

JARGON

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Healthwatch's handy
guide to frequently-used
terms and abbreviations

Introduction

Health and social care providers often use abbreviations & acronyms to describe processes, procedures and departments. We have identified the most frequently used and provided a brief explanation for each. If you require any further information about any of the abbreviations or acronyms used, please contact us using the details in this leaflet.

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<http://www.healthwatchkingstonuponhull.co.uk>

A&E

Accident & Emergency - the department used to assess and treat serious illness and injuries - In Hull the nearest A&E is at Hull Royal Infirmary. (See also ED)

AAU

Acute Assessment Unit - ward or department in a hospital where you are assessed and tests are carried out before you are admitted to a specific ward or discharged. You may go to the Unit from A&E or be referred by a GP.

APMS

Alternative Provider of Medical Services - a type of GP contract that allows GPs to deliver Primary Care services.

BDA

British Dental Association - professional association and registered trade union organisation for dentists in the United Kingdom.

BMA

British Medical Association - professional association and registered trade union for doctors in the United Kingdom.

BCF

Better Care Fund - created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them with health and social care, resulting in an improved experience and better quality of life.

BME/BAME

Black & Ethnic Minority - terminology normally used in the UK to describe people of non-white descent.

CAMHS

Child & Adolescent Mental Health - assessment and treatment for children and young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.

CBT

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy - a talking therapy that focuses on how people's thoughts, beliefs and attitudes affect their feelings and behaviour.

CCG

Clinical Commissioning Group - commission most of the hospital and community NHS services in the local areas for which they are responsible. Commissioning involves deciding what services are needed, and ensuring that they are provided.

CHCP

City Healthcare Partnership - co-owned business providing a range of health and care services to people in Hull, the East Riding of Yorkshire, Knowsley and St Helens in Merseyside and Wigan.

CHH

Castle Hill Hospital - part of Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust. Castle Hill Hospital is located in Cottingham and is where the Oncology, Cardiology and Cardiothoracic departments are situated.

COPD

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder - this is the name for a group of lung conditions that cause breathing problems. These include emphysema and bronchitis.

CPN

Community Psychiatric Nurse - a mental health nurse who works in the community. They can support you with taking medication, manage your health and offer you treatment in the community.

CPR

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - an emergency procedure that combines chest compression often with artificial ventilation in a person who is in cardiac arrest.

CQC

Care Quality Commission - the CQC is the independent regulator of all health and social care services in England. They inspect all services to ascertain whether they are meeting statutory standards.

DH/DoH

Department of Health - the government department which creates national policies and legislation for health & social care. They also provide funding to assure delivery & continuity of services.

DNR / DNaR

Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Attempt Resuscitation - this is a medical order written by a doctor. It instructs health care providers not to carry out CPR if a patient stops breathing, or if their heart stops beating.

DoLS

Deprivation of Liberties - when someone lacks the mental capacity to consent to care or treatment. It is sometimes necessary to deprive a person of their liberty to protect them from harm.

DPH

Director of Public Health - this is the person who is responsible for determining the overall vision and objectives for public health in a local area.

DV

Domestic violence - violent or aggressive behaviour, usually at home and between a spouse/partner.

ED

Emergency Department -See A&E

EDD

Estimated Discharge Date - the approximate date a person is likely to be able to leave the hospital.

ENT

Ear Nose & Throat - otolaryngologists are doctors trained in the medical and surgical management and treatment of patients with diseases and disorders of the ear, nose and throat.

EOLC

End of Life Care (palliative) - palliative care aims to treat or manage pain and other physical symptoms. This is when the patient is nearing the end of their life and need specialist treatment to relieve pain and distressing symptoms.

FFT

Friends & Family Test - a national initiative where patients are asked whether they would recommend the ward or department in the hospital to their friends and family.

FGM

Female Genital Mutilation - partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FOI

Freedom of Information request - this provides public access to information held by public authorities.

FYFV (5YFV)

Five Year Forward View - this five-year forward plan is a positive vision set out by the NHS for the future, based around new models of care.

GDC

General Dental Council - an organisation that regulates all dental practices in the UK. It keeps an up-to-date register of all qualified dentists and other dental professionals.

GMC

General Medical Council - public body that maintains the official register of medical practitioners within the United Kingdom. It keeps an up-to-date register of all qualified doctors.

GOC

General Optical Council - the regulator for optical professions in the UK. The purpose is to protect the public and promote high standards of education, performance and conduct amongst opticians.

