

Commonly Used Medical Abbreviations

How Often to Take Your Medication

ad lib - freely, as needed

bid - twice a day

prn or pid - as needed

q - every

q_h - every *h* hours

q3h - every 3 hours

q4h - every 4 hours

qd or QD - every day

qid - four times a day

qod or QOD - every other day

tid or TID - three times a day

When to Take Your Medication

ac - before meals

hs - at bedtime

int - between meals

pc - after meals

How Much Medication to Take

caps - capsule

gtt - drops

i, ii, iii, or iiii - the number of doses (1, 2, 3, or 4)

mg - milligrams

ml - milliliters

ss - one half

tabs - tablets

tbsp - tablespoon (15ml)

tsp - teaspoon (5ml)

Please see back copy more additional information

How to Use Your Medication

ad - right ear
ad lib – use as much as necessary
al - left ear
c or o - with
od - right eye
os - left eye
ou - both eyes
po - by mouth
s or ø - without
sl - sublingual
top - apply topically
ut dict – as directed

Universal codes:

D = Can/does cause drowsiness,

H = Can/be is habit forming

I = Can interact with one or more drugs, foods, herbs

X = SOS (may be a problem-causing substance like acetaminophen; consult a doctor or pharmacist?)