

Appendix VIII

Charting Symbols and Standardized Abbreviations Useful for Documenting Dental Hygiene Care*

SELECTED SYMBOLS COMMONLY USED IN DENTAL CHARTING	
Symbol	Meaning
"X" or " "	Missing tooth or pontic
≠	Fracture
	Open contact
↑	Increase
↓	Decrease
→ midline ←	Drifted mesially
← midline →	Drifted distally
↻	Rotated clockwise
↺	Rotated counterclockwise
C/	Complete upper denture
/C	Complete lower denture

STANDARDIZED ABBREVIATIONS	
Abbreviation	Term
Abn	Abnormal
BOP	Bleeding on probing
Bp	Blood pressure
Brux	Bruxism or bruxer
bw, bwX, or bwXr; pa or pax; pan or pano	Bitewing radiograph; periapical radiograph; panoramic radiograph
CAL	Clinical attachment level
Calc	Calculus
CC	Chief complaint
CEJ	Cementoenamel junction
Chk	Check, observe
Cm	Centimeter
cons	Consultation
debrd	Debridement
decid	Deciduous, primary
demo	Demonstrate
dent hx	Dental history
Dup	Duplicate
Dx	Diagnosis
emerg	Emergency
Esp	Especially
eval	Evaluate, evaluation
Ex, exam	Examination
Exf	Exfoliate
Ext	Extraction
f/u	Follow-up
F, fl, Ftx; APF; NaF, SnF	Fluoride, fluoride treatment; acidulated phosphate fluoride; sodium fluoride, stannous fluoride

*Selected from the complete list available in: American Dental Association. Dental Abbreviations, Symbols, and Acronyms. 2nd ed. Chicago, IL: American Dental Association; 2008:5-20. Used with permission.

Abbreviation	Term
fgm, GM	Free gingival margin, gingival margin
food imp	Food impaction
fur, furc	Furcation
ging	Gingiva, gingival
H, hx, hist, h/o	History, history of
HH, med hx	Health history, medical history
htn, hbp	Hypertension, high blood pressure
hyg	Dental hygiene
IC	Informed consent
INS	Insurance
LA; lido xylo; vaso	Local anesthesia, lidocaine; Xylocaine; vasoconstrictor
mand; max	Mandibular; maxillary
mdl	Midline
meds	Medications
MGJ	Mucogingival junction
n/a; n/c; n/d	Not applicable; no change; not determined
N₂O	Nitrous oxide
NKA; NKDA	No known allergies; no known drug allergies
NSPT	Nonsurgical periodontal therapy
nv	Next visit
occ, occl	Occlusal or occlusion
OHI	Oral hygiene instructions
OTC	Over the counter
pk, pkt	Pocket
PLD	Partial lower denture
POI	Postoperative instructions
PFG	Porcelain fused to gold
PFM	Porcelain fused to metal
pol	Polish

Abbreviation	Term
PPE	Personal protective equipment
pre op; post op	Preoperative; postoperative
prev	Prevention, preventive
prog, Px	Prognosis
pt	Patient
q4h	Every 4 hours
q6h	Every 6 hours
q1d	Every day
qid	Every day
qod	Every other day
quad; LRQ; URQ	Quadrant; lower right quadrant; upper right quadrant
reapp, reappt	Reappoint(ment)
re-eval	Re-evaluation
RMH	Reviewed medical history
rp/sc, RPS, S&RP, SRP	Scaling and root planing
Rx	Prescription
S&Sx, S/S	Signs and symptoms
S/D BP	Systolic/diastolic blood pressure
SPT	Supportive periodontal treatment
stat	Immediately
sut	Suture
sub, subggv, subgin	Subgingival
supp	supperatio
Supra ggiv	Supragingival
tb	Toothbrush
TID	Three times per day
TMD	Temporomandibular joint disorder
tmj	Temporomandibular joint
Tx	Treatment
unk	Unknown
var	Varnish
wnl	Within normal limits