

Jargon Buster

A directory of often used NHS acronyms



A

A4C - Agenda for Change, NHS pay terms and conditions for staff

A&C - Administrative & Clerical

A&E - Accident and Emergency

ACAS - Advisory, Conciliation & Arbitration Service

ACHC - Association of Community Health Councils

ACHCEW - Association of Community Health Councils in England & Wales

ACPCs - Area Child Protection Committees

AF – Atrial Fibrillation

AHC - Association of Healthcare Communicators

AHP - Allied Health Professional

AICU - Adult Intensive Care Unit

AIP - Aids Information Project

AL or A/L - Annual Leave

ANHSO - Association of National Health Service Officers

APIR - Assessment, Planning, Implementation and Review

ASH - Action on Smoking & Health

ASU - Acute Stroke Unit

B

BA - Benefits Agency

BASP – British Association of Stroke Physicians

BCIS – British Cardiovascular Intervention Society

BDA - British Dental Association/British Dietician Association/British Diabetic Association

BEM - Black & Ethnic Minorities

BMA - British Medical Association

BMJ - British Medical Journal
BPAS - British Pregnancy Advisory Service
BPL - Blood Products Laboratory
BTS - Blood Transfusion Service
BUILD - Black People United in Learning Development
BUPA - British United Provident Association

C

CAB - Citizens Advice Bureau
CAMHS - Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
CCP - Community Care Plan
CDO - Chief Dental Officer
CHC - Community Health Council
CHD - Coronary Heart Disease
CJD - Creutzfeld-Jacob Disease
CMO - Chief Medical Officer/Clinical Medical Officer
CNO - Chief Nursing Officer
CoH - College of Health
COPD - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
COSHH - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
COI - Central Office of Information
CPA - Care Programme Approach
CPD - Continuing Professional Development
CPN - Community Psychiatric Nurse
CPP - College of Pharmacy Practice
CPR - Child Protection Register

CPSM - Councils for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine

CQC - Care Quality Commission

CR - Central Register

CRC - Clinical Research Council

CSP - Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

CSU – Commissioning Support Unit

CTAAC - Cancer Trials Awards and Advisory Committee

CVD – Cardiovascular Network

CVS - Council for Voluntary Service

D

DAT - Drug Action Team

DAAT - Drug and Alcohol Action Team

DEB - Dental Estimates Board

DFES - Department for Education and Skills

DGH - District General Hospital

DMU - Directly Managed Units

DN - District Nurse/Drafting Note

DNS - Director of Nursing Services

DH - Department of Health

DPB - Dental Practices Board

DPH - Director of Public Health

DPP - Doctor Patient Partnership

DPR - Data Protection Registrar

DRO - Dental Reference Officer

DRS - Dental Reference Service

DSC - Dental Service Committee/ Disability Services Centre (City Hospital)

E

ECR - Extra Contractual Referral

EDP - Education Development Plan

EDT - Emergency Duty Team

EHO - Environmental Health Officer

EMAS - East Midlands Ambulance Service

EMI - Elderly Mentally Ill (or Infirm)

ENB - English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

ENT - Ear, Nose and Throat

ESD – Early Supported Discharge

ESMI - Elderly Severely Mentally Ill (or Infirm)

EXEC - NHS Executive/Executive

F

FHSCU - Family Health Services Computer Unit

FPA - Family Planning Association - Family Planning Information Service

FTE - Full Time Equivalent; the measurement of posts or jobs. Also known as Whole Time Equivalent or WTE

G

GDC - General Dental Council

GDP - General Dental Practitioner/Gross Domestic Product

GDS - General Dental Services

GMC - General Medical Council

GMS - General Medical Services

GMSC - General Medical Services Committee

GOS - General Ophthalmic Services

GP - General Practitioner

GPAQ - General Practice Assessment Questionnaire

GPC - General Practitioners Committee

GPS - General Pharmaceutical Services

GUM - Genito Urinary Medicine

H

HAA - Hospital Activity Analysis / Health Action Area

HAAC - Health Action Area Co-ordinator

HAC - Health Advisory Committee

HAS - Health Advisory Service

HASU – Hyper Acute Stroke Unit

HAZ - Health Action Zone

HC - Health Circular/Health Centre

HCHS - Hospital & Community Health Services

HDU - High Dependency Unit

HEA - Health Education Authority

HIG - Health Implementation Group

HImP - Health Improvement Programme

HIS - Health Informatics Service

HISS - Hospital Information Support Systems

HLG - Hostels Liaison Group

HMB - Health Modernisation Board

HMR - Hospital Medical Record

HN - Health Notice

HPA - Health Promotion Advisor

HPB - Health Partnership Board

HON - Health of the Nation

HSE - Health & Safety Executive

HSG - Health Service Guidance

HSI - Health Service Indicator

HSPI - Health Service Health Services Prices Index

HV - Health Visitor

I

ICU - Intensive Care Unit

IHSM - Institute of Health Services Management

IIP - Investors in People

IM&T - Information Management & Technology

IMR - Infant Mortality Rate

IBA - Indicative Prescribing Budget

IPA - Indicative Prescribing Amount

IS - Information System

ISIP – Integrated Service Improvement Programme

IT - Information Technology

ITU = Intensive Therapy Unit, another name for an ICU

J

JCC - Joint Consultative Committee

JCCC - Joint Consultation and Communications Committee (for staff)

