## **ISMP's** List of *Error-Prone Abbreviations*, *Symbols*, and *Dose Designations*

The abbreviations, symbols, and dose designations found in this table have been reported to ISMP through the ISMP National Medication Errors Reporting Program (ISMP MERP) as being frequently misinterpreted and involved in harmful medication errors. They should **NEVER** be used when communicating medical information. This includes internal communications, telephone/verbal prescriptions, computer-generated labels, labels for drug storage bins, medication administration records, as well as pharmacy and prescriber computer order entry screens.

up     Mecogram     Mistaken as "m"     Uss "mag"       ABA, SA, AU     Reght ear, eff er, each ear     Mistaken as 00, 05, 00 (right ear, left eye, each eye)     Uss "right ear," "if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Bedrime     Mistaken as 20, 20, 00 (right ear, left ear, each ear)     Uss "right ear," "if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Bedrime     Mistaken as 200" (vice daily)     Uss "right ear," "if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Bedrime     Mistaken as 200" (vice daily)     Uss "right ear," "if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Bedrime     Mistaken as 210" (vice daily)     Uss "right ear," if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Bedrime     Mistaken as 210" (vice daily     Uss "right ear," if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Histeken as 210" (vice daily     Mistaken as 210" (vice daily     Uss "right ear," if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Histeken as 210" (vice daily     Mistaken as 210" (vice daily     Uss "right ear," if et ear," in "each ear"       BT     Histeken as 210" (vice daily     Mistaken as 210" (vice daily     Uss "right ear," if ear, each ear       BT     Histeken as 210" (vice daily     Uss "right ear," if (Daily ear	Abbreviations	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
AD, AS, AU Bipht ary, lifet area, "an "such ary" Mitskeen as DD, DS, DU (dipt per, lifet ary, and reav) Use "right ary" "lifet ary," an "such ary"   BD, DS, OU Right ary, lifet grey, and ary Mistaken as AD, AS, AU (right er, lifet ar, and ear) Use "right ary" "lifet ary," an "such ary"   BT Bedline Mistaken as SDL (SA, DU (right er, lifet ar, and ear) Use "right ary" "lifet ary," an "such ary"   C Cubic centimetes Mistaken as SU (right ary, lifet ary, and read) Use "right ary," and "siscontrue"   D/C Discharge or discontinue Persture (ascontinue) Use "right ary," and "siscontrue"   U light ary Mistaken as SU (right ary) Use "right ary," and "siscontrue"   IJ light ary Mistaken as Su (right ary) Use "right ary" and "siscontrue"   III light ary Mistaken as Su (right ary) Use "right ary" and "siscontrue"   III light ary Mistaken as Su (right ary) Use "right ary" and "siscontrue"   III light ary Mistaken as Su (right ary) Use "right ary" and "siscontrue"   III light ary Mistaken as Su (right ary) Use "right ary" and "siscontrue"   III light ary Mistaken as Su (right ary) Use "right ary" and "siscontrue"   III light ary and "siscontrue" Use "right ary" Mistaken as SU (right ary) Use	μg		Mistaken as "mg"	Use "mcg"
BT     Beditive     Mistaken as "BD" (rwise dah)     Use "beditive"       0C     Quic continueus     Mistaken as "u" (mis)     Use "beditive"       0C     Discharge or discontinue     Prenture discontinueus     Use "beditive"       1J     Injection     Mistaken as "U" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1M     Infranceal     Mistaken as "U" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1N     Infranceal     Mistaken as "U" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1N     Infranceal     Mistaken as TU" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1N     Infranceal     Mistaken as TU" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1N     Infranceal     Mistaken as TU" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1N     Infranceal     Mistaken as TU" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       1N     Infranceal     Mistaken as TU" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       0.J     Dere daily     Mistaken as TU" or "intrajugula"     Use "bischarge" and "discontinue"       0.J     Dere daily     Mistaken as TU" or "int		Right ear, left ear, each ear	Mistaken as OD, OS, OU (right eye, left eye, each eye)	Use "right ear," "left ear," or "each ear"
