

**TRAINING MODULE 20**  
**Study Plan**  
**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Abbreviations**

A&A	Aid and Attendance
AAO	Assistant adjudication officer
ACAP	Annual clothing allowance payment
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent children
AGG	Aggravated in service
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIRS	Appellate Index Retrieval System
AO	Adjudication officer <i>or</i> Agent Orange
AOCAP	Agent Orange Class Assistance Program
AOJ	Agency of original jurisdiction
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
AR	Army regulation
AWOL	Absence without official leave
BCMR	Board of correction of Military Records
BCNR	Board of correction of Naval Records
BVA	Board of Veterans Appeals
CAVC	(U.S.) Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims
C-file	Claims file
CBD	Chief benefits director
C&C	Confirmed and continued (rating decision)
CD	Clemency discharge
C.F.R.	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
CHAMPUS	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services
CHAMPVA	Civilian Health and Medical Program (VA)
CMD	Chief medical director
COG	Convenience of the government
COLA	Cost-of-living adjustment
COMP.	Compensation
C&P	Compensation and pension
CTA	Centralized transcription activities
CVA	(U.S.) Court of Veterans Appeals
CVSO	<b>County Veterans Service Officer</b>
CWT	Compensated work therapy
DC	Diagnostic code
D.C.	District counsel (chief legal authority in a VARO)
DD	Dishonorable discharge
DEA	Dependents' Educational Assistance
DIC	Dependency and indemnity compensation
DNA	Defense Nuclear Agency
DOD	Department of Defense

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#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

DRB	Discharge Review Board
DSM-III-R	<i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (rev.3d. ed.)</i>
DSM-IV	<i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. (rev. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.)</i>
DVA	Department of Veterans Affairs
DVSA	Domestic Volunteer Service Act
EAD	Entered on active duty
EAJA	Equal Access to Justice Act
EOD	Entry on duty
EPC	End product control
ESG	Environmental support Group
ETS	Expiration of term of service
EVR	Eligibility verification report
EGP	Foster Grandparent Program
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
RE Index	<i>Federal Register Index</i>
FTCA	Federal Tort claims Act
GAO	General Accounting Office
GC	General Counsel
GPO	Government Printing Office
GSW	Gunshot wound
HB	Housebound
HD	Honorable discharge
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HO	Hearing officer
IME	Independent medical expert
INC	Incurred in service
IT	Incentive therapy
IU	Individual unemployables
IVAP	Income for VA purposes
JAG	Judge Advocate General
LIHEAP	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
LOD	Line of duty
LSA	<i>List of Sections Affected (C.F.R.)</i>
MAPR	Maximum annual pension rate
NA	National Archives
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NHL	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
NOA	Notice of Appeal
NOD	Notice of Death <i>or</i> Notice of Disagreement
NPRC	National personnel Records Center
NSC	Nonservice-connected
NSLI	National Service Life Insurance
NSO	National Service Officer
NVLSP	National Veterans Legal Services Project

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#### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

OGC	Office of the General Counsel (VA)
OMPF	Official military personnel file
OPC	Outpatient clinic
Op. G.C.	Opinion of the General counsel
OPT	Outpatient treatment
Pen.	Pension
PIF	Pending issue file
PL/P.L.	Public law
POA	Power of attorney
POW	Prisoner of war
PRES	Presumption
PT	Permanent total disability
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
RAD	Release from active duty
RE code	Reenlistment code
REPS	Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors
RH	Insurance policy designation for veterans with service-connected disabilities
RI	Rating increase
RPC	(VA) Records Processing Center (St. Louis)
RSFPP	Retired Services Family Protection Plan
RSVP	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
SBP	Survivor Benefit Plan
SBP-MIW	Survivor Benefit Plan-Minimum Income Widow
SC	Service-connected
SDN	Separation Designator Number
SDRP	Special Discharge Review Program
SF	Standard form
SFW	Shell fragment wound
SGLI	Servicemen's Group Life Insurance
SIRS	Special Issue Rating System
SMC	Special Monthly Compensation
SMIB	Supplementary medical insurance benefit
SMP	Special Monthly Pension
SMR	Service medical record
SOC	Statement of the Case
SPCM	Special court-martial
SPD	Separation Program designator
SPN	Separation program number
SRD	Schedule for rating disabilities
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

