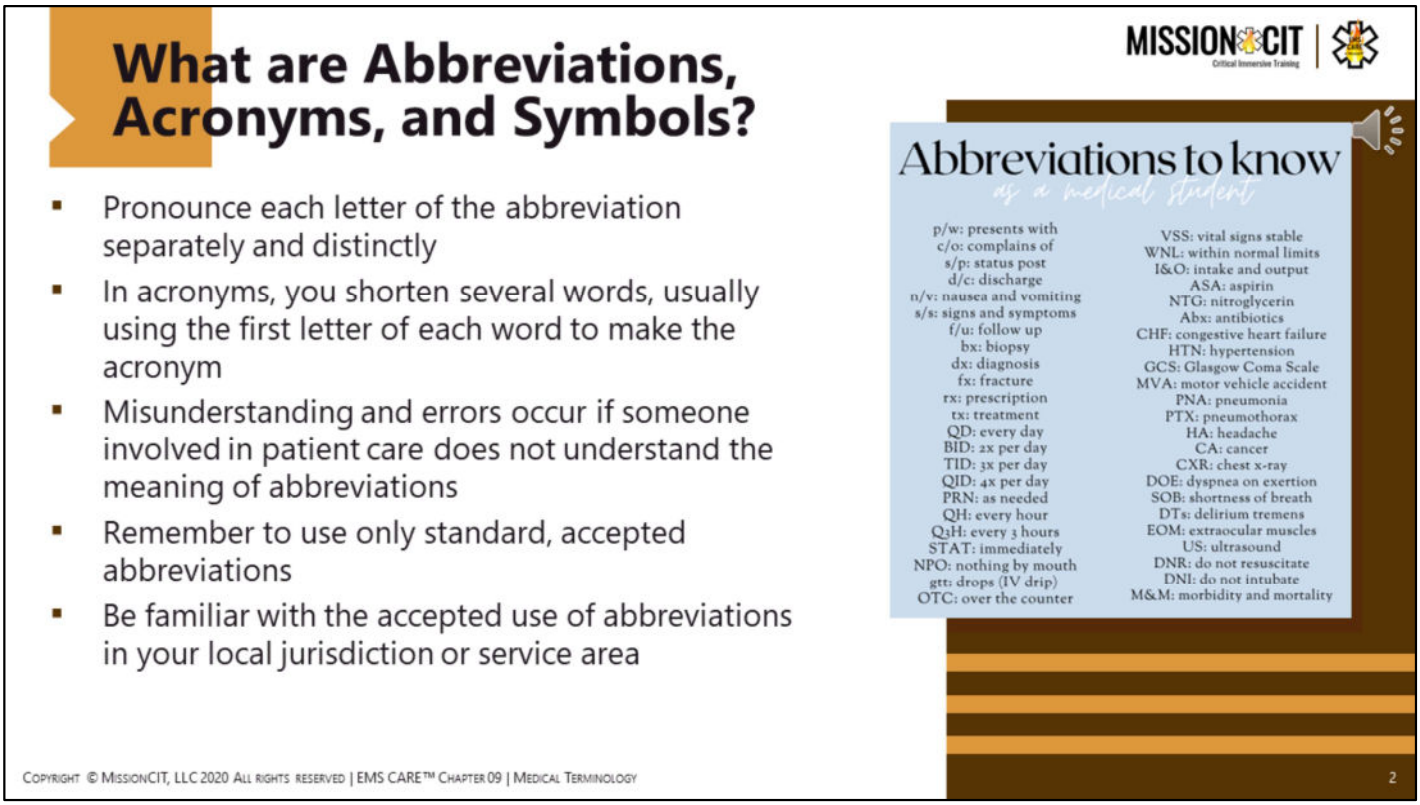


Thank you, Justin!