cc     Cubic centimeters     Mataken as "n" (units)     Set       D/C     Discharge or discontinue     Prenature discontinuation of medications if D/C (intended to mean fieldword by a list of discharge netications     Use "mil"     Use "mil"       U     Injection     Mataken as "M" or "N"     Use "injection"     Use "injection"       NN     Intranasal     Mataken as "M" or "N"     Use "initranasal" or "MAS"       HS     Hoff-sterngth     Mataken as "M" or "N"     Use "initranasal" or "MAS"       HS     Hoff-sterngth     Mataken as IM" or "N"     Use "initranasal" or "MAS"       NM     Intranasal" or "Mas"     Mataken as IM" or "N"     Use "initranasal" or "MAS"       NM     International unit     Mataken as ID or OS (right or left type); drugs meant to be diulted in anarge juice may be given in the rep     Use "anite"     Use "dialy"       QJ     Orange juice     Mataken as Streegere(I) for used streegere) where     Use "dialy"     Use "dialy"       q.d. or QD**     Every day     Mataken as streegere(I) (for used streegere)     Use "dialy"     Use "dialy"       q.d. or QD**     Every other day     Mataken as "dial" or ergere than     Use "dialy""dial" dia f PM" or "analy"       q.	OD, OS, OU	Right eye, left eye, each eye	Mistaken as AD, AS, AU (right ear, left ear, each ear)	Use "right eye," "left eye," or "each eye"
D/E     Discharge or discontinue     Premutur discontinuum for anticipations if 0/10 (directed to mean followed by a list of discharge medications     Use "discharge" and "discontinue"       IJ     Injection     Mitation as TV or "intrajugula"     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       IN     Intransal     Mitation as TW or "intrajugula"     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       INS     At bedition, hours of sleep     Mitation as TW or "intrajugula"     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       INS     At bedition, hours of sleep     Mitation as IW (intravenous) or 10 (ton)     Use "international init     Mitation as IW (intravenous) or 10 (ton)     Use "international init or "beditions administered in the eye     Use "international init or "beditions administered in the eye     Use "international init or "beditions administered in the eye     Use "international init or "beditions administered in the eye     Use "international init or "arcelly"       Q.J     Drange juice     Mitation as Q.J. (expecially if the yer') QS-aculas siniter)     Use "international init or "arcelly"       Q.J     Drange juice     Mitation as Q.J. (expecially if the yer') QS-aculas siniter)     Use "international init or "arcelly"       Q.J     Drange juice     Mitation as add, expecially if the yer' (QS-aculas siniter)     Use "international init or "arcelly"       Q.J     Drange juice     Mitat	BT	Bedtime	Mistaken as "BID" (twice daily)	Use "bedtime"
Image: Second	CC	Cubic centimeters	Mistaken as "u" (units)	Use "mL"
N     Intransal     Mistalen as Mill" or "IV"     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       NS     Hail-strength     Mistalen as bedtime     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       NS     Ab bedtime, hours of sleep     Mistalen as heldine     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       U"*     International unit     Mistalen as sight egr (D1-oucle stetz), leading to oral liquid medications administerion in the egr     Use "intransal" or "MAS"       OJ     Once daily     Mistalen as right egr (D1-oucle stetz), leading to oral liquid medications administerion in the egr     Use "intransal" or "Mas"       OJ     Orange juice     Mistalen as 0.0 or 0.5 (right to left eys); drugs meant to be diluted in drarge juice any is egreen in the egr     Use "Norange juice"       Per os     By mouth, orally     The "use" can mistalen as "the egr (OS coclus sinister)     Use "Norange juice"       q.d. or 000**     Every day     Mistalen as right (egr (CS coclus sinister)     Use "hightly or "rorally"       q.d. or 000**     Every day     Mistalen as right (egr (CS coclus sinister)     Use "hightly or "rorally"       q.d. or 000**     Every day     Mistalen as right (egr (CS coclus sinister)     Use "hightly or "rorally"       q.d. or 000**     Every day     Mistalen as strid, (four tinnes daly)     Use "hightly or "rorally	D/C	Discharge or discontinue	"discharge") has been misinterpreted as "discontinued" when	Use "discharge" and "discontinue"
