



## Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Abbreviations Quiz

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**Directions:** Edit the abbreviations in the following examples based on your reading of section 14.11 of the *AMA Manual of Style*. Assume that these are the first mentions of the abbreviations in the text and that all abbreviations are used more than 3 times in the subsequent text. For further explanation of the correct answers, refer to the cited section of the online or print version of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

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1. AFP is a tumor marker that is used to evaluate patients for hepatocellular carcinoma.

ANSWER:

$\alpha$ -Fetoprotein (AFP) is a tumor marker that is used to evaluate patients for hepatocellular carcinoma.

**Editor's Note:** The correct expansion of AFP is  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print). In titles, subtitles (except in references), headings, table column heads, and line art, and at the beginning of sentences, the first non-Greek letter after a lowercase Greek letter should be capitalized (§[17.2](#), Capitalization After a Greek Letter, pp 781-782 in print).

## LEARNING RESOURCES

2. Among 4954 children with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), 124 (2.5%) were identified as having cancer before, at, or after AIDS onset.

ANSWER:

Among 4954 children with AIDS, 124 (2.5%) were identified as having cancer before, at, or after AIDS onset.

**Editor's Note:** The abbreviation AIDS may be used without expansion (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

3. The study defined overweight as a BMI of 25 to 29.9 and obesity as a BMI of 30 or greater.

ANSWER:

The study defined overweight as a body mass index (BMI; calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared) of 25 to 29.9 and obesity as a BMI of 30 or greater.

**Editor's Note:** The correct expansion of BMI is body mass index (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print). At first mention in the text, the formula used to calculate the index should be described; thereafter, the numerical value for the index may be given without units attached to it. For figures or tables, the formula should be included in legends or in footnotes, respectively. However, the formula used to calculate an index need not be included in the abstract of an article (§[18.4.5](#), Indexes, p 794 in print).

4. The proteomic analysis of the vitreous fluid showed significantly increased levels of complement factor B, complement C3, complement C9, and complement C4b.

ANSWER:

The proteomic analysis of the vitreous fluid showed significantly increased levels of complement factors B, C3, C9, and C4b.

**Editor's Note:** When used with a number, the term *complement* does not need to be expanded (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).



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## LEARNING RESOURCES

5. Forced expiratory flow between 25% and 75% (FEF<sub>25%-75%</sub>) has been proposed as an approximate measure of the caliber of distal airways.

ANSWER:

Forced expiratory flow, midexpiratory phase (FEF<sub>25%-75%</sub>), has been proposed as an approximate measure of the caliber of distal airways.

**Editor's Note:** The abbreviation FEF<sub>25%-75%</sub> uses subscript numerals and is defined as forced expiratory flow, midexpiratory phase (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

6. The skin, liver, and gastrointestinal tract are the main targets of acute graft-versus-host disease (GVHD).

ANSWER:

The skin, liver, and gastrointestinal tract are the main targets of acute graft-vs-host disease (GVHD).

**Editor's Note:** The correct expansion of GVHD is graft-vs-host disease (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

7. In obese African Americans, insulin resistance is strongly correlated with both triglyceride and high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol concentrations.

ANSWER:

In obese African Americans, insulin resistance is strongly correlated with both triglyceride and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) concentrations.

**Editor's Note:** The correct expansion for high-density lipoprotein cholesterol is HDL-C (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).



8. This study was conducted to assess the effect of intravenous immunoglobulin (Ig) therapy on serum levels of immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1) and immunoglobulin G4 (IgG4) antibodies against desmoglein 1 and desmoglein 3 in patients with pemphigus vulgaris.

ANSWER:

This study was conducted to assess the effect of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy on serum levels of IgG1 and IgG4 antibodies against desmoglein 1 and desmoglein 3 in patients with pemphigus vulgaris.

**Editor's Note:** The term *immunoglobulin* should be abbreviated only with specification of a class, and there is no need to expand *Ig* to *immunoglobulin* when mentioning classes (eg, IgA not immunoglobulin A [IgA]) (§14.11, Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

9. The compressed images had a mean size of 53 kilobytes (kb) (range, 48-67 kb).

ANSWER:

The compressed images had a mean size of 53 kB (range, 48-67 kB).

**Editor's Note:** Kilobyte is abbreviated as kB and does not need to be expanded at first mention (§14.11, Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

10. We searched MEDLINE (January 1, 1965, through September 30, 2001) for the following MESH terms: *intensive care units, hospitalization, medical staff, hospital organization and administration, personnel staffing and scheduling, and length of stay.*

ANSWER:

We searched MEDLINE (January 1, 1965, through September 30, 2001) for the following MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms: *intensive care units, hospitalization, medical staff, hospital organization and administration, personnel staffing and scheduling, and length of stay.*

**Editor's Note:** The correct abbreviation is MeSH; note that the phrase *Medical Subjects Headings* is capitalized. Some terms may be known better in their abbreviated form (eg, HIPAA), and abbreviating them at first mention (with the expanded form following in parentheses) may be appropriate (§14.11, Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

## LEARNING RESOURCES

**11.** After she underwent translocation of her maculae, the patient's best-corrected visual acuity improved from 20/200 to 20/30 oculus dexter and from 20/180 to 20/100 ocular sinister.

ANSWER:

After she underwent translocation of her maculae, the patient's best-corrected visual acuity improved from 20/200 to 20/30 OD and from 20/180 to 20/100 OS.

**Editor's Note:** The abbreviations OD and OS should not be expanded and are used only with numbers (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

**12.** Measurement of the partial pressure of arterial carbon dioxide (PaCO<sub>2</sub>) is a useful tool in evaluating alveolar ventilation.

ANSWER:

Measurement of PaCO<sub>2</sub> is a useful tool in evaluating alveolar ventilation.

**Editor's Note:** The abbreviation PaCO<sub>2</sub> may be used without expansion. Note that CO is set in small capital letters (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print; §[15.16.1](#), Symbols, pp 771-773).

**13.** This study reports the results of an ongoing multicenter trial of suppressive oral acyclovir, 400 mg bid, given to patients with a history of frequently recurrent genital herpes infection.

ANSWER:

This study reports the results of an ongoing multicenter trial of suppressive oral acyclovir, 400 mg twice a day, given to patients with a history of frequently recurrent genital herpes infection.

**Editor's Note:** Because of the danger in misinterpreting dosages, do not use the abbreviations qd (every day), bid (twice a day), tid (3 times a day), and qid (4 times a day) (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).



## LEARNING RESOURCES

**14.** A total of 144 biopsy specimens were reviewed, which was a mean of 7.2 (standard deviation, 4.4) biopsy specimens per patient.

ANSWER:

A total of 144 biopsy specimens were reviewed, which was a mean of 7.2 (SD, 4.4) biopsy specimens per patient.

**Editor's Note:** Abbreviate SD only when used with a number (eg, 2 SDs) or in the mean (SD) construction in table stubs and headings (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

**15.** A tumor, node, metastasis staging system for appendiceal carcinoid tumors will be helpful not only to educate physicians about factors that affect the outcome of this disease but also to observe trends in prognosis.

ANSWER:

A TNM staging system for appendiceal carcinoid tumors will be helpful not only to educate physicians about factors that affect the outcome of this disease but also to observe trends in prognosis.

**Editor's Note:** The abbreviation TNM may be used without expansion (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print). Specifically, terms such as *TNM staging system* and *TINIMO* are widely recognized and may be used in articles without expansion (§[15.2.2](#), The TNM Staging System, pp 546-549).



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