

Glossary of Brexit acronyms

This document provides a list of commonly-used acronyms and descriptions of relevant bodies as the UK prepares to leave the European Union. This document also provides links to relevant Brexit pages for those organisations. The list is not exhaustive but provides descriptions of the most relevant and frequently-used terms.

A

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry	The ABPI represents innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies who provide 80% of all branded medicines used by the NHS.
ABHI	Association of the British Healthcare Industry	The ABHI supports the HealthTech community to provide products and services that help people live healthier lives.
AHSNs	Academic Health Science Networks	AHSNs are membership organisations within NHS England that align education, clinical research, informatics, innovation and healthcare delivery.
APPGs	All Party Parliamentary Groups	APPGs are informal groups of MPs and Members of the House of Lords who come together to focus on a specific policy area e.g. the APPG on arts, health and wellbeing.
AWMSG	All Wales Medicine Strategy Group	The AWMSG brings together NHS clinicians, pharmacists, healthcare professionals and others to develop innovative partnerships that benefit patients and achieve the best outcomes from the use of medicines in Wales.

B

BAEPD	British Association of European Pharmaceutical Distributors	The BAEPD is the industry body that represents 14 of the largest licensed parallel distributors in the UK. These companies represent around 90 per cent of the UK repackaging capacity for parallel imported medicines.
BHA	Brexit Health Alliance	The BHA aims to safeguard the interests of patients and the healthcare and research they rely on during the Brexit negotiations. The Welsh NHS Confederation is an active member of the Alliance.
BMA	British Medical Association	The BMA is the trade union and professional body for doctors in the UK.

C

CC	Cavendish Coalition	The CC is a group of health and social care organisations united in their commitment to provide the best care to communities, patients and residents. The coalition acts as a shared voice which influences and lobbies on post-EU referendum matters. It also provides those leading the negotiations with expertise and knowledge on the issues affecting the health and social care workforce. The Welsh NHS Confederation is an active member of the CC.
CDSG	Collaboration and Development Steering Group	The CDSG is a UK-wide steering group that advises and supports the HRA (see below) to implement a unified approval process for research projects in the UK.
CMO	Chief Medical Officer (for Wales)	The CMO for Wales provides independent, professional advice to the First Minister, the Cabinet and Welsh Government officials on health and healthcare matters.
CPA	Chief Pharmaceutical Advisor (for Wales)	The CPA for Wales supports the Welsh Government with professional and independent pharmaceutical advice.
CRNs	Clinical Research Networks	CRNs provide the infrastructure to support high quality clinical studies across all areas of disease and clinical need. In Wales, the clinical research infrastructure is provided by the Welsh Government through H&CRW (see below).

CTA	Common Travel Area	The CTA is an open borders area between the United Kingdom (including England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island), the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. Citizens of the UK are not required to carry personal documentation when visiting or residing in any one of these territories.
CTD	Clinical Trials Directive	The CTD is an EU Directive that aims to facilitate the internal market in medicinal products within the EU, while at the same time maintaining an appropriate level of protection for public health.
CTR	Clinical Trials Regulation	The CTR, which will become EU law in 2019, is an EU Regulation that harmonises the assessment and supervision processes for clinical trials throughout the EU via an EU portal and database.

D

DExEU	Department for Exiting the European Union	The DExEU refers to the UK Government department of the UK responsible for overseeing negotiations relating to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and establishing the future relationship between the UK and the EU.
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care (UK)	The DHSC is the part of UK government that has responsibility for health and social care services in England.
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Services (Wales)	The DHSS is the part of the Welsh Government that aims to promote, protect and improve the health and wellbeing of the Welsh population.
DUs	Delivery Units	DUs support the Welsh Government's Health and Social Services Group on the delivery of in-year performance and development objectives and delivery of Integrated Medium-Term Plans by NHS Wales organisations.