NS Half-strength Mistaken as befitting Use "half-strength" or "bedfune"   hs At bettime, hours of sleep Mistaken as half-strength Use "tailf-strength" or "bedfune"   O.J Once daily Mistaken as NU (intravensus) or 10 (ten). Use "anits"   O.J Once daily Mistaken as VI (intravensus) or 10 (ten). Use "anits"   O.J Once daily Mistaken as right gree" (100-coulus dexter), leading to oral liquid in drange joice may be dyenn in the eye Use "anits"   Per os By mouth, orally The "tos" can be mistaken as "left gree" (OS-coulus sinister) Use "anity"   q.d. or OD** Every day Mistaken as "luft" experiments dyenn in the eye Use "anity"   q.d. or OD** Every day Mistaken as "luft" every hour) Use "anity"   q.d. or OD** Every day Mistaken as "luft" every hour) Use "anity"   q.d. dor OD** Every other day Mistaken as "luft" every hour) Use "anity"   q.d. dor OD** Every other day Mistaken as en't di (day) or "quid. (four times daily) Use "daily"   q.d. dolly Subclataneous Subclataneous Subclataneous Subclataneous   Siding scale (insulin) or ½ Mistaken as stree for surgery" misunderstond as every 2 Spell out "sliding scale," use "one-half" or "y'."   s.s Siding scale regular	IJ	Injection	Mistaken as "IV" or "intrajugular"	Use "injection"
hs     At bettime, hours of sleep     Mistaken as half-strength     Use       IU**     International unit     Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)     Use "units"       od. or 0D     Once daily     Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)     Use "units"       OJ     Once daily     Mistaken as IV or 105 (right or left evp); drugs meant to be diluted in carage juice may be given in the eye     Use "romage juice"     Use "romage juice"       QJ     Orange juice     Mistaken as 10 or 05 (right or left evp" (05-coulus sinistor)     Use "PO," "by mouth," or "anally"       Qd     OrD**     Every day     Mistaken as "unit" or every hour     Use "inghthy"       Qh     Nighty at bedtime     Mistaken as "unit" or every hour     Use "inghthy" or "at bedtime"       Q.a.d. or 0D**     Every other day     Mistaken as "unit" or every hour     Use "daily"       Q.a.d. or 0D**     Every other day     Mistaken as quid. (four times daily)     Use "daily at D PM" or "a bedtime"       Query other day     Mistaken as every 5 hours     Use "daily at D PM" or "bM daily"       Query other day     Mistaken as Stog every (e.g., a hepporin torse or dered "aub q 2 hours before surgery".     Use "daily at D PM" or "bM daily"       StC, SQ, sub q     Subcuta	IN	Intranasal	Mistaken as "IM" or "IV"	Use "intranasal" or "NAS"
IU**     International unit     Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)     Use "units"       o.d. or 0.0     Once daily     Mistaken as "ight reg" (Di-oculus detext), leading to oral liquid medications administered in the eye     Use "ichily"       0.J     Orange juice     Mistaken as 0.0 or 0.5 (right or left eye); forugs meant to be diluted in carage juice may be given in the eye     Use "orange juice"     Use "orange juice"       Per os     By mouth, orally     The "cs" can be mistaken as "left eye" (OS-oculus sinister)     Use "logity"     Use "daily"       q.d. or 0.0**     Every day     Mistaken as "loft" every hour     Use "inghthy"     Use "inghthy" or "at bettime"       q.d. or 0.0**     Every other day     Mistaken as "loft" every hour     Use "inghthy" or "at bettime"       q.d. or 0.0**     Every other day     Mistaken as "loft" (every hour)     Use "inghthy" or "at bettime"       q.d. or 0.0**     Every other day     Mistaken as q.i.d. (four times daily)     Use "daily at 6 PM" or "5 PM daily"       g.fdPM, etc.     Every evening at 5 PM     Mistaken as severy 5 hours     Use "daily at 6 PM" or "5 PM daily"       S.f. S.G. sub q     Subcutaneous     SC cristaken as "Stor" every" (e.g. a lepeton) dues "daily at 6 PM" or "5 PM daily"       S.f. S.G. S.g. sub q	HS	Half-strength	Mistaken as bedtime	Use "half-strength" or "bedtime"
