

Jargon Buster

Below is a list of other words or terms that you may find useful.

A

Acute healthcare

Medical and surgical treatment usually provided in a hospital setting. See Secondary Care.

AQP Any Qualified Provider

C

CCG: CCG stands for Clinical Commissioning Group.

Clinical

Relating to patient care e.g. clinical evidence, clinical practice.

Clinician

A health professional, such as a family doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist or nurse, involved in clinical practice.

Clinical pathways

Medical guidelines or other management tools based on evidence based practice for a specific group of patients which improve health results.

Committee

A group of people appointed for a specific function, usually made up of members from a larger group.

Commission

To decide on behalf of a local population what type, quantity and quality of services it requires, obtain the services from service providers and monitor the way they are provided. See Clinical Commissioning Group.

Commissioner

The person or body who decides on behalf of a local population what type, quantity and quality of services it requires, obtain the services from service providers and monitor the way they are provided. See Clinical Commissioning Group.

CQC - Care Quality Commission

This is an organisation funded by the Government to check all providers of health and adult social care services in England to make sure they are meeting government standards and to share their findings with the public.

E

Emergency care

Treatment for medical and surgical emergencies that are likely to need admission to hospital.

Emergency department

Also known as '*Accident & Emergency*.' A service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week where people receive treatment and/or stabilisation for medical and surgical emergencies.

Emergency surgery

Surgery that is not planned and which is needed for urgent conditions. This includes surgery for appendicitis, perforated or obstructed bowel and gallbladder infections. It is also known as non-elective surgery.

F

Finance

The money/ budget that the CCG/ an organisation has and the management of it.

G

GP

A doctor who treats a variety of illnesses and diseases, providing preventative care and health education for everyone. Usually, but not always, based in the community.

H

Healthcare

The diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease, illness, injury, and other physical and mental impairments in humans.

I

Inpatient

A patient who is admitted for a stay in hospital, usually for 24 hours for treatment or an operation

M

Medicine

A specialty that covers a wide range of conditions. Many focus on particular organs (e.g. the heart) or diseases such as cancer. Medical specialties include: cardiovascular medicine, dermatology, endocrinology and diabetes, gastroenterology, genito-urinary medicine, oncology and rheumatology to name a few.

O

Outpatient

A patient who attends an appointment to receive treatment without needing to be actually admitted to hospital. Outpatient care can be provided by hospitals, GPs and community providers and is often used to follow up after treatment or to assess for further treatment.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)/Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

The committee of the relevant local authority, or group of local authorities, made up of local councillors who are responsible for monitoring.

P

Patient pathway or journey

This is the term used to describe the care a patient receives from start to finish of a set timescale, in different stages. There can be integrated care pathways which include multi-disciplinary services for patient care.

PCT:

PCT stands for Primary Care Trust. PCT's no longer exist, but was an NHS organisation which commissioned local health services on behalf of local people. PCTs have been replaced by Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Performance

The achievement and outcome of a given task against a known set of standards, usually around completeness, cost and speed. In a contract, performance is deemed to be the fulfilment of an obligation.

Primary care

The first contact a patient has with local healthcare in their community, usually a GP, dentist or optician. (i.e. not secondary care, which is hospital based.)

Q

Quality

The degree to which health services increase the likelihood of good health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge. There are three dimensions to quality: safety, effectiveness and experience.

S

Secondary care

Healthcare services delivered by medical or other specialists, usually in hospitals or clinics, that patients have been referred to by their GP or other primary care provider.

Stakeholder

People and organisations with a shared interest in an issue, either because they may be affected by it or be able to affect a decision about it.

Surgery

Medical specialty where surgeons specialise in operating on particular parts of the body or to address specific injuries, diseases or degenerative conditions. The main areas of surgery are cardiology, ear, nose and throat (ENT), general, oral and maxillofacial, orthopaedic and trauma, paediatric, plastic and urology.

Sustainability

Ensuring a service can operate properly, well into the future, in a way that is safe, of a high standard, appropriately staffed and which makes the best use of the resources available.

W**Workforce**

The people on an organisation's payroll.