

The Washington Patient Safety Coalition has a bold mission: to reduced medical errors and improve patient safety for all people receiving health care in Washington State.

Improving patient safety starts with all of us. The Washington Patient Safety Coalition and Physicians Insurance endorse the Institute for Safe Medication Practices' recommendation to eliminate the use of unsafe abbreviations. See the list on the reverse side of this card.

For more information on the coalition, visit www.wapatientssafety.org or call (206) 682-2811, ext. 10.



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If you have any questions about this or any other risk management issue, please call the Risk Management Department.

Please share this information with your office staff. Check out our Web site phyins.com

Medical Abbreviations

Do Not Use	Use
U	Write: unit
IU	Write: international unit or unit
Leading decimal (.1 mg)	Use a zero before a decimal point 0.1 mg
Trailing zero (1.0 mg)	1 mg Do not write a zero by itself after a decimal point
g	mcg or write micrograms
d (as in “X3d” or “3d”)	Write: days or doses
qd, q.d., QD, Q.D.	Write: daily
qod, q.o.d., Q.O.D.	Write: every other day
MgSO ₄	Write: Magnesium Sulfate or MagSO ₄ or Mag
MS, MS ₀₄	Write: Morphine
A.S., A.D., A.U.	Write: left ear, right ear, both ears