

NHS Acronym buster – August 2012 (with thanks to the NHS Confederation)

ABHI Association of British Healthcare Industries
ABPI Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AC Audit Commission
ACAD ambulatory care and diagnostic unit
ACCEA Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards
ACDP Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens
ACEVO Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations
ACRA Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation
ADASS Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
A&E accident and emergency
AfC Agenda for Change
AGNSS Advisory Group for National Specialised Services
AHP allied health professional
AHSC academic health science centre
AHSN academic health science network
AIR (strategic health authority) annual innovation report
ALB arm's-length body
ALE auditors' local evaluation
ALTO arm's-length trading organisation
AM Assembly Member (Wales)
AME annually managed expenditure
AMR antimicrobial resistance
AMRC Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
AP assistant practitioner
APMS alternative provider medical services
AQP any qualified provider
AWD agency workers directive
AWR agency workers regulations

BDA British Dental Association
BIS (Department for) Business, Innovation and Skills
BMA British Medical Association
BME black and minority ethnic
BNF British National Formulary
BRC biomedical research centre
BROMI Better Regulation of Medicines Initiative
BRU biomedical research unit

CAA comprehensive area assessment
CAJE computer aided job evaluation
CAMHS child and adolescent mental health services
CAS Central Alert System
CAT computerised axial tomography (scan)
CAT crisis assessment and treatment
CBT cognitive behavioural therapy
CCG clinical commissioning group
CCP Co-operation and Competition Panel
CCP critical care paramedic
CDO chief dental officer
CDU clinical decision unit
CEA clinical excellence awards
CEAC Clinical and Excellence Awards Committee (Northern Ireland)
CEMACH Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health
CEP Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing
CFH (NHS) Connecting for Health
CfWI Centre for Workforce Intelligence
CHC community health council
CHCP community health and care partnership (Scotland)
CHD coronary heart disease
CHI community health index (Scotland)
CHMS community health and miscellaneous services
CHP community health partnership (Scotland)
CHRE Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
CIC community interest company
CIMP clinical information management programme
CIO chief information officer
CIP cost improvement programme
CLAHRC collaboration for leadership in applied health research and care
CLG (Department of) Communities and Local Government
CMB corporate management board (Department of Health)
CME continuing medical education
CMHT community mental health team
CMO chief medical officer
CNO chief nursing officer
CNST Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts
CO Cabinet Office
COF Commissioning Outcomes Framework
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
CPN community psychiatric nurse
CPR Child Protection Register
CQC Care Quality Commission
CQUIN commissioning for quality and innovation
CRB Criminal Records Bureau
CRD Centre Reviews and Dissemination (nb: note change from Research to Reviews)
CRS (NHS) Care Records Service
CSA Common Services Agency
CSO chief scientific officer
CSO civil society organisation
CSP Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
CSR comprehensive spending review
CSS commissioning support service
CSU commercial support unit
CTLD community team for learning disabilities
CTO compulsory treatment order
CTP care trust plus

DAT drug action team
DBS disclosure and barring service
DCMS Department for Culture, Media and Sport
DCS director of children's services
DDRb doctors and dentists (pay) review body
DECC Department of Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DEL departmental expenditure limit
DES directed enhanced services
DfE Department for Education
DfP Department of Finance and Personnel (Northern Ireland)
DfT Department for Transport
DFT distance from target
DGH district general hospital
DH or **DoH** Department of Health
DHSS Department for Health and Social Services (Wales)
DHSSPS Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
(Northern Ireland)

DMB departmental management board (Department of Health)
DMS Defence Medical Services
DQ data quality
DRG diagnosis-related group
DNA did not attend
DNR do not resuscitate
DPA Data Protection Act
DPH director of public health
DPHHP Department for Public Health and Health Professions (Wales)
DPR Data Protection Registrar
DRE delivering race equality
DSO departmental strategic objective
DsPH directors of public health
DSSA delivering same-sex accommodation
DSU day surgery unit
DTOC delayed transfer of care
DTC diagnosis and treatment centre
DWP Department for Work and Pensions

EAU emergency assessment unit
EBH evidence-based healthcare
EBM evidence-based medicine
EBS emergency bed service
ECA emergency care assistant
ECCT extended community care team (NHS Scotland)
ECHR European Convention on Human Rights
ECJ European Court of Justice
ECN extended choice network
ECT enhanced care teams
E&D equality and diversity
EDC emergency dispatch centre
EDC (NHS) Equality and Diversity Council
EDS (NHS) Equality Delivery System
EFL external financing limit
e-GIF (electronic) Government Interoperability Framework
EHPF European Health Policy Forum
EHIC European health insurance card
EHR electronic health record
EHRG equality and human rights group (Department of Health)
EI early intervention