E

EAMS	Early Access to Medicines Scheme	Delivered by the MHRA and NICE (see below), the EAMS aims to give patients with life-threatening or seriously debilitating conditions access to medicines that do not yet have marketing authorisation.
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	The ECDC is an EU agency tasked with strengthening Europe's defences against infectious diseases. The agency works in partnership with national health protection bodies to strengthen continent-wide disease surveillance and co-ordination between national public health agencies during outbreaks and emergencies.
EEA	European Economic Area	The EEA unites the EU Member States into an internal market governed by the same basic rules. These rules aim to enable goods, services, capital, and persons to move freely about the EEA in an open and competitive environment, a concept referred to as the four freedoms.
EFPIA	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations	The EFPIA represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe.
EHIC	European Health Insurance Card	The EHIC allows anyone who is insured or covered by a statutory social security scheme of the EEA countries to receive medical treatment in another Member State for free or at a reduced cost.
EHPF	European Health Policy Forum	The EHPF is a multi-stakeholder platform that provides relevant input on European health-related policies implemented or monitored by the Commission's Directorate General on Health and consumers.
EHR	European Health Record	The EHR is a project within the Advanced Informatics in Medicine programme of the European Community. Its objective is to develop, test and promulgate a common architecture for computerised health records across Europe.
EMA	European Medicines Agency	The EMA is an EU organisation which has responsibility for the protection and promotion of public health through the evaluation and supervision of medicines for human use.



EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction	The EMCDDA plays a vital role in enabling EU Member States to have timely and strategic intelligence and risk assessment of the European drugs market and illicit drug flows, and their implications for public health and security. It also enables Member States to anticipate, identify and respond at an early stage to new threats and developments through an early warning and response mechanism.
EMG	European Medicines Group	The EMG brings together 19 continental research-based pharmaceutical companies. The group works with the NHS, the UK Government and other key stakeholders to develop and sustain an environment where the health and wellbeing of the UK benefits from timely access to medicines.
EMR	Electronic Medical Record	The EMR is the systematised collection of patient and population electronically-stored health information in a digital format. These records can be shared across different health and care settings.
EPIS	Epidemic Intelligence Information System	The EPIS is a web-based communication platform that allows nominated public health experts to exchange technical information to assess whether current and emerging health threats have a potential impact in the EU.
ERNs	European Reference Networks	ERNs are virtual networks involving healthcare providers across Europe. They aim to facilitate discussion on complex or rare diseases and conditions that require highly specialised treatment, and concentrated knowledge and resources.
ESRC	Economic Social and Research Council	The ESRC is one of the seven Research Councils in the UK. It receives most of its funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and provides funding and support for research and training work in social and economic issues.
EUHSC	European Union Health Security Committee	The EUHSC is the facilitator of the wider network of European collaboration that involves the ECDC. The EUHSC functions as an advisory group on health security on a European level.
EU27	The European Union 27	The EU27 refers collectively to the 27 Member States of the European Union (that is, every EU Member State apart from the UK).
EWRS	Early Warning Response System	The EWRS notifies Member States of emerging communicable disease threats and control measures; progression of current epidemics; unusual disease phenomena or new threats from diseases of unknown origin; and proposed mechanisms to prevent and control communicable disease threats. Access is limited to formally appointed contacts in Member States who receive real-time notifications.



F

FMD	Falsified Medicines Directive	The FMD is legislation passed by the EU Parliament which aims to increase the security of the manufacturing and delivery of medicines in Europe. The FMD will come into force in February 2019 and will provide protection to patients from falsified medicines in the legal supply chain of pharmaceuticals.
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act 2000	The Freedom of Information Act 2000 is an Act of Parliament that creates a public right of access to information held by public authorities. It is the implementation of freedom of information legislation in the UK on a national level.
FPM	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine	The FPM is a professional membership organisation with over 1,500 members. The Faculty is a standard-setting body that is primarily concerned with raising standards in pharmaceutical medicine for the benefit of the public.

G

GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation	The GAVI brings together public and private sectors from around the world with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children in the world's poorest countries.
GMC	General Medical Council	The GMC works to protect patients and improve medical education and practice across the UK. It does this through overseeing medical training and education; deciding which doctors are qualified to work in the UK; and setting the standards that doctors need to uphold throughout their careers.
GMSC	General Medical Services Contract	The GMSC is a strategic tool to improve the quality and range of services for patients. The contract also gives LHBs the ability to shape services, increase primary care capacity to meet local needs, and tackle wider problems across the whole NHS.
GPhC	General Pharmaceutical Council	The GPhC is the body responsible for the independent regulation of the pharmacy profession within England, Scotland and Wales. The Council is responsible for the regulation of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises.

