

NHS Acronym buster (from NHS Confederation Handbook The NHS in the UK 2007/08)

ABPI Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AC Audit Commission
ACAD ambulatory care and diagnostic unit
ACDA Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards (consultants)
ACDP Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens
ACEVO Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations
ACGT Advisory Committee on Generic Testing
ACRA Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation
ADSS Association of Directors of Social Services
A&E accident and emergency
AHP allied health profession(al)
AM Assembly Member (Wales)
ASCT Asylum Seeker Co-ordination Team
BAMM British Association of Medical Managers
BMA British Medical Association
BSC Business Services Centre (NHS Wales)
CAMHS child and adolescent mental health services
CAT computerised axial tomography (scan)
CCIT consultant contract implementation team
CDO chief dental officer
CEAC Clinical and Excellence Awards Committee (Northern Ireland)
CEMACH Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health
CGST (NHS) clinical governance support team
CHAI Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection (previous name for the Healthcare Commission)
CHC community health council
CHCP community health and care partnership (Scotland)
CHD coronary heart disease
CHIQ Centre for Health Information Quality
CHMS central health and miscellaneous services
CHP community health partnership (Scotland)
CIMP clinical information management programme
CIO chief information officer
CIP cost improvement programme
CME continuing medical education
CMHT community mental health team
CMO chief medical officer
CNO chief nursing officer
CNST Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts
COMARE Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment
COMEAP Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants
COSLA Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CPA care programme approach
CPD continuing professional development
CPPIH Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health
CPR Child Protection Register
CRD (NHS) Centre for Research and Dissemination
CRHP Council for the Regulation of Healthcare Professionals
CRS Care Records Service
CSA Common Services Agency
CSM Committee on the Safety of Medicines
CSR comprehensive spending review
CTO compulsory treatment order
DAT drug action team
DCLG Department for Communities and Local Government
DDRB doctors' and dentists' (pay) review body
DEFRA Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DfES Department for Education and Skills
DFT distance from target
DGH district general hospital
DH or DoH Department of Health
DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland)
DPB Dental Practice Board
DPH director of public health
DPR Data Protection Registrar
DSU day surgery unit
DTC diagnosis and treatment centre
EBH evidence-based healthcare
EBM evidence-based medicine
EBS emergency bed service
ECHR European Convention on Human Rights
ECR extra-contractual referral
EFL external financing limit
e-GIF (electronic) Government Interoperability Framework
EHR electronic health record
ENT ear, nose and throat
EO employers' organisation
EPR electronic patient record
EPS electronic prescription service
ERDIP electronic record development and implementation programme
ESR electronic staff record
ETP electronic transmission of prescriptions
EWTD European working-time directive
FCE finished consultant episode
FHS family health services
FMP financial management programme
FOI freedom of information
FSA Food Standards Agency
GDC General Dental Council
GMC General Medical Council
GMS general medical services
GPSI
 or **GPWSI** general practitioner with a special interest
GSCC General Social Care Council
GTAC Gene Therapy Advisory Committee
GUM genito-urinary medicine (clinic)
GWC General Whitley Council
HA health authority
HAZ health action zone
HB health board
HBG health benefit group
HCC Healthcare Commission
HCHS hospital and community health services
HDA Health Development Agency
HDL Health Department letter
HEFCE Higher Education Funding Council for England
HES hospital episode statistics
HFEA Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
HIA health impact assessment
HIMP health improvement and modernisation plan
HIW Health Inspectorate Wales
HLC healthy living centre
HMO health maintenance organisation (US)
HOWIS Health of Wales Information Service
HPA Health Protection Agency

HPC Health Professions Council
HPMA Healthcare People Management Association
HPSS Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland)
HRG healthcare resource group
HSC health service circular; (House of Commons) Health Select Committee
HSCA Health and Social Care Authority (Northern Ireland)
HSCI health service cost index
HSCT Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland)
HSSB Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland)
HSSC Health and Social Services Council (Northern Ireland)
HTA health technology assessment
IC information commissioner
ICAS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service
ICD international classification of diseases
ICP integrated care pathway
ICRS integrated care records service
ICT information and communication technology
ICU intensive care unit
ILA individual learning account
IMCA independent mental capacity advocate
IM&T information management and technology
IP inpatient
IPR individual performance review
IPU (Department of Health) Information Policy Unit
IRP independent reconfiguration panel
ISB (NHS) Information Standards Board
ISD Information and Statistics Division (Scotland)
IWL Improving Working Lives
JIPs joint investment plans
LAA local area agreement
LAL local authority letter
LASSL local authority social services letter
LDP local delivery plan
LGA Local Government Association
LHB local health board
LHC local health council
LHCC local healthcare co-operative
LHG local health group
LHP local health plan
LHSCG Local Health and Social Care Group (Northern Ireland)
LIS local implementation strategy
LPSA local public service agreement
LSP local strategic partnership; local service provider
LTA long-term agreement
MCN managed clinical network
MCO managed care organisation
MFS market forces supplement
MHAC Mental Health Act Commission
MHRA Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
MHRT mental health review tribunal
MLA Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)
MMC Modernising Medical Careers
MMR measles, mumps, rubella
MRC Medical Research Council
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MSP Member of the Scottish Parliament
N3 new national network (broadband)

