



Healthcare Terminology and Abbreviations for Nurse Assistants

Upon entering the healthcare field, the nursing assistant will learn that there is a special language spoken by those working within it. This language contains abbreviations and special terms used to communicate information. A lot of medical terminology is based on the Latin language, with which many modern English speakers may not be familiar.

Part of the nursing assistant training will include healthcare terminology. As with any language, the more one is absorbed in a culture that it speaks, the more one will be able to understand and speak it. The following is a list of common healthcare terminology and abbreviations that the nursing assistant may encounter:

AC - before meals	DNR - Do Not Resuscitate	Q2H - Every two hours
AKA - above the knee amputation	Fx - fracture	Q4H - Every four hours
Anuric - not producing any urine	H&P - History and Physical	R/O - rule out
BID - Twice a day	H/O - History of	SOB - shortness of breath
BKA - Below the knee amputation	HTN - hypertension (high blood pressure)	SQ - Subcutaneous
BP - blood pressure	mL - milliliters	T - temperature
C / O - complaints of	N/V - nausea, vomiting	TID - three times a day
COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	NPO - Nothing By Mouth	UTI - Urinary Tract Infection
CVA - cerebrovascular accident (Stroke)	PO - By Mouth	VSS - vital signs stable
DM I or DM II - Diabetes Mellitus I or Diabetes Mellitus II	PRN - As Needed	wt - weight



Practice Questions - Common Health Care Terminology

1. The correct medical abbreviation for "before meals" is
 - A. PC
 - B. AC
 - C. AD
 - D. BM

2. The nurse asks the nurse assistant to position the patient in high-fowlers AC meals. The nurse assistant knows to position the patient in high-fowlers
 - A. After Cleaning
 - B. At Common Room
 - C. Before Meals
 - D. After Meals

3. The RN asks to check the clients BP, the nurse assistant knows BP means:
 - A. Breakfast Portions
 - B. Bowel Percussion
 - C. Benign Prostate
 - D. Blood Pressure

4. The nurse tells the nurse assistant that the patient's BP is 125/80 on the patients left arm. The nurse assistant knows that BP means
 - A. Benign Prostate
 - B. Bathroom Privilege
 - C. Blood Pressure
 - D. Bowel Percussion

5. The medical abbreviation for every two hours is
 - A. E2H
 - B. Q2H
 - C. Every 2 hrs
 - D. Q 2 hrs

Answers:

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. B