EIA equality impact assessment
EIP early intervention in psychosis
e-KSF (electronic) Knowledge and Skills Framework
ENT ear, nose and throat
EO employers' organisation
ERDB England Revalidation Delivery Board
ERIC Estates Return Information Collection
ERMA emergency response management arrangements
EPP Expert Patient Programme
EPR electronic patient record
EPRR emergency preparedness, resilience and response
EPS electronic prescription service
ESR electronic staff record
ETP electronic transmission of prescriptions
ETS emissions trading scheme (EU)
EWTD European working-time directive

FCE finished consultant episode
FCN free choice network
FESC Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners
FFT Friends and Family Test
FHS family health services
FIMS Financial Information Management System
FMP financial management programme
FNP family nurse partnership
FOI freedom of information
FOIA Freedom of Information Act
FPNC free personal and nursing care (NHS Scotland)
FSA Food Standards Agency
FT foundation trust
FTN Foundation Trust Network
FY foundation year

GDC General Dental Council
GDS general dental services
GMB British trade union
GMC General Medical Council
GMS general medical services
GO Government Office (of the English Regions)
GOS general ophthalmic services

GPC (BMA) General Practitioners Committee
GPhC General Pharmaceutical Council
GPS government procurement services
GPSI or **GPwSI** general practitioner with a special interest
GSCC General Social Care Council
GTAC Gene Therapy Advisory Committee
GTN (UK) Genetic Testing Network
GWC General Whitley Council

HA health authority
HaN Hospital at Night (services)
HAZ health action zone
HB health board
HCA health care assistant
HCAI healthcare-associated infection
HCHS hospital and community health services
HCW Health Commission Wales
HDL Health Department letter
HEAT health efficiency access treatment (targets – Scotland)
HEE Health Education England
HEFCE Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEI Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (Scotland)
HEI higher education institution
HEMS helicopter emergency medical service
HENSE Health and Education National Strategic Exchange
HES hospital episode statistics
HFEA Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
HGC Human Genetics Commission
HIA health impact assessment
HIEC health innovation and education cluster
HIMP health improvement and modernisation plan
HIW Health Inspectorate Wales
HLC healthy living centre
HLE healthy life expectancy
HMO health maintenance organisation (USA)
HoNOS health of the nation outcome scales
HPA Health Protection Agency
HPC Health Professions Council
HPU health protection unit
HPMA Healthcare People Management Association

HQIP Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership
HRA Health Research Authority
HRG healthcare resource group
HSC (House of Commons) health select committee
HSC health and social care (Northern Ireland)
HSCI health service cost index
HSCIC Health and Social Care Information Centre
HSCT health and social care trust (Northern Ireland)
HSE Health and Safety Executive
HSE Health Survey for England
HSJ Health Service Journal
HSR health service research
HSS health science services
HSRN Health Services Research Network
HTA health technology assessment
HWB health and wellbeing board
HWE Healthwatch England

IAA information asset administrator
IAO information asset owner
IAPT Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (programme)
IC information commissioner
ICAS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service
ICD international classification of diseases
ICO integrated care organisation
ICP integrated care pathway
ICR (NHS) injury costs recovery (scheme)
ICT information and communication technology
ICU intensive care unit
IG information governance
IGTK information governance toolkit
IMAS interim management and support
IMCA independent mental capacity advocate
ImROC Implementing Recovery Organisational Change (project)
IM&T information management and technology
IP information prescriptions
IP inpatient
IPR individual performance review
IQI indicators for quality improvement
IRP Independent Reconfiguration Panel

ISA Independent Safeguarding Authority
ISB (NHS) Information Standards Board
ISD Information and Statistics Division (Scotland)
ISMS information security management system
ISTC independent sector treatment centre
IWL Improving Working Lives

JCP Jobcentre Plus
JHWS joint health and wellbeing strategy
JIP joint investment plan
JNC Joint Negotiating Committee
JSNA joint strategic needs assessment

KPI key performance indicator
KSF (NHS) Knowledge and Skills Framework

LA local authority
LAA local area agreement
LAL local authority letter
LAS locum appointment for service
LAT locum appointment for training
LCFS local counter fraud specialist
LDP local delivery plan
LES local enhanced services
LETBs local education and training boards
LGA Local Government Association
LHB local health board (Wales)
LHP local health plan
LHW local HealthWatch
LINK local involvement network
LIS local implementation strategy
LIT local implementation team
LKS library and knowledge service
LMC local medical committee
LPSA local public service agreement
LQAF (NHS) Library Quality Assurance Framework
LSP local strategic partnership
LTA long-term agreement
LTC long-term conditions

