

# Excerpt from JBJS Style Guide

## Abbreviations (last updated 4/1/16)

Abbreviate units of measure, society acronyms, questionnaires, growth factors, vertebral levels, economic units of measure (QALY, DALY, etc.); certain abbreviations that are already in common use in the general public (i.e., AIDS, BMI, CPR, CT, EKG, EMG, FDA, HMO, MRI, MRSA, NIH, EDTA); abbreviations that are commonly used by JBJS readers during their day-to-day practice, such as laboratory values (CRP, ESR, WBC, etc.), MRI terminology (FOV, TE, TR, STIR, etc.), and statistical terms (ANCOVA, ANOVA, 95% CI, OR, RR or RRR, SD, SE, SEM, etc.); abbreviations that are commonly encountered in the medical/orthopaedic literature (CPT, IV, ORIF, PBS, NIS, VAS, etc.); and abbreviations that occur many times in a paper because they are the subject of that paper.

Always write out the abbreviation, in parentheses next to the abbreviation itself, the first time it appears in the abstract and in the text.

Avoid an “alphabet soup”—i.e., the use of many different, not immediately recognizable abbreviations that cause the reader to think “Wait, what does that stand for again?”