

Prescription Notation

The units of quantities written on prescriptions in the Apothecaries System are usually designated by symbols. Occasionally abbreviations are used. The following list provides these symbols and abbreviations.

Apothecaries' Weight

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Abbreviation</i> | <i>Unit</i> |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| — | gr. | grain |
| Ⓞ | sc. | scruple |
| ʒ | dr. | dram |
| ℥ | oz. | ounce |
| ℔ | lb. | pound |

Apothecaries' Volume

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Abbreviation</i> | <i>Unit</i> |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
| ℥ | min. | minim |
| fʒ | fl. dr. | fluid dram |
| f℥ | fl. oz. | fluid ounce |
| ℥ | pt. | pint |
| Cong. | gal. | gallon |

Roman numerals (lower case) are always used following the symbol to designate the number of units required, but, if the abbreviation is used, arabic numerals are used and precede the abbreviation. For example:

ʒiv but 4 dr.

For less than one unit, one-half may be designated by ss following the symbol, but other fractions must be designated by arabic numeral fractions. For example:

ʒss but gr. $\frac{1}{8}$

Roman numerals are also usually used to designate the number of dosage forms required. For example:

Caps. No. xiv