DANGEROUS ABBREVIATIONS 2015-16

VCMC and SANTA PAULA HOSPITAL will *NOT* use these abbreviations in the Medical Record

Official "DO NOT USE" List

"U"	Mistaken for a zero, "4" or cubic centimeter if written; Write out the word "Unit".
"IU"	Mistaken as IV or 10; Write "international unit".
"QD", "QOD"	Mistaken for each other; Write "daily" and "every other day".
"Trailing Zero (X.0 mg)", "Lack of Leading Zero (.X mg)"	Never write a zero by itself after a decimal point (Write "X mg") and always use a zero before a decimal point (Write "0.X mg").
"MS"	Can mean morphine or sulfate or magnesium sulfate; Write "morphine sulfate" or "magnesium sulfate".
"MSO4", "MgSO4"	Confused for one another; Write "morphine sulfate" or "magnesium sulfate".

ADDITIONAL Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols

"μG"	Mistaken for milligrams; Write out the word "microgram" or use abbreviation "mcg"; Do NOT use symbol "μ".
"AU","AS" and "AD"	Mistaken for OU, OS, OD (right, left or both eyes); Write out "right, left or both ears".
"cc" (cubic centimeter)	Mistaken for U (units) when poorly written. Write "ml" for milliliters.

*The **VCMC ABBREVIATION POLICY**, **LIST OF APPROVED ABBREVIATIONS** and **DANGEROUS ABBREVATION LIST** are available in the VCMC and SPH Administrative Policy Manual, available on computer desktops – click on "VCMC P&P, Credentialing and Pharmacy Resources".*

Approved: March 2015, P&T Committee