a.d. or OD   Once daily   Mistaken as "right eye" (OD-occlus dexter), leading to oral liquid melications administered in the eye   Use "daily"     OJ   Orange juice   Mistaken as OD or OS (fight or left eye); drugs meant to be diluted in orange juice may be given in the eye   Use "orange juice"     Per os   By mouth, orally   The "os" can be mistaken as "left eye" (OS-occlus sinister)   Use "daily"     q.d. or OD**   Every day   Mistaken as "qh" or every hour   Use "daily"     q.n   Nightly or at bedtime   Mistaken as "qh" or every hour   Use "aliy"     q.o.d. or QOD**   Every other day   Mistaken as a "qh" or every hour   Use "daily"     q.o.d. or QOD**   Every other day   Mistaken as a quid. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     q.d.   Daily   Mistaken as a quid. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     g.fdf   Daily   Mistaken as equid. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     g.fdf   Daily   Mistaken as a Gid. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     g.fdf   Daily   Mistaken as equid. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     g.fdf   Daily   Mistaken as a Storog Soutianeous aservery? (e.g. a	hs	At bedtime, hours of sleep	Mistaken as half-strength	
OJDrange juicemedications administered in the eyeMedications administered in the eyeOJDrange juiceMistaken as OD or OS (right or left eye); drugs meant to be diluted in orange juice may be given in the eyeUse "orange juice"Per osBy mouth, orallyThe "os" can be mistaken as "teft eye" (OS-oculus sinister)Use "orange juice"q.d. or QD**Every dayMistaken as a quid, especially if the period after the "q" or the tail of the "q" is misunderstood as an "TUse "day"qhsNightly at bedtimeMistaken as "qh" or every hourUse "nightly" or "at bedtime"q.o.d. or QD**Every other dayMistaken as "qh" (every hour)Use "nightly" or "at bedtime"q.o.d. or QD**Every other dayMistaken as qud" (eash) or "qi.d. (four times daily) if the "o" is poorly written.Use "taily"q.fdDailyMistaken as qud" (eash) or "qi.d. (four times daily)Use "taily at DPM" or "B PM daily"SC, SQ, sub qSubcutaneousSC mistaken as SL (subliquel); SQ mistaken as "every" (e.g. a hepatin das or deed" Stud q 2 hours before surgery" missinderstood as every 2 hours before surgeryUse "subcut" or "subcutaneously"SSR1Siding scale (risulin) or ½ (apothecary)Mistaken as Sto" of "two en a week"Use "1 daily"UoAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as "th" or "subcut as a sto"Spell out "siding scale," use "one-half" or "f_4"UoAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as Sto" "two en a week"Use "1 daily"UoAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as "the" or "subcut as a week"Use "init"Uo </th <th>IU**</th> <th>International unit</th> <th>Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)</th> <th>Use "units"</th>	IU**	International unit	Mistaken as IV (intravenous) or 10 (ten)	Use "units"
In orange juice may be given in the éyé     In orange juice may be given in the éyé     Image juice may be given in the éyé     I	o.d. or OD	Once daily		Use "daily"
q.d. or QD**   Every day   Mistaken as qi.d., especially if the period after the "q" or the tail of the "t" is misunderstood as an "t"   Use "daily"     q.n   Nightly at bedtime   Mistaken as qi.d. (exery hour)   Use "nightly"   Use "nightly"     q.o.d. or QOD**   Every other day   Mistaken as "qu" (daily) or "qi.d. (four times daily) if the "n" is pondy written   Use "wery other day"   Use "daily"     q.d.d. or QOD**   Every other day   Mistaken as qui.d. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "wery other day"     q.d.d. or QOD**   Every evening at 6 PM   Mistaken as qui.d. (four times daily)   Use "daily "   Use "daily "     q.fd   Daily   Mistaken as qui.d. (four times daily)   Use "daily "   Use "daily "   Use "daily "     g.fd   Daily   Mistaken as qui.d. (four times daily)   Use "daily "   Use "daily "   Use "daily "     s.s   Sticting scale (insulin) or ½   Sc mistaken as "every" (e.g., a heparin does or the start or "y,"   Use "daily "	OJ	Orange juice	in orange juice may be given in the eye	Use "orange juice"
