







## UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER






### UNACCEPTABLE DANGEROUS ABBREVIATIONS

Medication orders will not be accepted as valid if containing any of the listed dangerous abbreviations.  
Prescriber will be contacted for clarification.

AVOID	ABBREVIATIONS/DOSE EXPRESSION	INTENDED MEANING	MISINTERPRETATION	CORRECTION
	Zero after decimal point (1.0mg)	1mg	Misread as 10mg if the decimal point is not seen	Do not use terminal zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers.
	No zero before decimal dose (.5mg)	0.5mg	Misread as 5mg	Always use zero before a decimal when the dose is less than a whole unit.
	U or u	unit	Read as zero (0) or a four (4), causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44").	"Unit" has no acceptable abbreviation. Use "unit".
	MSO <sub>4</sub> used to identify Morphine	Morphine Sulfate	Misread as Magnesium Sulfate	MSO <sub>4</sub> is not an acceptable abbreviation. Always write the entire word Morphine or Morphine Sulfate
	MgSO <sub>4</sub> used identify Magnesium	Magnesium Sulfate	Misread as Morphine Sulfate	MgSO <sub>4</sub> not an acceptable abbreviation. Always write the entire word Magnesium Sulfate.
	ug	microgram	Mistaken for "mg" when handwritten	Use "mcg" or write "microgram"

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	IU	International Unit	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)	Write "international unit"
	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 "1"	Write "daily" and "every other day"
	AS AD AU	Latin abbreviation for left ear, right ear, both ears	Mistaken for OS, OD and OU	Write "Left ear", "Right ear", "Both ears"
	OS OD OU	Latin abbreviation for left eye, right eye, both eyes	Mistaken for AS, AD and AU	Write "Left eye", "Right eye", Both eyes"
	TIW	Latin abbreviation for three times a week	Mistaken for three times a day or twice a week	Write "3 times weekly" or "three times weekly"