

FREQUENTLY USED ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

ABG	Arterial blood gases.
Accuracy	How close a test result is in relation to the true value of the substance being measured.
Acid	A chemical that will lower the pH of solutions. The pH value is always less than 7 on the pH scale of 0 to 14.
ADL	Activities of daily living.
Ad lib	At will.
Aerobic	Used to describe organisms that will grow atmospheric oxygen concentrations and have an oxygen requirement for their metabolism.
Alkali	A chemical that will increase the pH of solutions. The pH value is always greater than 7 on the pH scale of 0 to 14.
AME	Adverse medical event.
Anaerobic	Used to describe organisms that will grow in an oxygen lacking environment.
Analyte	A substance or component in a sample that is being measured.
Anoxia:	A deficiency of oxygen.
Antibody	An immunoglobulin produced by lymphocytes in response to bacteria, viruses or other antigenic substances e.g. certain proteins
Anticoagulant	A substance that prevents the clotting of the blood e.g. heparin, EDTA.
Antigen	A substance that the body recognizes as foreign and can create an immune response. e.g. produce and antibody.
Anuria	The complete absence of urine excretion.
APPT	Activated partial thromboplastin time.
Bacillus	Bacteria that have a rod-shaped appearance.
Bias	The skewing of results away from the true result.
Buffer	A mixture of two or more chemicals that in combination will keep the pH constant.
Calibrator	A known solution or substance that is used to set instruments that the results can be read correctly.
Carry over	Contamination of a specimen by the previous specimen.
Caustic	Any substance that is destructive to living tissue by exerting a burning or corrosive effect.
CHO	Carbohydrate.
CJD	Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.
CLL	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia.
Coccus	Bacteria that have a spherical or oval shape.
Contra	Opposed or opposite.
Control	A sample or substance with a known value within accurate limits that is used to maintain accuracy and quality in a procedure.

Conversion Factor	A number that is used to convert one set of units to another by multiplying or dividing. e.g. the conversion factor for glucose to convert from mg/dl to mmol/L is to multiply by mg/dl by 0.0555.
COPD	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
Cutoff Values	Limits above or below which the patient is abnormal or positive for a given condition.
Diluent	A liquid that reduced the strength of another substance when it is added to that substance.
DKA	Diabetic ketoacidosis.
DM	Diabetes mellitus.
Effusion	The pathological accumulation of fluid in a body cavity.
ETOH	Alcohol.
Exudate	A fluid in a body cavity that accumulates with a high concentration of protein when capillary permeability is increased.
Ex	A term used for away from, or outside.
Ex-vivo	Use of viable tissues or cells after removal from an organism (including humans) for experimentation.
FNA	Fine needle aspiration biopsy.
Haemolyse	The destruction of red blood cells that releases haemoglobin and other analytes contained in red blood cells.
HPCA	Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act.
Hyper	A pre-fix meaning excessive or above.
Hypo	A pre-fix meaning under, below or deficient.
Hypoxia	A condition of low oxygen content in tissues.
HPI	History of present illness.
Infarction	A process of cell death caused by inadequate blood supply.
Iatrogenic	Any adverse condition resulting from the action of a Medical Practitioner.
INR	International normalized ratio.
Insensate	Without physical sensation, unconscious or without feeling.
In-situ:	Confined to the site of origin.
In-vitro	Literal meaning 'in-glass, occurring in an artificial situation.
In-vivo	Occurring in a living organism.
Iso	A pre-fix meaning equal.
Isotonic	A solution that will cause no change to cell volume; the solution has the same solute concentration as another solution e.g. isotonic saline will not change blood cells when administered.
KVO	Keep vein open.
Lipemia:	The presence of lipid particles in a sample that gives the sample a turbid or cloudy appearance.
Lyse/lysis	To breakdown or destroy cells.
Mean	The arithmetic average obtained by dividing the total set of values by the number of items in the set.
Median	The middle value in an ordered number of tests or samples.
Milligram	A unit of weight that is equivalent to one thousandth of a gram.
Millimole	A unit that is equal to the formula weight of a substance in Milligrams.
NKA	No known allergies.
NPO (Nil Per Os)	Nothing by mouth / Nil by mouth

OS	Operating system(s)
OTC	Over the counter.
PICC	Peripherally inserted central catheter.
Plasma	The pale yellowish liquid part of blood without any cells.
Pyuria	The presence of pus in the urine.
Poly	A prefix meaning multiple or many.
Postprandial	After a meal or eating.
PPD	Purified protein derivative of <i>tuberculin</i> .
PPE	Personal, Protective Equipment. Clothing and other equipment that shield laboratory workers from contaminants, e.g. gloves, masks over garments.
PSA	Prostate specific antigen.
Privacy	The need to ensure that information, including results, are accessed only by authorized individuals and parties.
Quality Control	Any measure that ensures consistent laboratory procedure and accurate test results.
Rx	Prescription/medication
Serum	The liquid part of the blood after a clot has formed.
Solute	A substance that dissolves in a liquid to form a solution.
Solvent	A liquid in which substances are dissolved to form a solution.
Stasis	Stoppage or standing still.
Supernatant	The fluid remaining at the top of a specimen following centrifugation.
Sx	Symptoms.
Tx	Treatment.