MAC Migration Advisory Committee
MADEL medical and dental education levy
MARS mutually agreed resignation scheme
MASH Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MAU medical assessment unit
MBC Metropolitan Borough Council
MCN managed clinical network
MCO managed care organisation
MDA medical device alert
MDHU Ministry of Defence hospital unit
MEE Medical Education England
MERIT medical emergency response incident teams
MFF market forces factor
MHCT mental health clustering tool
MHMDS mental health minimum dataset
MHRA Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
MHRT mental health review tribunal
MIP Managers in Partnership
MLA Member of the Legislative Assembly (Northern Ireland)
MMC Modernising Medical Careers
MMR measles, mumps, rubella (vaccination)
MoJ Ministry of Justice
MPET multi-professional education and training
MPIG minimum practice income guarantee
MQI measuring for quality improvement
MRC Medical Research Council
MRI magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MSC modernising scientific careers
MSP Member of the Scottish Parliament
MST multi-systemic therapy
MTS (NHS) management training scheme
MUR medicines use review
MUS medically unexplained symptoms
MWIA mental well-being impact assessment

N3 new national network
NAG National Advisory Group
NAGCAE National Advisory Group on Clinical Audit and Enquiries
NAO National Audit Office

NAMPS National Association of Medical Personnel Specialists
NAW National Assembly for Wales
NBAP national booked admissions programme
NBI national beds inquiry
NCAF National Clinical Audit Forum
NCAPOP National Clinical Audit and Patients' Outcomes Programme
NCAS National Clinical Assessment Service
NCASP National Clinical Audit Support Programme
NCE national confidential enquiry
NCEPOD National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death
NCG National Commissioning Group
NCIN National Cancer Intelligence Network
NCVO National Council for Voluntary Organisations
NDA National Diabetes Audit
NDPB non-departmental public body
NEAT new and emerging applications of technology
NED non-executive director
NEF New Economics Foundation
NES national enhanced services
NES NHS Education for Scotland
nGMS new general medical services (contract)
NHSBSA NHS Business Authority Services
NHSBT NHS Blood and Transplant
NHSCB NHS Commissioning Board
NHSCC NHS Clinical Commissioners
NHSE NHS Employers
NHSI NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement
NHSIC NHS Information Centre
NHSLA NHS Litigation Authority
NHSRA NHS Registration Authority
NHST NHS trust
NHS LIFT NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust
NHS QIS NHS Quality Improvement Scotland
NHS TEF NHS Transitional Executive Forum
NIA Northern Ireland Assembly
NIAO Northern Ireland Audit Office
NIC national insurance contribution
NIC (NHS) National Innovation Centre
NICE National Institute for (Health and) Clinical Excellence
NIGB National Information Governance Board

NIHR National Institute for Health Research
NIO Northern Ireland Office
NLIAH National Leadership and Innovation Agency for Healthcare (Wales)
NLOP National Programme for IT local ownership programme
NLPH National Library for Public Health
NMC Nursing and Midwifery Council
NMS New Medicine Service
NNCPS National Network of Clinical Procurement Specialists
NOF New Opportunities Fund
NOG National Oversight Group (for high-security hospitals)
NPDG National PALS Development Group
NPfIT National Programme for IT (in the NHS)
NPG national priorities guidance
NPSA National Patient Safety Agency
NQB National Quality Board
NRAC NHS Scotland resource allocation committee
NRCI national reference cost index
NRES National Research Ethics Service
NRLS National Reporting and Learning Service
NRT nicotine replacement therapy
NSCG National Specialist Commissioning Group
NSF national service framework
NSR Next Stage Review
NSRC national schedule of reference costs
NSS National Services Scotland
NTA National Treatment Agency (for Substance Misuse)
NTAC NHS Technology Adoption Centre
NTDA NHS Trust Development Authority
NTO national training organisation
NWP (NHS) national workforce projects

OCPA Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments
OCS Office for Civil Society
ODP operating department practitioner
OFMDFM Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister (Northern Ireland)
OGC Office of Government Commerce
OHE Office of Health Economics
OJEU Official Journal of the European Union
OLS Office for Life Sciences
ONS Office for National Statistics

OOH out of hours
OP outpatient
ORSA organisational readiness self assessment
OSC (local authority) overview and scrutiny committee
OSCHR Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research
OT occupational therapist/therapy
OTC over-the-counter