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#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

SSOC	Supplemental Statement of the Case
STS	Soft tissue sarcomas
TDRL	Temporary disability Retired List (uniformed service)
TIN	Transaction Identification Number
TPQ	Third-party query
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice
UD	Undesirable discharge
UOTHC	(Discharge) under other than honorable conditions
U.S.C.	United States Code
U.S.C.A.	United States Code Annotated
USCCAN	United States Code Congressional and Administrative News.
UYA	University Year for ACTION
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs (also used for old Veterans Administration)
VACO	VA Central Office
VACOLS	Veterans Appeals Control and Locator System
VADEX	VA <i>Index</i>
VAMC	VA Medical Center
VAOPC	VA Outpatient Clinic
VAR	VA regulation
VARO	VA Regional Office
VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration
VD	Venereal disease
VEAP	Veterans' Education Assistance Program
VGLI	Veterans' Group Life Insurance
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VISTA	Volunteers in Service to America
VJRA	Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988
VSO	Veterans Service Organization
WIA	Wounded in action
WW I	World War One (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(c))
WW II	World War Two (period of service—see 38 CFR § 3.2(d))

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#### II. MEDICAL ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The purpose of this portion of the appendix is to assist with the interpretation of the abbreviations and symbols most commonly appearing in hospital, clinical, examination, and outpatient treatment reports. The following listing of abbreviations and symbols is for use in the interpretation of medical reports and rating decisions. It is not intended to be either an exhaustive listing or to be a glossary of medical terminology.

##### A. ABBREVIATIONS

ABG Arterial blood gases  
AC *Ante cibum*—before meals; *or* Acromioclavicular (shoulder joint)  
AD *Auris dexter*—right ear  
AE Above elbow  
AEA Above elbow amputation  
AFB Acid fast bacillus  
AIDS Acquired immune deficiency syndrome  
AK Above knee  
AKA Above knee amputation  
ANT Anterior  
AMI Acute myocardial infarction; *or* Anterior myocardial infarction  
AODM Adult-onset diabetes mellitus (a.k.a. Type 2 diabetes)  
AP Angina pectoris; *or* Anteroposterior  
A & P Auscultation and percussion; *or* Anterior and posterior  
AS *Auris sinister*—left ear; *or* Arteriosclerosis (atherosclerosis)

##### Appendix A—Abbreviations and Symbols

ASA Acetylsalicylic Acid (Aspirin)  
ASCVD Arteriosclerotic (atherosclerotic) cardiovascular disease  
ASHD Arteriosclerotic (atherosclerotic) heart disease  
ASO Arteriosclerosis Obliterans (*see also* PVD, ASPVD)  
ASPVD Arteriosclerotic (atherosclerotic) peripheral vascular disease  
AU *Auris unitas*—both ears

BB Beriberi (also beri beri)  
BBB Bundle branch block (EKG finding)  
b.i.d. Two times per day  
BIL Bilateral  
BK Below knee  
BKA Below knee amputation  
BLE Both lower extremities  
BMR Basal metabolic rate  
BP Blood pressure  
BS Bowel sounds  
BUN Blood urea nitrogen  
BUE Both upper extremities

C Cervical; *or* Celsius  
CA Carcinoma  
CABG Coronary artery bypass graft  
CAD Coronary artery disease  
CBC Complete blood count  
CBS Chronic brain syndrome (dementia)  
CC Chief complaint

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CHF Congestive heart failure  
cm. Centimeter  
CNS Central nervous system  
C/O Complains of  
COLD Chronic obstructive lung disease  
COPD Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
CPR Cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
CSF Cerebrospinal fluid  
CT scan Computed tomography  
CAT scan Computed axial tomography  
CVA Cerebral vascular accident (stroke); or Costovertebral angle