HDU

High Dependence Unit - this is the part of the hospital where people need more care and medical attention than a regular ward, but not as much as they would if they were in intensive care. The High Dependence Unit is used for people who have just had major surgery and need additional medical attention.

HEYH

Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals - the organisation that provides secondary (or acute) care in Hull & the East Riding of Yorkshire. HEYH operates two main sites - Castle Hill Hospital (see CHH) & Hull Royal Infirmary (see HRI)

HRI

Hull Royal Infirmary - part of Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust. Hull Royal Infirmary is located close to Hull City Centre and is where the A&E (ED) & the Women & Children's Hospital are situated.

HYMS

Hull York Medical School - a medical school partnership between the University of Hull & the University of York. There are bases both in Hull and in York, with clinical placements being carried out at HEYH & York Teaching Hospitals.

HWBB

Health & Wellbeing Board - a decision-making board made up of organisations that commission health and social care services. Joint working is used so that patients and other service users experience more organised care.

IAPT

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies - a National Health Service initiative to provide more psychotherapy to the general population. The aim is to increase the availability of evidence-based treatments for common mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression by primary care organisations.

IFR

Individual Funding Request - a request for treatment which is not routinely funded or for treatments which have specific criteria which you do not meet but wish to be considered for. Requests must be made by a GP or consultant and submitted to the CCG.

ICU

Intensive Care Unit - the ward for people who are seriously ill and in need of constant care - patients are kept under constant observation.

JSNA

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - this is a document that is produced every four years and contains large amounts of demographic and health information about a specific area (Hull has its own JSNA). This is used to assess the current and future health, social care and wellbeing needs of the population.

LA

Local Authority - this is the organisation that governs a locality. In this area, it is Hull City Council.

LAC

Looked-after Children - a child is looked after by a local authority if a court has granted a care order to place that child in care.

LMC

Local Medical Council - public body that maintains the official register of medical practitioners within the UK.

MDT

Multi-Disciplinary Team - a group of health care workers who are specialists in different areas. They work together to develop a care plan for the patient.

MIU

Minor Injuries Unit - type of walk-in clinic service provided in some hospitals in the United Kingdom. Units are generally staffed by emergency nurse practitioners (ENPs) who can work autonomously to treat minor injuries such as lacerations and fractures.

NICE

National Institute for Clinical Excellence - NICE is an agency of the National Health Service charged with promoting clinical excellence in NHS service providers in England and Wales, by developing guidance and recommendations on the effectiveness of treatments and medical procedures.

NMC

Nursing & Midwifery Council - the regulator for nursing & midwifery professions in the UK. The NMC maintains a register of all nurses, midwives & specialist community public health nurses eligible to practise within the UK.

PALS

Patient Advice & Liaison Service - a department within an NHS organisation created to provide advice and support to patients, their relatives and carer

PHE

Public Health England - established to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and to reduce inequalities in health and social care.

PLACE

Patient-Led Assessment - a method of assessing patient care. Volunteers form part of teams within a hospital to assess the environment that patients are treated in.

PPG

Practice Patient Group - generally made up of a group of volunteer patients, the practice manager and one or more of the GPs from the practice, they meet on a regular basis to discuss the services on offer, and how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients and the practice.

QSG

Quality Surveillance Group - a group of representatives from healthcare providers who meet to share information and intelligence to improve the quality of care patients receive.

RTT

Referral To Treatment Time - the period of time between referral from a GP, to treatment by a consultant. The NHS Constitution says that patients should wait no longer than 18 weeks.

SI / SUI

Serious Incident/Serious Untoward Incident - serious incidents include acts or omissions in care that result in: unexpected or avoidable death, unexpected or avoidable injury resulting in serious harm - including those where the injury required treatment to prevent death or serious harm, abuse; Never Events, incidents that prevent (or threaten to prevent) an organisation's ability to continue to deliver an acceptable quality of healthcare services; and incidents that cause widespread public concern resulting in a loss of confidence in healthcare services.

STP

Sustainability & Transformation Plan - the NHS and local councils have come together to develop proposals and make improvements to health and social care. These proposals, called sustainability and transformation plans (STPs), are place-based and built around the needs of the local population. The STP in this area is the Humber, Coast & Vale STP.

UCC

Urgent Care Centre - a walk-in NHS service for patients whose condition is urgent enough that they cannot wait for the next GP appointment (usually within 48 hours) but who do not need emergency treatment at the emergency department (A&E).

VCS

Voluntary & Community Sector - the voluntary sector or community sector is the duty of social activity undertaken by organisations that are not-for-profit purposes. Also sometimes known as the Third Sector.

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