) Q.O.D., QOD, q.o.d, qod (every other day)	Mistaken for each other. Period after the Q mistaken for "1" and the "Q" mistaken for "1"	Write "daily" Write "every other day"
	Trailing zero (X.0 mg) * Lack of leading zero (.X mg)	Decimal point is missed	Write X mg Write 0.X mg
	MS MSO, and Mg SO	Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate Confused for one another	Write "morphine sulfate" Write "magnesium sulfate"
	Apothecary Units	Unfamiliar to many Practitioners Confused with Metric Units	Use Metric Units

Applies to all orders and all medication-related documentation that is handwritten (including free-text computer entry) or on pre-printed forms.

*Exception: A "training zero" may be used only where required to demonstrate the level of precision of the value being reported, such as for laboratory results, imaging studies that report size of lesions, or catheter/tube sizes. It may not be used in medication orders or other medication-related documentation.

Attachments:

No Attachments

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