DAH Disordered action of the heart (neurocirculatory asthenia)  
D/C Discontinue; or (Hospital) discharge  
D&C Dilation and curettage  
DIP Distal interphalangeal (joint)  
DJD Degenerative joint disease  
DNIF Duty not involving flying  
DOE Dyspnea on exertion  
DTR Deep tendon reflex  
DTs Delirium tremens

ECG (also EKG) Electrocardiogram  
EEG Electroencephalogram  
EENT Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat  
EMG Electromyogram  
ENG Electronystagmogram  
ENT Ears, Nose and Throat  
EST Electroshock therapy

FANA Fluorescent antinuclear antibody (blood test)  
FB Foreign body  
FBS Fasting blood sugar  
FEV<sub>1</sub> Forced expiratory volume in one minute  
FH Family history  
FROM Full range of motion  
FSH Follicle stimulating hormone  
FU Follow-up  
FUO Fever of undetermined/unknown origin  
FVC Forced vital capacity  
FWB Full weight bearing  
FX Fracture

GI Gastrointestinal  
GSW Gunshot wound  
GT *Gutta*—drops  
GTT Glucose tolerance test  
GU Genitourinary

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HBP High blood pressure (hypertension)  
HbS Sickle cell hemoglobin  
HcT Hematocrit  
HCVD Hypertensive cardiovascular disease  
Hgb Hemoglobin  
HNP Herniated nucleus pulposus  
HTN (also HPN) Hypertension  
HS *Hora somni*—at hour of sleep (bedtime)  
Hx History  
Hz Hertz (cycles per second)

ICU Intensive Care Unit  
IHD Ischemic heart disease  
IHSS Idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis  
IM Intramuscular; *or* Infectious mononucleosis  
IMP Impression; *or* Improved  
INF Inferior; *or* Infusion  
INH Isoniazid (anti-tuberculosis drug)  
IOL Intraocular lens  
IOP Intraocular pressure  
IPPB Intermittent positive pressure breathing  
IV Intravenous  
IVD Intervertebral disc  
IVP Intravenous pyelogram

JVD Jugular venous distention

K Potassium  
KJ Knee jerk (tendon reflex)  
KUB Kidneys, ureters, bladder

L Lumbar  
LAD Left anterior descending (coronary artery); *or* Left axis deviation (EKG)  
LAT Lateral  
LBP Low back pain  
LCM Left costal margin  
LE Lupus erythematosus  
LFT Liver function test  
LKS Liver, kidneys, spleen  
LLC Long leg cast  
LLE Left lower extremity  
LLL Left lower lobe (of lung)  
LLQ Left lower quadrant  
LOM Limitation of motion  
LS Lumbosacral  
LUE Left upper extremity  
LUL Left upper lobe (of lung)  
LUQ Left upper quadrant  
LVH Left ventricular hypertrophy

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MCL Midclavicular line; *or* Medial collateral ligament  
MCP Metacarpophalangeal (knuckle joint)  
MED Median  
MFB Metallic foreign body  
MG Muscle group  
MHC Mental Hygiene Clinic  
MI Myocardial infarction  
mm. Millimeter  
MS Multiple sclerosis; *or* Morphine sulfate (narcotic pain-killer)  
MSL Mid-sternal line  
MTP Metatarsophalangeal (toe joint)

NAD No acute distress; *or* No abnormality detected  
NCD Not considered disabling  
NL Normal  
NPN Nonprotein nitrogen  
NSA No significant abnormality  
N & V Nausea and vomiting  
NWB Nonweight-bearing

OBS Organic brain syndrome (dementia)  
OD *Oculus dexter*—right eye  
O & E Observation and evaluation (hospital inpatient)  
OOP Out of prosthesis  
OPT Outpatient treatment  
ORIF Open (surgical) reduction and internal fixation  
OS *Oculus sinister*—left eye  
OTC Over-the-counter  
OU *Oculus unitas*—both eyes