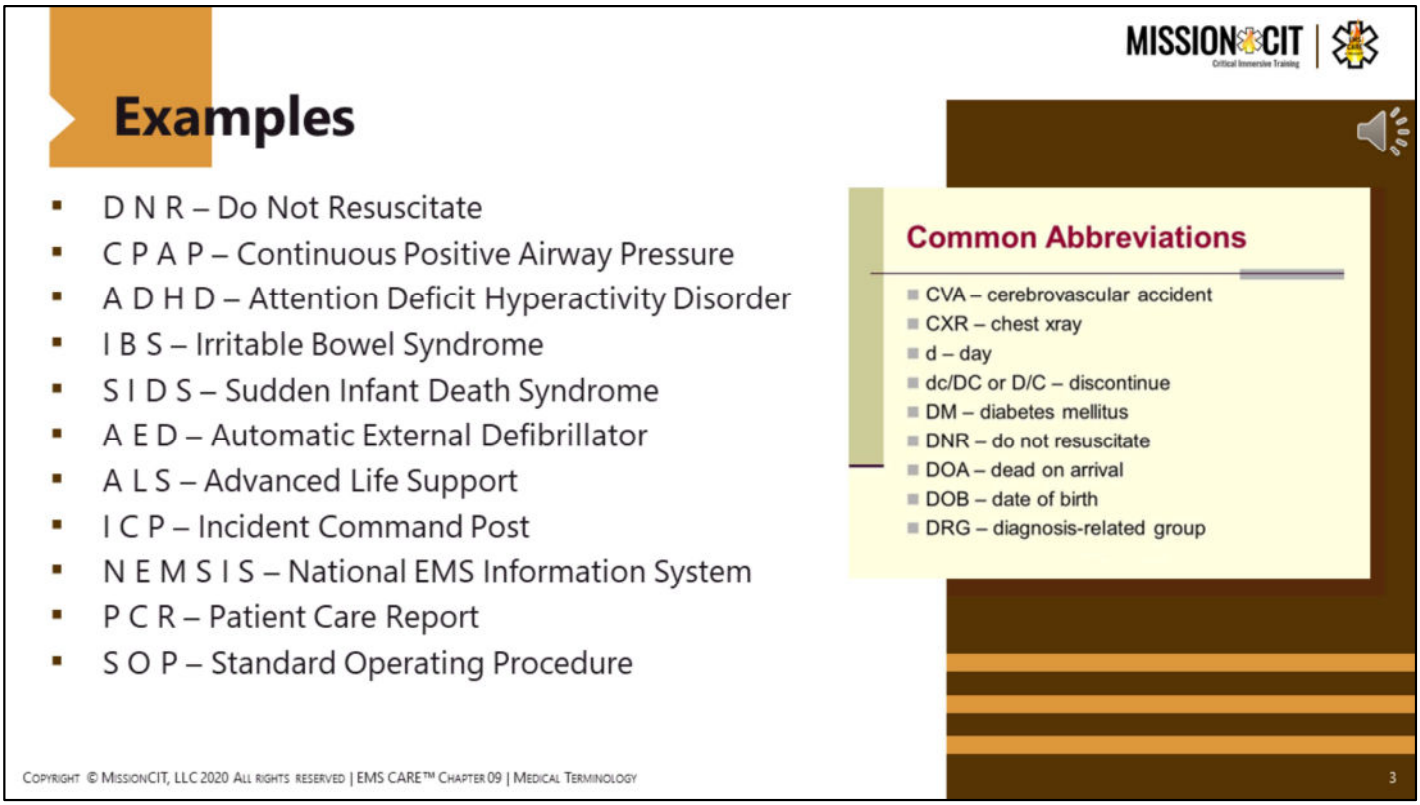
In this last lesson, let's talk about some medical abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols that can help you better understand the medical terms used.



Medical abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols are a type of shorthand used for communication and they were developed because one could communicate faster using this method.

The Joint Commission and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices are considered two authorities on abbreviations and provide the do-not-use lists. Some rules to know are:

