

SNAP Safety Net Audit Professionals™

In order to increase accuracy of medication dispensing process and to increase patient safety, we are adopting one of the Joint Commission 2009 National Patient Safety Goals (“Do Not Use” abbreviation list). Therefore the following abbreviations (in left column) are no longer acceptable on medication orders. If you utilize any of the abbreviations (in “Do Not Use” column), the pharmacy/dispensary staff will ask that you rewrite your prescription order.

<u>DO NOT USE</u>	<u>Misinterpretation</u>	<u>USE INSTEAD</u>
U (unit)	Mistaken for “0” (zero), the number “4” (four) or “cc”	Write “unit”
IU (international unit)	Mistaken for IV or the number 10	Write “international unit”
Q.D., QD, q.d., qd (daily) Q.O.D., QOD, q.o.d, qod (every other day)	Mistaken for each other Period after the Q mistaken for “I” and the “O” mistaken for “I”	Write “daily” Write “every other day”
Trailing zero: X.0 mg	Decimal point is missed	Write X mg; Do not use terminal zeroes for doses expressed in whole numbers
Lack of leading zero: .X mg	Decimal point is missed	Write 0.8 mg
µg	Mistaken for mg (milligrams) resulting in one thousand-fold overdose	Write “mcg” or “micrograms”

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Building Compliance One Clinic At A Time™