

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

B-14 SYSTEM UNAPPROVED ABBREVIATIONS

| Abbreviation: | Intended Meaning: | Common Error: | Correction: |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| U | Units | Mistaken as a zero (0) or four (4) resulting in overdose. Also mistaken for "cc". | Write out "units" |
| IU | International Units | Mistaken as IV or ten (10). | Write out "international units". |
| Q.D. | Once Daily | Mistaken for each other. The period after the Q and O can be mistaken for "I" | Write Daily |
| Q.O.D. | Every Other Day | | Write Every other day |
| Lack of leading zero before a decimal point e.g. (.5 mg) | e.g. 0.5 mg | Decimal point may be missed and dose misread as 5 mg. | ALWAYS use a zero before the decimal point. |
| Trailing zero after the decimal point (1.0 mg). | e.g. 1 mg | Decimal is missed and dose misread as 10 mg. | NEVER write a zero by itself after a decimal point. |
| MS, MSO ₄ | Morphine Sulfate | Confused for one another | Spell out the words |
| MgSO ₄ | Magnesium Sulfate | | |
| <i>u</i> g | Micrograms | Mistaken for "mg" resulting in overdose. | Spell out the word "micrograms" or proper abbreviation "mcg". |