



Abbreviations with Definitions

The following are definitions or abbreviations and terms used in the Orange County Base Hospital Treatment Guidelines and Standing Orders. This list includes abbreviations commonly used in Orange County EMS standing orders, policies, and procedures and is not an inclusive list of all approved medical abbreviations

- < Less than.
- ≤ Less than or equal.
- > Greater than.
- ≥ Greater than or equal.
- ▶ Indicates a medication or electrical cardiac conversion standing order.
- Indicates a key step or decision element of a standing order.

AAA: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm.

Agitated Delirium: Same as Excited Delirium - a medical and behavioral emergency in which an individual is agitated, irrational, and disregards their own safety (may be related to acute medical or psychological causes)

ALS: Advanced life support (term is often interchanged for paramedic level treatment/actions).

ALS Escort: To transport with paramedic personnel in attendance and ALS equipment on board transport unit.

ALTE: Apparent Life Threatening Event (only in child 3 years-old or less)

AMS: Altered mental status.

ARN: Authorized Registered Nurse (authorized by Orange County EMS)

BH: Base Hospital.

BHC: Base Hospital Coordinator

BHP: Base Hospital Physician on duty at an Orange County Base Hospital.

BLS: Basic life support (term is often interchanged for BLS level treatment/actions).

Bradycardia: Heart rate less than or equal to 60 bpm.

Bradycardia, symptomatic: Heart rate less than 60 and any of the following: systolic blood pressure less than 90 (pediatric less than 80), altered mental status, rales on lung auscultation and signs of CHF, poor skin perfusion signs.

BRUE: Same as ALTE (Acute Life Threatening Event)

CHF: Congestive heart failure

COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

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Abbreviations with Definitions

- CPAP: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure.
- CVRC: An Orange County Emergency Medical Services designated Cardiovascular Receiving Center.
- Diversion: Formal notification of the EMS system through ReddiNet by a hospital that it is not physically or medically safe for that facility to accept further patients.
- ECG: Electrocardiogram.
- ET: Endotracheal.
- ERC: Emergency Receiving Center, a hospital designated by the Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency to receive 9-1-1 basic life support and advanced life support transports.
- Excited Delirium: Same as Agitated Delirium - a medical and behavioral emergency in which an individual is agitated, irrational, and disregards their own safety (may be related to acute medical or psychological causes)
- Extremis: Indicates that a patient has abnormal vital signs and is near cardiopulmonary arrest.
- High Flow Oxygen: Oxygen by mask at 10 L/min flow; oxygen by nasal canula at 6L/min flow.
- Hypotension: Blood pressure < 90 systolic in adult or adolescent, < 80 systolic in pediatric (under age 15 years-old).
- IM: Intramuscular.
- IO: Intraosseous.
- IN: Intranasal.
- IV: Intravenous.
- IVP: "Intravenous push" or to administer by intravenous injection.
- Kg: Kilogram.
- MCI: Mass Casualty Incident.
- mg: Milligram.
- MI: Myocardial infarction or "heart attack".
- MICN: Mobile Intensive Care Nurse on duty at an Orange County Base Hospital.
- mL: Milliliter.
- NS: Normal saline
- OD: Overdose

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- ODT: Oral dissolving tablet (in reference to ondansetron)
- PCR: Patient care record
- Pediatric (child): Male/Female less than age 15 years-old
- Perfusion: Circulation of oxygenated blood to tissues
- Perfusion, Adequate: Is determined by good skin signs, appropriate mental status, and palpable radial (brachial in pediatric) pulses and/or blood pressure appropriate for age.
- PEA: Pulseless electrical activity.
- PO: Orally (per os).
- PVAD: Preexisting vascular access device.
- Skin signs: Refers to blood perfusion of tissues; good skin signs are uniform skin color appropriate to the individual skin tone, pink nail beds, warm skin to touch; and in pediatrics, good capillary refill (refill in less than 3 seconds)
- SL: Sublingual (under the tongue)
- SMR: Spinal motion restriction
- SNRC: An Orange County Emergency Medical Services designated Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center.
- SO: Standing order, referring to OCEMS standing orders
- SQ: Subcutaneous.
- SVT: Supraventricular tachycardia.
- Symptomatic Bradycardia: Heart rate less than 60 and any of: systolic blood pressure less than 90, altered mental status, bradycardia: rales on lung auscultation and signs of CHF, poor skin perfusion signs.
- TC: Trauma Center
- TG: Treatment Guideline.
- VT: Ventricular tachycardia.
- VF: Ventricular fibrillation.

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