

## FACTSHEET 1: ACRONYMS & INFORMATION

**BMA**            **British Medical Association**

Professional association for doctors. Acts as a Trades Union, scientific and educational body.

[www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/ Home Public](http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Home_Public)

**BMJ**            **British Medical Journal**

This is a weekly journal for doctors and contains general comments and some research.

[bmj.bmjournals.com/](http://bmj.bmjournals.com/)

**BNF**            **British National Formulary**

This lists all prescription and most non-prescription drugs. This book is used by most doctors/nurses and pharmacists. It is updated every 3 months.

[www.bnf.org/](http://www.bnf.org/)

**CAMHS**        **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

Services provided for children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health needs. Include services provided by PCTs, NHS trusts and social services.

**CHAI**            **Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection (also known as the Healthcare Commission)**

The Healthcare Commission was set up 'to promote improvement in the quality of both the NHS and private and voluntary healthcare across England and Wales.

The Healthcare Commission has taken over the healthcare functions of the National Care Standards Commission and also covers elements of the Audit Commission's work which relate to efficiency, effectiveness and economy of healthcare. This body:

- Inspects all NHS health care providers – where serious problems are identified recommends steps to be taken
- Registers and inspects private healthcare provision
- Publishes performance assessment information and statistics

The Commission is also considering integration of the functions of the Mental Health Act Commission with their work, subject to the passing of further legislation.

[www.chai.org.uk/Homepage/fs/en](http://www.chai.org.uk/Homepage/fs/en)

<b>CHI</b>	<b>Commission for Health Improvement (renamed as CHAI)</b>
<b>CMO</b>	<b>Chief Medical Officer</b> Government's principal advisor and professional lead for all medical staff in England.
<b>CPPIH</b>	<b>Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health</b> Its remit is to promote the involvement of the public in decision making about the provision of health services. It is responsible for funding, monitoring and supporting patients' forums and for monitoring the delivery of the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS). <a href="http://www.ccpih.org">www.ccpih.org</a>
<b>DoH</b>	<b>Department of Health</b> The Department of Health's role is to support the government to improve the health and well being of the population. Responsible for developing changes in the NHS and social care. The DoH sets standards and also promotes healthier lifestyles. <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/Home/fs/en">www.dh.gov.uk/Home/fs/en</a>
<b>FRC</b>	<b>Fellow of the Royal College</b> This applies to most of the Royal Colleges, e.g. Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. A doctor is usually invited to become a Fellow.
<b>GDC</b>	<b>General Dental Council</b> Regulates dental professionals in the UK. All dental hygienists and dental therapists have to be registered with the GDC. <a href="http://www.gdc-uk.org">www.gdc-uk.org</a>
<b>GMC</b>	<b>General Medical Council</b> Maintains the register of all doctors able to practise in the UK. Responsible for disciplining doctors when they breach the standards set, e.g. following proven allegations of misconduct. The GMC is also a charity whose purpose is the protection, promotion and maintenance of the health and safety of the community. <a href="http://www.gmc-uk.org/">www.gmc-uk.org/</a>
<b>GOC</b>	<b>General Optical Council</b> Regulates the optical profession (dispensing opticians and optometrists)