JCGs - Joint Commissioning Groups

K

KSF - Knowledge and Skills Framework (part of Agenda For Change's appraisal system)

L

LA - Local Authority

LASSD - Local Authority Social Services Department

LD - Learning Disability

LDC - Local Dental Committee

LDP - Local Development Plan

LIT - Local Implementation Team

LISs - Local Implementation Strategies

LMC - Local Medical Committee

LOC - Local Optical Committee

LPC - Local Pharmaceutical Committee

LSCG - Local Specialised Commissioning Group

LSP - Local Strategic Partnerships

M

MDAAG - Multi-Disciplinary Audit Advisory Group

MAC - Medical Advisory Committee

MHE - Mental Health Enquiry

MHRT - Mental Health Review Tribunal

MPC - Medical Practices Committee

MPH - Master of Public Health

MRC - Medical Research Council

MRI - Magnetic Resonance Imaging

MSC - Medical Services Committee

MTS - Management Training Scheme

N

NAHFM - National Association of Health and Facilities Managers

NAHSPO - National Association of Health Service Personnel Officers

NAHSPRO - National Association of Health Service Public Relations Officers (now known as Association of Healthcare Communicators)

NAWCH - National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital

NCRN - National Cancer Research Network

NHS - National Health Service

NHSCR - National Health Service Central Registrar

NHSE - National Health Service Executive/National Health Service Estates

NHSPA - National Health Services Pensions Agency

NHSSS - National Health Service Superannuation Scheme

NICE - National Institute for Clinical Excellence

NPHS - National Public Health Service

NPSA - National Patient Safety Agency

NRT - Nicotine Replacement Therapy

NSFs - National Service Frameworks

O

OATS - Out of Area Treatments

OD - Organisational Development or Operating Department

OOHs - Out of Hours

OPSS - Office of Public Service and Science

OSC - Ophthalmic Service Committee

OSG - Officer Support Group

P

PAC - Public Accounts Committee

PACE - Purchasing Authority Chief Executives

PACT - Prescription Analysis and Cost

PACS - Picture Archive Communication System

PALS - Patients Advice and Liaison Services

PAMs - Professions Allied to Medicine

PAS - Patient Administrative System

PBC – Practice based commissioning

PCIP - Primary Care Investment Plan

PCG - Primary Care Group

PCT - Primary Care Trust

PDP - Personal Development Plan

PHLS - Public Health Laboratory Service

PI - Performance Indicator

PID - Project Initiation Document

PMS - Personal Medical Services

PODS - Pharmacy, Ophthalmic, Dental and Superannuation

PPA - Prescription Pricing Authority

PPI - Patient and Public Involvement

PRB - Pay Review Body

PRD - Performance Review and Development

PS - Pharmaceutical Services

PSC - Pharmaceutical Service Committee

PSD - Patient Services Department

PTS - Patient Transport Services

Q

Quango - Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation

R

RCCS - Rehabilitation and Community Care Services

RCGP - Royal College of General Practitioners

RCN - Royal College of Nursing
RCOG - Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
RCP – Royal College of Physicians
RCS - Royal College of Surgeons
RCT - Randomised Controlled Trial
RMI - Resource Management Initiative
RNIB - Royal National Institute for the Blind
RNID - Royal National Institute for Deaf People
RPSGB - Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
RSCN - Registered Sick Children's Nurse
R&D - Research & Development
RSI - Rough Sleepers Initiative/Repetitive Strain Injury
RSL - Registered Social Landlord

S

S4BH - Standards for Better Health
SA – Stroke Association
SARP - Social Action Research Project
SCODA - Standing Conference on Drug Abuse
SHA - Strategic Health Authority
SHO - Senior House Officer
SL or S/L - Sick Leave
SLTs - Speech and Language Therapists
SMF - Senior Managers Forum
SMP - Senior Manager Pay scale
SMR - Standardised Mortality Ratio
SpL - Special Leave

SpR - Specialist Registrar

SPT - Specialist Planning Team

SSD - Social Services Department

SSI - Social Services Inspectorate

SWAG - Specialist Workforce Advisory Group

T

TCP - Total Commissioning Project

TOP - Termination of Pregnancy

TQM - Total Quality Management

U

UKCC - United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

UMT - Unit of Medical Time

UNISON - Health Services and Public Sector Union

UV - Ultra Violet

Urology - the study of the kidneys, bladder and urinary tract

V

VSC - Voluntary Service Co-ordinator

W

WMAS – West Midlands Ambulance Service

WTE - Whole-time Equivalent

WTEP - Whole Time Equivalent Post

Y

YOT - Youth Offending Team