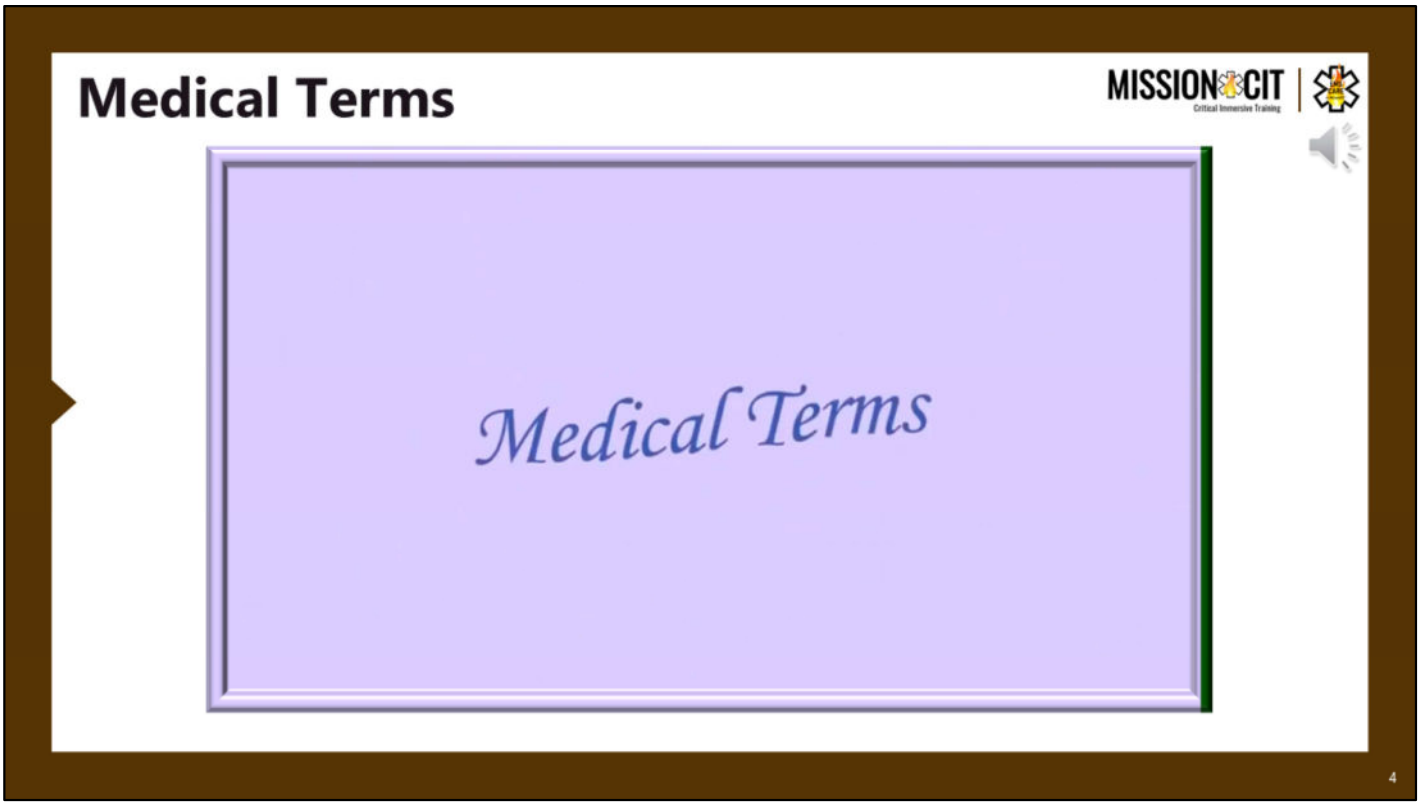
- When you use an abbreviation, you pronounce each letter of the abbreviation separately and distinctly.
- When you use an acronym, you are shortening several words, usually using the first letter of each word to make the acronym.
- Misunderstanding and errors occur if someone involved in patient care does not understand the meaning of abbreviations or acronyms. So, make sure you know the full word for each acronym.
- Remember to use only standard, accepted abbreviations to avoid confusion and errors.
- Be familiar with the accepted use of abbreviations in your local jurisdiction or service area.



Here are some examples of abbreviations and acronyms.

- D N R – Do Not Resuscitate
- C P A P – Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
- A D H D – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- I B S – Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- S I D S – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- A E D – Automatic External Defibrillator
- A L S – Advanced Life Support
- I C P – Incident Command Post
- N E M S I S – National EMS Information System
- P C R – Patient Care Report
- S O P – Standard Operating Procedure

The list can go on, but be aware of some of the common acronyms and abbreviations used commonly in your community.



We will end this lesson with a video and Justin will take you through the chapter review next.