- HFEA**      **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority**
- Inspects and licenses centres and publishes a code of practice of licensed activities. It maintains a register of information about donors, patients and treatments and keeps up to date with fertility treatments and research under review. Also regulates the storage of gametes and embryos.
- [www.hfea.gov.uk](http://www.hfea.gov.uk)
- HPA**      **The Health Protection Agency**
- A new national organisation covering England & Wales created in 1.4.03. The aim is to bring together in an integrated way expertise that was previously distributed between a number of organisations, including for example The Public Health Laboratory Service and NHS public health staff responsible for emergency planning and other protection support.
- [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)
- HPC**      **Health Professions Council**
- An independent regulatory body setting standards of professional training, performance and conduct for the 12 health care professions that it regulates (including chiropodists/podiatrists, dieticians, OT, orthoptists, orthotists, paramedics, physiotherapists, radiographers and speech therapists).
- [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org)
- HSC**      **Health and Safety Commission**
- Has general oversight of the work of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) with power to delegate to the HSE any of its functions.
- [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- HSE**      **Health and Safety Executive**
- Ensures that risks to health and safety from work activities are properly controlled. Has power to inspect. Individual NHS Trusts are selected for inspection on a range of criteria.
- [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
- ICAS**      **Independent Complaints Advocacy Service**
- Focuses on helping individuals to pursue a complaint against a particular NHS service. They provide support, information and advice to complainants in addition to guiding the complainants through any complaint.
- MDA**      **Medical Devices Agency (see MHRA)**
- MDDUS**      **Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland**
- Medical union providing medico-legal advice, indemnity against claims of medical and dental negligence and protection of professional interests to its members.
- <http://www.mddus.com/>

- MDU**            **Medical Defence Union**
- Medical union providing advice, education and risk management services for their members. Help defend claims against their members.
- [www.the-mdu.com/gp/index.asp](http://www.the-mdu.com/gp/index.asp)
- MHAC**            **Mental Health Act Commission**
- Reviews the implementation of the Mental Health Act 1983 in so far as it relates to patients detained or are liable to be detained under the Act in England and Wales. It visits all hospitals and nursing homes holding detained patients and makes recommendations. It has no power to enforce.
- [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)
- MHRA**            **Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency**
- An executive agency of the DoH protecting and promoting public health and patient safety by ensuring that medicines, healthcare products and medical equipment meet appropriate standards of safety, quality, performance and effectiveness, and are used safely. Formed from the merger of the Medicines Control Agency and the Medical Devices Agency.
- [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk)
- MPS**            **Medical Protection Society**
- It is a mutual protection organisation. It provides help with legal problems arising from members' clinical practise.
- [www.medicalprotection.org/medical/united\\_kingdom/default.aspx](http://www.medicalprotection.org/medical/united_kingdom/default.aspx)
- MRC**            **Member of a Royal College (examination based)**
- NCAA**            **National Clinical Assessment Authority**
- Set up in April 2001, the NCAA is a national body that provides support service to the NHS. It gives advice to PCTS, NHS Trusts and strategic health authorities when they are faced with concerns over the performance of an individual doctor.
- [www.ncaa.nhs.uk/ncaa.html](http://www.ncaa.nhs.uk/ncaa.html)
- NCSC**            **National Care Standards Commission**
- Independent public body set up under the Care Standards Act 2000 to regulate social care and private and voluntary health care services (e.g. care homes, children's homes, voluntary adoption agency, nursing agencies, etc). Also registers and inspects these services. From 1.4.04 the NCSC was abolished and its role replaced by Commission for Social Care Inspection (for social care) and CHAI (regulating independent hospitals, clinics and medical agencies).
- [www.carestandards.org.uk](http://www.carestandards.org.uk)

**NHSIA                    National Health Service Information Authority**

It is a Special Health Authority set up to:

“Improve patient care and achieve best value for money (VFM) by working with NHS professionals, suppliers and academics and others to provide national products, services and standards, which support the sharing and most efficient and effective use of information.“

The NHSIA supports the effective use of national electronic health records to improve patient care through the provision of the Integrated Care Record System (ICRS)

[www.nhsia.nhs.uk/def/home.asp?](http://www.nhsia.nhs.uk/def/home.asp?)

**NHSLA                    National Health Service Litigation Authority**

The NHSLA is a Special Health Authority and, therefore, part of the NHS. It indemnifies NHS bodies in respect of both clinical negligence and non-clinical risks and manage claims and litigation under both headings. The NHSLA also have risk management programmes in place against which NHS trusts are assessed.

[www.nhsia.com/default.asp](http://www.nhsia.com/default.asp)

**NICE                    National Institute for Clinical Excellence**

Responsible for providing guidance to the NHS in connection with the use of specified medicines and treatments and the care and treatment of NHS patients with specified diseases.