dyseNightly at bedtimeMistaken as "qh" or every hourUse "nightly" or "at bedtimeqnNightly or at bedtimeMistaken as "qh" (every hour)Use "nightly" or "at bedtime"q.o.d. or QDD**Every other dayMistaken as "qh" (every hour)Use "nightly" or "at bedtime"q1dDalyMistaken as qid. (four times daily)If the "o" is poorly writtenUse "daily"qFPM, etc.Every evening at 6 PMMistaken as qid. (four times daily)Use "daily at 6 PM" or "6 PM daily"SC, SQ, sub qSubcutaneousSC mistaken as severy 6 hoursUse "daily at 6 PM" or "subcutaneously"SC, SQ, sub qSubcutaneousSC mistaken as severy 6 hoursUse "subcut" or "subcutaneously"ssSilding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary)Mistaken as "severy" (e.g., a heparin dase orderd "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstoad as ever 2 hours before surgery)Spell out "sliding scale," use "one-half" or "%"SSRISilding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary)Mistaken as "stord"Use "1 daily"U or u**UnitMistaken as "tid"Use "1 daily"U or u**UnitMistaken as "tid"Use "a times adec)Dase Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMistaken as "da" or "twice in a week"Use "a directed"Dase Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse "as directed"Dase Designations and Other Information0.5 mgMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse zone before a decimal point then the dase is la		By mouth, orally		Use "PO," "by mouth," or "orally"
qnNightly or at bedtimeMistaken as "qh" (every hour)Use "nightly" or "at bedtime"q.o.d. or QDD**Every other dayMistaken as "qd" (daily) or "qi.d. (four times daily) if the "o" is poorly writtenUse "auly"q1dDailyMistaken as qi.d. (four times daily)Use "daily"q6PM, etc.Every evening at 6 PMMistaken as qi.d. (four times daily)Use "daily"SC, SQ, sub qSubcutaneousSC mistaken as SL (sublingual); SQ mistaken as "5 every", the "q" in "sub q" has been mistaken as "reory" (e.g., a hepanin dose ordered "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgeryUse "subcut" or "subcutaneously"SSR1Sliding scale (msulin) or ½ (apothecary)Mistaken as "55"Spell out "sliding scale," use "one-half" or "½"SSR1Sliding scale regular insulinMistaken as "55"Spell out "sliding scale," use "one-half" or "½"IW or tiw3 times a weekMistaken as "10"Use "1 daily"U or u**UnitMistaken as "10"Use "3 times weekly"U or u**UnitMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse "as directed"Trabing zero after decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbersMbreviations such as mg, or rea of after decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unitMbreviations such as mg, or r	q.d. or QD**	Every day	Mistaken as q.i.d., especially if the period after the "q" or the tail of the "q" is misunderstood as an "i"	Use "daily"
q.o.d. or QQD**   Every other day   Mistaken as "q.d" (daily) or "q.i.d. (four times daily) if the "r" is porfy written   Use "every other day"     q1d   Daily   Mistaken as q.i.d. (four times daily)   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     q6PM, etc.   Every evening at 6 PM   Mistaken as every 6 hours   Use "daily"   Use "daily"   Use "daily"     SC, SQ, sub q   Subcutaneous   SC mistaken as 2.6 (sublingual): SQ mistaken as "5 every" (e.g., a heparin dose ordered "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery)   Spell out "sliding scale;" use "one-half" or "y/q"     ss   Sliding scale (insulin) or ½   Mistaken as "to"   Spell out "sliding scale;" use "one-half" or "y/q"     SSR1   Sliding scale regular insulin   Mistaken as Strong Solution of lodine (Lugol's)   Use "1 daily"     i/d   One daily   Mistaken as "to"   Use "1 daily"   Use "a times week/y"   Use "a times week/y"     U or u**   Unit   Mistaken as 10" or 1/2 (apottecary)   Mistaken as 10" or 1/2 (apottecary)   Mistaken as 2 times aday" or "twice in a week"   Use "1 daily"     U or u**   Unit   Mistaken as 10" or 1/2 (apottecary)   Mistaken as 10" or 1/2 (apottecary)   Use "a directed"     UD   As directed ("ut dictum")   Mistaken as 10" or 1/2 (apottecary)	qhs	Nightly at bedtime		<b>.</b> .