PC *Post cibum*—after meals  
PCO<sub>2</sub> Carbon dioxide pressure (blood gas)  
PH Past history  
PI Present illness; *or* Preinduction (exam); *or* Pulmonary incompetence  
PID Pelvic inflammatory disease  
PIP Proximal interphalangeal (finger or toe joint)  
PMD Private medical doctor  
PMH Past medical history  
PMI Point of maximal impulse  
PND Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea  
PO Postoperative; *or Per os*—by mouth (orally)  
PO<sub>2</sub> Oxygen pressure (blood gas)  
PPD Purified protein derivative (TB Test); *or*  
Packs per day (cigarette smoking history)  
PR Partial remission; *or* Presbyopia; *or* pulse rate; *or Per rectum* (rectally)  
PRN As needed  
PT Physical therapy; *or* Prothrombin time  
PTA Prior to admission  
PTB Patellar tendon bearing (prosthesis)

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PUD Peptic ulcer disease  
PV Peripheral vascular  
PVD Peripheral vascular disease  
PVC Premature ventricular contraction  
PWB Partial weight bearing

q. Each; *or* every  
qd Daily  
q.i.d. Four times per day

RA Rheumatoid arthritis  
RBC Red blood cell (count)  
RCA Right coronary artery  
RCM Right costal margin  
RF Rheumatoid factor; *or* Rheumatic fever  
RFB Retained foreign body  
RH Rhesus factor (blood type)  
RHD Rheumatic heart disease  
RLE Right lower extremity  
RLL Right lower lobe (of lung)  
RLQ Right lower quadrant  
RML Right middle lobe (of lung)  
R/O Rule out  
ROM Range of motion  
ROS Review of symptoms  
RRR Regular rate and rhythm (of heart)  
RSR Regular sounds and rhythm (of heart)  
RTC Return to clinic  
RTW Return to work  
RUE Right upper extremity  
RUL Right upper lobe (of lung)  
RUQ Right upper quadrant  
RVH Right ventricular hypertrophy  
Rx Treatment; *or* Prescription

S Sacral  
S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>2</sub>, S<sub>3</sub>, S<sub>4</sub> Systolic heart sounds  
SAP Substance Abuse Program  
SFW Shell fragment wound  
SLC Short leg cast  
SLE Systemic lupus erythematosus; *or* Slit lamp examination  
SLR Straight leg raising  
SLWC Short leg walking cast  
SMRs Service medical records  
SNHL Sensorineural hearing loss  
SOAP Subjective (complaints); Objective (findings); Assessment; Plan  
SOB Shortness of breath  
S/P Status post

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S/PO Status postoperative  
SRT Speech reception threshold  
STS Serologic test for syphilis; *or* Soft tissue sarcoma  
SX Signs; *or* Symptoms

T Thoracic; *or* Tumor; *or* Time  
TB (also TBC) Tuberculosis  
TIA Transient ischemic attack  
t.i.d. Three times per day  
TM Tympanic membrane; *or* Temporomandibular  
TMJ Temporomandibular joint  
TPR Temperature; pulse; respiration (rates)  
TURB Transurethral resection of the (urinary) bladder  
TURP Transurethral resection of the prostate

UCD (also UCHD) Usual childhood diseases  
URI Upper respiratory infection  
UTI Urinary tract infection

VC Vital capacity  
VD Venereal disease  
VDRL Venereal Disease Research Laboratories (blood test for syphilis)  
VIS Visual Impairment Services  
VIST Visual Impairment Services Team  
VSULA Vaccination scar upper left arm

WBC White blood cell (count)  
WD Well developed  
WDWN Well developed, well nourished  
WH Well healed  
WHNT Well healed, not tender  
WFE Williams Flexion Exercises  
WJ Wrist jerk (tendon reflex)  
WN Well nourished  
WNL Within normal limits

#### B. MEDICAL SYMBOLS

- With
- Without
- Murmur
- Right
- ⊙ Left
- Before
- After or Post
- ± Not Definite
- ↓ Decrease or depression
- ↑ Increase or elevation

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∅ Normal or negative

> Greater Than

< Less Than

Δ Change

- Male

- Female

/ Per

X Times

- One

- Two

- Three

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**NOTES:**