[www.nice.org.uk/](http://www.nice.org.uk/)

**NMC                    Nursing and Midwifery Council (previously the UKCC)**

Maintains a register listing all nurses, midwives and health visitors in the UK, sets standards and guidelines. The NMC also quality assures the education provided to nurses and midwives. The NMC investigate allegations of misconduct, etc.

[www.nmc-uk.org/nmc/main/splash.html](http://www.nmc-uk.org/nmc/main/splash.html)

**NPSA                    National Patient Safety Agency**

The NPSA was created to co-ordinate the efforts of all those involved in healthcare, to learn from patient safety incidents occurring in the NHS. The aim of the NPSA is encourage doctors and other staff to report incidents and "near misses", when things almost go wrong and input into a national reporting and learning system. A key aim is to encourage staff to report incidents without fear of personal reprimand and know that by sharing their experiences others will be able to learn lessons and improve patient safety. The change of emphasis is more about the "how" than the "who". It does not investigate any individual case and is anonymous and confidential.

[www.npsa.nhs.uk/index.asp](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/index.asp)

**NSF                    National Service Frameworks**

A range of measures introduced to decrease variations in service and raise quality. NSF's are evidence-based programmes spelling out what patients can expect from

The health service in a major area or disease group. CHAI monitors progress. The aim is to introduce one new framework a year. And covers, Cancer and paediatric intensive care, mental health, coronary heart disease, national cancer plan, older people, diabetes and the children's NSF. NSFs in preparation include long term conditions focusing on neurological services and renal services.

[www.doh.gov.uk/nsf/about.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/nsf/about.htm)

**PALS Patient Advisory and Liaison Service**

It was set up to 'replace' the Community Health Councils. It is an independent organisation that is funded by the NHS. They provide help and advice to patients and their families, helping them through the complaints system as required.

This is based in each individual trust and local hospitals will have contact details.

**Patients' Forums**

Made up of local people to represent the views of communities about the quality and configuration of health services to PCTs and trusts. The forums actively find out what patients, carers and their families think about their health services and whether those services are meeting their needs. The forums have power to inspect premises.

**Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman**

Undertake independent investigations into complaints about government departments, a range of other public bodies, and the NHS.

The Health Service Ombudsman investigates complaints that a hardship or injustice has been caused by the failure of the NHS to provide a service, by a failure in service, or by maladministration.

[www.ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman.org.uk)

**PCT Primary Care Trust**

There are 302 PCTs covering all parts of England. They receive budgets directly from the Department of Health. PCTs have taken control of local health care while 28 new strategic Health Authorities monitor performance and standards.

**RCGP Royal College of General Practitioners**

Its aim is to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and act as the 'voice' of general practitioners on education, training and standards issues.

[www.rcgp.org.uk/](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/)

**RCN Royal College of Nursing**

Represents the interests of nurses, lobbies government others to develop and implement policy that improves the quality of patient care

[www.rcn.org.uk/](http://www.rcn.org.uk/)

**RCOG            Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists**

It was set up to encourage 'the study and the advancement of the science and practice of obstetrics and gynaecology'.

DRCOG – Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (aimed at general practitioners who have an interest in the subject rather than a specialism)

[www.rcog.org.uk/home.asp?PageID=3](http://www.rcog.org.uk/home.asp?PageID=3)

**RCP              Royal College of Physicians**

It sets standards for clinical practice, conducts examinations, defines and monitors education and training programmes for physicians, supports doctors in their practice of medicine, and advises the Government, public and the profession on healthcare issues.

[www.rcplondon.ac.uk/](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/)

**RCS              Royal College of Surgeons**

Supervises training of surgeons, provides educational and practical workshops and sets examinations for surgeons.

[www.rcseng.ac.uk/](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/)

**RPSGB          Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain**

Ensures that pharmacists are able to deliver high quality professional services. Most hospital pharmacies are not registered with the RPSGB.

[www.rpsbg.org](http://www.rpsbg.org)