



Misinterpreted abbreviations increases risk to patients and can result in serious medication errors. Therefore, the organization has identified and implemented a list of abbreviations, symbols, and dose designations that are not to be used. This list is updated as necessary and changes communicated to staff.

# Do Not Use List of Abbreviations

- ✓ NS Health has a [“Do Not Use” Abbreviations, Symbols and Dose Designations Policy](#)
- ✓ The Policy outlines the [List](#) of abbreviations, symbols and dose designations not to be used as indicated by the Institute of Safe Medication Practices (ISMP)
- ✓ The list applies to:
  - All medication-related documentation when hand written or entered as free text into a computer
  - Preprinted forms
  - Any pharmacy-generated labels and forms
- ✓ NS Health regularly audits to ensure the above mentioned practices are maintained.

Flomax 0.4mg po QID

Figure 2. “QD” Mistaken for “QID.” Image provided courtesy of ISMP.



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For more information, please review the [2020 Accreditation Canada ROP Handbook](#)