q1d Daily Mistaken as q.i.d. (four times daily) Use "daily"   q6PM, etc. Every evening at 6 PM Mistaken as q.i.d. (four times daily) Use "daily at 6 PM" or "6 PM daily"   SC, SQ, sub q Subcutaneous SC mistaken as as (1, usingual); SQ mistaken as "5 every" (e.g., a heparin dose ordered "sub q? hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery Use "subcut? or "subcutaneously"   ss Sliding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary) Mistaken as selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitor Spell out "sliding scale (insulin)"   SSR1 Sliding scale insulin Mistaken as Strong Solution of Iodine (Lugol's) Use "1 daily"   i/d One daily Mistaken as "tid" Use "1 Use "unit"   U or u** Unit Mistaken as index of or queen as "44"); inistaken as acc. Use "unit"   Obse Designations and thermometary Intended Meaning Mistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers   "Naked" decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)** Os mg Mistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen Use "as directed"   UD As directed ("ut dictum") Mistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers   "Naked" decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)** Dor on y Mistaken as 5		Nightly or at bedtime		0,
q6PM, etc.     Every evening at 6 PM     Mistaken as every 6 hours     Use "daily at 6 PM" or "6 PM daily"       SC, SQ, sub q     Subcutaneous     SC mistaken as SL (sublingual); SQ mistaken as "5 every" (e.g., a heparin dose ordered "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery)     Use "daily at 6 PM" or "6 PM daily"       ss     Sliding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary)     Mistaken as "55"     Spell out "sliding scale;" use "one-half" or "½"       SSR1     Sliding scale regular insulin     Mistaken as selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitor     Spell out "sliding scale (insulin)"       Mistaken as Strong Solution of lodine (Lugol's)     Use "1 daily"     Use "1 daily"       IV or tiw     3 times a week     Mistaken as the number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44"); mistaken as "2     Use "as directed"       UD     As directed ("ut dictum")     Mistaken as the number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 4cc)     Use "as directed"       UD     As directed ("ut dictum")     Mistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen     Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers       "Naked" decimal point (e.g., 1 omg)"*     0.5 mg     Mistaken as 5m gif the decimal point is not seen     Use zero bef	q.o.d. or QOD**	Every other day		Use "every other day"
SC, SQ, sub q   Subcutaneous   SC mistaken as SL (sublingual); SQ mistaken as "5 every," (the "q" in "sub q" has been mistaken as "every" (e.g., a heparin dose ordered "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery"   Use "subcut" or "subcutaneously"     ss   Sliding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary)   Mistaken as "55"   Spell out "sliding scale;" use "one-half" or "½"     SSRI   Sliding scale regular insulin   Mistaken as storng Solution of lodine (Lugol's)   Spell out "sliding scale (insulin)"     id   One daily   Mistaken as "10"   Use "1 daily"   Use "3 times weekly"     U or u**   Unit   Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diftazen 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin-terpretation   Use "a directed"     UD   As directed ("ut dictum")   Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diftazen 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin-terpretation   Correction     Trailing zero after decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)**   1 mg   Mistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen   Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers     "Naked" decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)**   0.5 mg   Mistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen   Use zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unit written poorly	q1d	Daily	Mistaken as q.i.d. (four times daily)	
Outdatienedsin "sub q" has been mistaken as "every" (e.g., a heparin dose ordered "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2 hours before surgery)Use subcut un subcutatedusiyssSiding scale (insulin) or ½ (apothecary)Mistaken as "55"Spell out "sliding scale;" use "one-half" or "½"SSR1Siding scale regular insulinMistaken as selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitorSpell out "sliding scale (insulin)"SS1Sliding scale insulinMistaken as Strong Solution of lodine (Lugol's)Use "1 daily"IVO or tive3 times a weekMistaken as "1 diff"Use "1 daily"U or u**UnitMistaken as the number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "44") mistaken as "Cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 4cc)Use "a directed"Dose Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers"Naked" decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)"**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers"Naked" decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)"**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse carbor a decimal point dose is less than a whole unitMistaken as mg.mgThe period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorlyUse mg, mL, et. without a terminal period	q6PM, etc.	Every evening at 6 PM	-	Use "daily at 6 PM" or "6 PM daily"
