



**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS**  
NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL  
PHARMACY SERVICES**

CODE: 1.08.5  
DATE: 10/14/08  
REVISED: 4/19/22

SECTION: **DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY**

APPROVED: **Thinh Tran, Pharm. D**

SUBJECT: **UNAPPROVED ABBREVIATION LIST**

PAGES: 1 of 1

PURPOSE

The purpose of a facility unapproved abbreviation list is to reduce errors by not accepting problematic abbreviations used in medication management. RLANRC has identified the following unapproved abbreviations for our facility:

<b>Dangerous Unapproved Abbreviations</b>	<b>Approved abbreviation / correction</b>	<b>Misinterpretation</b>
<b>U or u</b>	Use: <b>unit</b>	Read as zero (0) or a four (4), causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44") Mistaken as "cc" (40u/hr as 40cc/hr)
<b>I.U. or i.u.</b>	Use: <b>International unit</b>	Misread as IV (intravenous)
<b>q.d. or QD</b>	Use: <b>Every day or Daily</b>	Mistaken as q.i.d. especially if the period after the "q" or the tail of the "q" is misunderstood as an "l"
<b>q.o.d. or QOD</b>	Use: <b>Every other day</b>	Misinterpreted as "q.d." (daily) or "q.i.d." (four times daily) if the "o" is poorly written
Zero after decimal point (e.g. 1.0)	<b>Do not</b> use terminal zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers	1.0 mg misread as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen
<b>No</b> zero before decimal dose (e.g. .5 mg)	<b>Always use</b> zero before a decimal when the dose is less than a whole unit	.5 mg misread as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen
<b>MS MSO<sub>4</sub></b>	Use: <b>Morphine sulfate</b>	Confused for one another.
<b>MS MSO<sub>4</sub> MgSO<sub>4</sub></b>	Use: <b>Magnesium sulfate</b>	

Reviewed: 4/6/16bj, 7/30/2018bdk, 4/19/2022 TT

Approved By: *Ben Arndt*