

JARGON

BUSTER

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.healthwatchnortheastlincolnshire.co.uk>

### A&E

**Accident & Emergency** - the department used to assess and treat serious illness and injuries - In Grimsby the nearest A&E is at Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital.

### 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.

### 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.

## **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.

## **BME/BAME**

**Black Asian & Minority Ethnic** - 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.

## **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.

## DPOW

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital** - Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital is a public hospital in Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England. It is managed by the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

## DV

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

## DLA

**Disability Living Allowance** - is a social security benefit paid to eligible claimants who have personal care and/or mobility needs as a result of a mental or physical disability. It is tax-free, non-means-tested and non-contributory.

## 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.

## 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.

## HCA/SHCA

**Healthcare assistants/Senior Healthcare Assistants** - They work in hospital or community settings, such as GP surgeries, under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional

## HDU

**High Dependency 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.

## 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.

## LADO

**Local Authority Designated Officer** - works within Children's Services and gives advice and guidance to employers, organisations and other individuals who have concerns about the behaviour of an adult who works with children and young people

## LMC

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

## LSCB

**Local Safeguarding Children Board** - LSCB is a multi-agency body set up in every local authority. Each LSCB has an independent Chair, that is, someone who doesn't work for social services. However the Chair will work closely with the Director of Children's Services. It has a strategic role to play in protecting children in your area.

## MAU

**Medical Admissions Unit** - The Acute Medical Unit (AMU) (also often called the acute assessment unit (AAU) or medical admissions unit (MAU) is the first point of entry for patients referred to hospital as an acute medical emergency (AME) by their GP and those requiring admission from the Emergency Department.

## MCA

**Mental Capacity Act** - The MCA is designed to protect and empower people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It applies to people aged 16 and over.

## 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.

## NLAG

**Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust** - Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust provide acute hospital services and community services across North and North East Lincolnshire and Goole.

## 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.

## PIP

**Personal Independence Payment** - PIP is a monetary allowance if you have an illness, disability or mental health condition to help with everyday life. It is payable for the over 16's and you can get it on top of other benefits.

## 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.

## PPE

**Personal Protective Equipment** - PPE is equipment that will protect the user against health or safety risks at work. It can include items such as safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, high-visibility clothing, safety footwear and safety harnesses. It also includes respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

## 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.

## RGN

**Registered General Nurse** - A nurse who has completed a three-year training course in all aspects of nursing care to enable him or her to be registered with the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Visiting.

## RMN

**Registered Mental Health Nurse** - A Mental Health Nurse (RMN) is a registered nurse with specialist training in the area of mental health

## 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.

## SAB

**Safeguarding adults board** - is a multi-agency partnership responsible for leading the strategic and operational safeguarding adults work within each local authority area

## 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.

## 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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