(apothecary)Mistaken as selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitorSpell out "sliding scale (insulin)"SSRISliding scale insulinMistaken as strong Solution of lodine (Lugol's)Spell out "sliding scale (insulin)"I/dOne dailyMistaken as "tid"Use "1 daily"I/W or tiw3 times a weekMistaken as "3 times a day" or "twice in a week"Use "3 times weekly"U or u**UnitMistaken as the number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "44"); mistaken as " "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 40")Use "a directed"UDAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diltizem 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin-terpreted as meaning to give the entire infusion as a unit [bolus] dose)Use "as directed"Dose Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers"Naked" decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse zero before a decimal point dose is less than a whole unitAbbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a periodmgThe period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if use nit, written poorlyUse zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unit	SC, SQ, sub q	Subcutaneous	in "sub q" has been mistaken as "every" (e.g., a heparin dose ordered "sub q 2 hours before surgery" misunderstood as every 2	Use "subcut" or "subcutaneously"
SSISliding scale insulinMistaken as Strong Solution of Iodine (Lugol's)Image: Constant of Const	SS		Mistaken as "55"	
i/dOne dailyMistaken as "tid"Use "1 daily"TIW or tiw3 times a weekMistaken as "3 times a day" or "twice in a week"Use "3 times weekly"U or u**UnitMistaken as "a time number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 4cc)Use "unit"UDAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diltazem 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin- terpreted as meaning to give the entire infusion as a unit [bolus] dose)Use "as directed"Dose Designations 	SSRI	Sliding scale regular insulin	Mistaken as selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitor	Spell out "sliding scale (insulin)"
TIW or tiw3 times a weekMistaken as "3 times a day" or "twice in a week"Use "3 times weekly"U or u**UnitMistaken as the number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 4cc)Use "unit"UDAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diltiazem 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin- terpreted as meaning to give the entire infusion as a unit [bolus] dose)Use "as directed"Dose Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbersTrailing zero after decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers"Naked" decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)**0.5 mgThe period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorlyUse mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period		Sliding scale insulin	Mistaken as Strong Solution of Iodine (Lugol's)	
U or u**UnitMistaken as the number 0 or 4, causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (e.g., 4U seen as "40"); mistaken as "cc" so dose given in volume instead of units (e.g., 4u seen as 4cc)Use "unit"UDAs directed ("ut dictum")Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diltiazem 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin- terpreted as meaning to give the entire infusion as a unit [bolus] dose)Use "as directed"Dose Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbersTrailing zero after decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unitAbbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a periodmgThe period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorlyUse mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period	i/d	One daily		-
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ObserveNo unecceder ( ut dictum )terpreted as meaning to give the entire infusion as a unit [bolus] dose)Dose Designations and Other InformationIntended MeaningMisinterpretationCorrectionTrailing zero after decimal point (e.g., 1.0 mg)**1 mgMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers"Naked" decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse zero before a decimal point whole numbersAbbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a periodmgThe period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorlyUse mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period	U or u**	Unit	greater (e.g., 4U seen as "40" or 4u seen as "44"); mistaken as	Use "unit"
and Other InformationImgMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbersTrailing zero after decimal point (e.g., 1.0 mg)**ImgMistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seenDo not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers"Naked" decimal point (e.g., 5 mg)**0.5 mgMistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seenUse zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unitAbbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a periodmgThe period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorlyUse mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period	UD	As directed ("ut dictum")	Mistaken as unit dose (e.g., diltiazem 125 mg IV infusion "UD" misin- terpreted as meaning to give the entire infusion as a unit [bolus] dose)	Use "as directed"
decimal point (e.g., 10 mg)**   If the decimal point is not seen   Do not use training zeros not uses expressed in whole numbers     "Naked" decimal point (e.g., .5 mg)**   0.5 mg   Mistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen   Use zero before a decimal point when the dose is less than a whole unit     Abbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a period   mg   The period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorly   Use mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period	and Other Information	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
