

AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Common Abbreviations

GENERAL MEDICAL TERMS

ACE angiotensin converting enzyme ACLS advanced cardiac life support

AIDS acquired immune deficiency syndrome

ALT alanine aminotransferase
AST aspartate aminotransferase
BiPAP bi-level positive airway pressure

BNP brain natriuretic peptide BUN blood urea nitrogen CBC complete blood count

CK-MB creatine kinase-myocardial band

CNS central nervous system

COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease CPAP continuous positive airway pressure

CPR cardiopulmonary resuscitation

CSF cerebrospinal fluid

CT computerized tomography

ECG electrocardiogram

ED emergency department

EMS emergency medical services

EMT emergency medical technician

FAST focused assessment with sonography

for trauma

GI gastrointestinal

hCG human chorionic gonadotropin HIV human immunodeficiency virus

HPF high powered field ICU intensive care unit

INR international normalized ratio

MI myocardial infarction

MRI magnetic resonance imaging

NSAID nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug

OR operating room

PERRL pupils equal, round, reactive to light

PT prothrombin time

PTT partial thromboplastin time

RBC red blood cells

tPA tissue plasminogen activator

US ultrasound

WBC white blood cells

VITAL SIGNS

BP blood pressure

P pulse

R respirations T temperature

ROUTES OF ADMINISTRATION

IM intramuscular IV intravenous

IVP intravenous push

po orally

PR per rectum

UNITS OF MEASURE

kg kilogram mg milligram g gram

mcg microgram pg picogram

m meter

cm centimeter

in inch

L liter
dL deciliter
mL milliliter

mm Hg millimeters of mercury

mEq milliequivalent

min minute
hr hour
WT weight
C centigrade
F Fahrenheit