NAO National Audit Office
NASP national application service provider
NatPaCT National primary and care trust (development programme)
NAW National Assembly for Wales
NBA National Blood Authority
NBAP national booked admissions programme
NBI national beds inquiry
NCAA National Clinical Assessment Authority
NCASP National Clinical Audit Support Programme
NCE national confidential enquiry
NCEPOD National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths
NCSC National Care Standards Commission
NCVO National Council for Voluntary Organisations
NDPB non-departmental public body
NED non-executive director
NeLH National electronic Library for Health
NES NHS Education for Scotland
nGMS new general medical services (contract)
NHSI NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement
NHSL NHS Logistics
NHSLA NHS Litigation Authority
NHS LIFT NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust
NHS QIS NHS Quality Improvement Scotland
NHST NHS trust
NIA Northern Ireland Assembly
NIC national insurance contribution
NICE National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
NIMHE National Institute for Mental Health in England
NLIAH National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (Wales)
NMC Nursing and Midwifery Council
NOF National Opportunities Fund
NPfIT National Programme for IT (in the NHS)
NPG national priorities guidance
NPHS National Public Health Service (Wales)
NPSA National Patient Safety Agency
NRAC NHSScotland Resource Allocation Committee
NRCI national reference cost index
NRPB National Radiological Protection Board
NRT nicotine replacement therapy
NSCAG national specialist commissioning advisory group
NSF national service framework
NSRC national schedule of reference costs
NSS National Services Scotland
NTA National Treatment Agency (for Substance Misuse)
NTO national training organisation
OAT out-of-area treatment
OCMO Office of the Chief Medical Officer (Wales)
ODP operating department practitioner
OHE Office of Health Economics
ONS Office for National Statistics
OP outpatient
OSC (local authority) overview and scrutiny committee
OT occupational therapist/therapy
OTC over-the-counter
PAC public accounts committee
PACS picture archiving and communications system
PAF performance assessment framework
PALS patient advice and liaison service

PbR payment by results
PCG primary care group
PCIP primary care investment plan
PCO primary care organisation
PCT primary care trust
PDP personal development plan
PEC professional executive committee (of PCT)
PFI private finance initiative
PHeL Public Health electronic Library
PHO public health observatory
PMETB Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board
PMS personal medical services
PPA Prescription Pricing Authority
PPF priorities and planning framework
PPI patient and public involvement
PPO preferred provider organisation
PPP public–private partnership
PPRS Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme
PRB pay review body
PSA public service agreement
QA quality assurance
QALY quality-adjusted life year
QMAS quality management and analysis system
RAWP resource allocation working party
RCN Royal College of Nursing
RCP Royal College of Physicians
RCPE Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
RCPSG Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
RCS Royal College of Surgeons
RCSE Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
RCT randomised controlled trial
RTA road traffic accident

SACDA Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards
SARS severe acute respiratory syndrome
SAS Scottish Ambulance Service
SASM Scottish Audit of Surgical Mortality
SCVO Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
SEHD Scottish Executive Health Department
SEU Social Exclusion Unit
SFA statement of fees and allowances
SHA strategic health authority; special health authority
SHARE Scottish health authorities revenue equalisation
SHO senior house officer
SHOW Scottish Health on the Web
SHRINE Strategic Human Resources Information Network
SIGN Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network
SLA service level agreement
SMAC Standing Medical Advisory Committee
SMR standardised mortality ratio
SNMAC Standing Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee
SNOMED systematised nomenclature of medicine
SRB single regeneration budget
SSA standard spending assessment
SSC shared service centre
SSI Social Services Inspectorate
TEL trust executive letter
TUPE Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations

VFM value for money

WCH Wales Centre for Health

WDC workforce development confederation

WHO World Health Organisation

WIsH Welsh Innovations in Healthcare

WTD working-time directive

This list can be found in electronic form on the NHS Confederation website at www.nhsconfed.org/pocketguide