

<u>Abbreviation or Dose Expression NOT to use</u>	<u>Intended Meaning</u>	<u>Misinterpretation</u>	<u>Correction</u>
.0 Zero after decimal point (1.0)	1.0 mg	Misread as 10 mg if the decimal point is not seen.	Do not use terminal zeros for doses expressed in whole numbers.
0. No zero before decimal (.5 mg)	0.5 mg	Misread as 5 mg.	Always use zero before a decimal when the dose is less than whole unit.
U or u	Unit	Read as zero (0) or a four (4), causing a 10-fold overdose or greater (4U seen as 40 or 4u seen as 44).	Write "unit"
IU	International Unit	Mistaken as zero, four or cc.	Write international unit
Q.D., Q.O.D.	Latin abbreviation for once daily and every other day	Mistaken for each other. The period after the Q can be mistaken for an "I" and the "O" can be mistaken for "I".	Write "daily" and "every other day"
MS MSO4 MgSO4		Confused for one another. Can mean morphine sulfate or magnesium sulfate.	Write "morphine sulfate" or "magnesium sulfate"