PA physician assistant
PAB professional advisory board
PAC (House of Commons) public accounts committee
PACS picture archiving and communications system
PAF performance assessment framework
PALS patient advice and liaison service
PAS patient administration system
PASLU (NICE) Patient Access Scheme Liaison Unit
PASS Patient Advice and Support Service (Scotland)
PBC practice-based commissioning
PbR payment by results
PCIP primary care investment plan
PCO primary care organisation
PCS productive community services
PCT primary care trust
PCTPS primary care trust-provided services
PDA patient decision aid
PDP personal development plan
PEC professional executive committee (of PCT)
PFI private finance initiative
PGD patient group direction
PHE Public Health England
PHO public health observatory
PhwSI pharmacist with special interest
PICD procurement, investment and commercial division (DH)
PID project initiation document
PIG policy implementation guide
PLIC patient-level information and costing
P-MERIT paramedic medical emergency response incident teams
PMHW productive mental health ward
PMS personal medical services
PNA pharmaceutical needs assessment

POPP Partnerships for Older People Project
POSHH Partnership for Occupational Safety and Health in Healthcare
PPC (prescription) pre-payment certificate
PPE patient and public engagement
PPF priorities and planning framework
PPG patient participation group
PPI patient and public involvement
PPIC private patient income cap
PPIF patient and public involvement forum
PPO preferred provider organisation
PPP public–private partnership
PRCC Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition
PPRS Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme
PRB pay review body
PROM patient-reported outcome measure
PRP policy research programme
PSA public service agreement
PSD patient specific direction
PSS personal social services

QA quality assurance
QALY quality-adjusted life year
QIPP quality innovation productivity prevention
QMAS quality management and analysis system
QOF quality and outcomes framework
QQUIP quest for quality and improved performance

RAB resource accounting and budgeting
RAID rapid assessment, interface and discharge
RCD research capacity development
RCGP Royal College of General Practitioners
RCM Royal College of Midwives
RCN Royal College of Nursing
RCoA Royal College of Anaesthetists
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
RCSLT Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

RCT randomised controlled trial
RGH rural general hospital (NHS Scotland)
RO responsible officer
RN registered nurse
ROCR Review of Central Returns
RPA Radiation Protection Adviser Service
RST (NHS) Revalidation Support Team
RTA road traffic accident
RTT referral to treatment

SACDA Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards
SAR subject access request
SARS severe acute respiratory syndrome
SAS Scottish Ambulance Service
SAS staff and associated specialist (doctors)
SASM Scottish Audit of Surgical Mortality
SBS (NHS) Shared Business Services
SCG specialised commissioning group
SCI Scottish care information
SCIE Social Care Institute for Excellence
SCR summary care record
SCS senior civil servants
SCVO Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
SDO service delivery and organisation
SDU (NHS) Sustainable Development Unit
SEIF Social Enterprise Investment Fund
SES Single Equality Scheme (Department of Health)
SEQOHS safe effective quality occupational health service
SFA statement of fees and allowances
SGHD Scottish Government health directorates
SHA strategic health authority (and special health authority)
SHMI summary hospital-level mortality indicator
SHO senior house officer
SHOW Scottish Health on the Web
SHRINE Strategic Human Resources Information Network
SHMI summary hospital mortality indicator
SIGN Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network
SIRO senior information risk owner
SLA service level agreement
SMAC Standing Medical Advisory Committee

SMC Scottish Medicines Consortium
SMDU strategic market development unit (Department of Health)
SMR standardised mortality ratio
SNOMED systematised nomenclature of medicine
SOR Society of Radiographers
SPF Social Partnership Forum
SPI Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee
SPMS specialist provider of medical services
SRB single regeneration budget
SRP structural reform plan
SSA standard spending assessment
SSC shared service centre
SSRB Senior Salaries Review Body
ST&T scientific, therapeutic and technical (staff)
SUS secondary uses service

TaMHS targeted mental health in schools
TFA tripartite formal agreement
TOM therapy outcome measure
TUC Trades Union Congress
TUPE Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981

UKBA UK Border Agency
UKCC UK Cochrane Centre
UKCRC UK Clinical Research Collaboration
UKCRN UK Clinical Research Network

VCS voluntary and community sector
VFM value for money
VSM very senior managers
VTE venous thromboembolism

WAG Welsh Assembly Government
WAO Wales Audit Office
WHO World Health Organization
WIC walk in centre
WORD Wales Office of Research and Development for Health and Social Care
WPF Welsh Partnership Forum
WRAPS wellness recovery action plans
WRT workforce review team

WTD working-time directive

WTR working time