(e.g., .5 mg)** dose is less than a whole unit   Abbreviations such as mg. or mL. with a period mg The period is unnecessary and could be mistaken as the number 1 if written poorly Use mg, mL, etc. without a terminal period	decimal point	1 mg	Mistaken as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen	Do not use trailing zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers
or mL. with a period written poorly period	"Naked" decimal point (e.g., .5 mg)**	0.5 mg	Mistaken as 5 mg if the decimal point is not seen	
	or mL. with a period			

## ISMP's List of Error-Prone Abbreviations, Symbols, and Dose Designations (continued)

		Prone Addreviations, Symdols, and Dose Des	•
Dose Designations and Other Information	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
Drug name and dose run	Inderal 40 mg	Mistaken as Inderal 140 mg	Place adequate space between the drug
together (especially problematic for drug names that end in "l" such as Inderal40 mg; Tegretol300 mg)	Tegretol 300 mg	Mistaken as Tegretol 1300 mg	name, dose, and unit of measure
Numerical dose and unit of measure run together (e.g., 10mg, 100mL)	10 mg 100 mL	The "m" is sometimes mistaken as a zero or two zeros, risking a 10- to 100-fold overdose	Place adequate space between the dose and unit of measure
Large doses without properly placed commas (e.g., 100000 units; 1000000 units)	100,000 units 1,000,000 units	100000 has been mistaken as 10,000 or 1,000,000; 1000000 has been mistaken as 100,000	Use commas for dosing units at or above 1,000, or use words such as 100 "thousand" or 1 "million" to improve readability
Drug Name Abbreviations	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
	abbreviate drug names when cor	nmunicating medical information. Examples of drug name abbreviati	
APAP	acetaminophen	Not recognized as acetaminophen	Use complete drug name
ARA A	vidarabine	Mistaken as cytarabine (ARA C)	Use complete drug name
AZT	zidovudine (Retrovir)	Mistaken as azathioprine or aztreonam	Use complete drug name
CPZ	Compazine (prochlorperazine)	Mistaken as chlorpromazine	Use complete drug name
DPT	Demerol-Phenergan-Thorazine	Mistaken as diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (vaccine)	Use complete drug name
DTO	Diluted tincture of opium, or deodorized tincture of opium (Paregoric)	Mistaken as tincture of opium	Use complete drug name
HCI	hydrochloric acid or hydrochloride	Mistaken as potassium chloride (The "H" is misinterpreted as "K")	Use complete drug name unless expressed as a salt of a drug
HCT	hydrocortisone	Mistaken as hydrochlorothiazide	Use complete drug name
HCTZ	hydrochlorothiazide	Mistaken as hydrocortisone (seen as HCT250 mg)	Use complete drug name
MgS04**	magnesium sulfate	Mistaken as morphine sulfate	Use complete drug name
MS, MS04**	morphine sulfate	Mistaken as magnesium sulfate	Use complete drug name
MTX	methotrexate	Mistaken as mitoxantrone	Use complete drug name
NoAC	novel/new oral anticoagulant	No anticoagulant	Use complete drug name
PCA	procainamide	Mistaken as patient controlled analgesia	Use complete drug name
PTU	propylthiouracil	Mistaken as mercaptopurine	Use complete drug name
T3	Tylenol with codeine No. 3	Mistaken as liothyronine	Use complete drug name
TAC	triamcinolone	Mistaken as tetracaine, Adrenalin, cocaine	Use complete drug name
TNK	TNKase	Mistaken as "TPA"	Use complete drug name
TPA or tPA	tissue plasminogen activator, Activase (alteplase)	Mistaken as TNKase (tenecteplase), or less often as another tissue plasminogen activator, Retavase (retaplase)	Use complete drug names
ZnSO4	zinc sulfate	Mistaken as morphine sulfate	Use complete drug name
Stemmed Drug Names	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
"Nitro" drip	nitroglycerin infusion	Mistaken as sodium nitroprusside infusion	Use complete drug name
"Norflox"	norfloxacin	Mistaken as Norflex	Use complete drug name
"IV Vanc"	intravenous vancomycin	Mistaken as Invanz	Use complete drug name
Symbols	Intended Meaning	Misinterpretation	Correction
3	Dram	Symbol for dram mistaken as "3"	Use the metric system
m	Minim	Symbol for minim mistaken as "mL"	
x3d	For three days	Mistaken as "3 doses"	Use "for three days"
> and <	More than and less than	Mistaken as opposite of intended; mistakenly use incorrect symbol; "< 10" mistaken as "40"	Use "more than" or "less than"
/ (slash mark)	Separates two doses or indicates "per"	Mistaken as the number 1 (e.g., "25 units/10 units" misread as "25 units and 110" units)	Use "per" rather than a slash mark to separate doses
@	At	Mistaken as "2"	Use "at"
<u> </u>	And	Mistaken as "2"	Use "and"
+	Plus or and	Mistaken as "4"	Use "and"
0	Hour	Mistaken as a zero (e.g., q2° seen as q 20)	Use "hr," "h," or "hour"
Φ or ∞	zero, null sign	Mistaken as numerals 4, 6, 8, and 9	Use 0 or zero, or describe intent using whole words
		1	

\*\*These abbreviations are included on The Joint Commission's "minimum list" of dangerous abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols that must be included on an organization's "Do Not Use" list, effective January 1, 2004. Visit <u>www.jointcommission.org</u> for more information about this Joint Commission requirement.

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