

Set	Item	Abbreviation	Potential Problem	Preferred Term
1.	1.	U (for unit)	Mistaken as zero, four or cc	Write "unit"
2.	2.	IU (for international unit)	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)	Write "international unit"
3.	3. 4.	Q.D., Q.O.D. (Latin abbreviation for once daily and every other day)	Mistaken for each other. The period after the Q can be mistaken for an "I" and the "O" can be mistaken for "I".	Write "daily" and "every other day"
4.	5. 6.	Trailing zero (X.0 mg) <i>[Note: Prohibited only for medication-related notations];</i> Lack of leading zero (.X mg)	Decimal point is missed.	Never write a zero by itself after a decimal point (X mg), and always use a zero before a decimal point (0.X mg)
5.	7. 8. 9.	MS MSO ₄ MgSO ₄	Confused for one another. Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate.	Write "morphine sulfate" or "magnesium sulfate"
		µg (for microgram)	Mistaken for mg (milligrams) resulting in one thousand-fold dosing overdose.	Write "mcg"
		H.S. (for half-strength or Latin abbreviation for bedtime)	Mistaken for either half-strength or hour of sleep (at bedtime). q.H.S. mistaken for every hour. All can result in a dosing error.	Write out "half-strength" or "at bedtime"
		T.I.W. (for three times a week)	Mistaken for three times a day or twice weekly resulting in an overdose.	Write "3 times weekly" or "three times weekly"
		S.C. or S.Q. (for subcutaneous)	Mistaken as SL for sublingual, or "5 every".	Write "Sub-Q", "subQ", or "subcutaneously"
		D/C (for discharge)	Interpreted as discontinue whatever medications follow (typically discharge meds).	Write "discharge"
		c.c. (for cubic centimeter)	Mistaken for U (units) when poorly written.	Write "ml" for milliliters
		A.S., A.D., A.U. (Latin abbreviation for left, right, or both ears)	Mistaken for OS, OD, and OU, etc.).	Write: "left ear," "right ear" or "both ears"