H

H&CRW	Health and Care Research Wales	H&CRW is a national, multi-faceted, virtual organisation funded and overseen by the Welsh Government's Research and Development Division. It provides an infrastructure to support and increase capacity in research and development and runs a range of responsive funding schemes.
H&SC	Health and Social Care	H&SC is the treatment of ill health and medical conditions in hospitals, health centres and in the community. Social care is the care and support of vulnerable people, usually in the community.
HEAT targets	Health improvement, Efficiency, Access and Treatment	HEAT targets focus on improvement, efficiency, access and treatment and are recognised as four key priorities of the NHS in England and Wales.
HRA	Health Research Authority	The HRA was established as an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the DoH in January 2015. The HRA protects and promotes the interests of patients and the public in health and social care research.
HSPRG	Health Services and Policy Research Group	The HSPRG provides evidence to inform decision-making and the delivery of high quality health services that are safe and patient-centred. The Group has collaborative projects with primary care academic departments in the UK and primary care research groups around the world.
HTA	Health Technology Assessment	A HTA refers to the systematic evaluation of properties, effects, and/or impacts of health technology. It is a multi-disciplinary process to evaluate the social, economic, organisational and ethical issues of a health intervention or technology.

I

ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases	ICD-10 is the 10th revision of the IDC, a medical classification list by the World Health Organisation. It's codes hold critical information about epidemiology, managing health, and treating conditions.
IP	Implementation Period	The IP refers to the period of time between the date on which the UK officially leaves the EU to 31 st December 2020, wherein the UK Government will implement the outcomes secured by the negotiating process. The UK Government has confirmed that EU nationals living in the UK will experience the same rights and guarantees during this period as was the case before the referendum result.

J

JV	Joint Venture	A JV plan is a collaborative approach to the delivery of services that involves two separate health systems. An example of a JV would be an initiative by NHS Wales and NHS England that addresses cross-border healthcare issues.
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L

LHB	Local Health Board	LHBs are administrative units within NHS Wales. Following the restructuring of NHS Wales in 2009, there are seven Local Health Boards in Wales.
LPCMSS	Local Primary Care Mental Health Support Services	LPCMSS refers to mental health services that are embedded into primary care systems e.g. within GP practices, the work of community pharmacists, health visitors and others.
LSH	Life Sciences Hub	Located in Cardiff Bay and funded by the Welsh Government, the aim of the LSH is to help the people of Wales benefit from improved healthcare and economic wellbeing. The LSH acts as a centre for innovation, networking and collaboration within and beyond the NHS.

M

MDT	Multi-disciplinary Team	A multi-disciplinary team is a group of healthcare workers from different disciplines, each providing specific services to the patient. Team members independently treat various issues a patient may have, focusing on the issues in which they specialise e.g. a nurse, an occupational therapist and a physiotherapist working alongside one another.
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	The MHRA is the UK Government agency responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices are safe and fit for purpose.
MRC	Medical Research Council	The MRC is responsible for co-ordinating and funding medical research in the UK. It brings together the UK's seven research councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

N

NCAR	National Competent Authority Report	The NCAR is the process whereby competent authorities such as the UK's MHRA disseminate vigilance data.
NCAS	National Clinical Assessment Service	The NCAS was established in 2001 to provide impartial advice to healthcare organisations to effectively manage and resolve concerns raised about the practice of individual doctors, dentists and pharmacists. Since November 2003, NCAS has provided services to NHS Wales under a SLA (see below) with the Welsh Government.
NDG	National Delivery Group	The NDG sits below the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services in NHS Wales to develop policy and oversee the delivery of NHS services within an agreed policy & performance framework. It is led by the Chief Executive and Director General of NHS Wales.
NICE	National Institute for Clinical Excellence	NICE provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care; develops performance metrics and quality standards for those providing and commissioning services; and provides a range of information services for those organisations.
NMG	New Medicines Group	The NMG is a sub-group of the AWMSG. The NMG considers the clinical and cost-effectiveness of a medicine, along with written evidence from the pharmaceutical company, clinical experts in the field and relevant patient organisations.
NoEs	Networks of Excellence	NoEs were introduced to bring together resources, contacts and expertise from across the EU to enhance Europe's global competitiveness.
NPA	National Pharmacy Association	The NPA is the trade association for independent community pharmacy professionals in the UK.

O

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	The aim of the OECD is to promote policies that improve the economic and social wellbeing of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.
ONS	Office of National Statistics	The ONS is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to the UK Parliament.



OTCMs	Over-the-counter Medicines	OTCMs are medicines sold directly to a consumer without a prescription from a healthcare professional.
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P

PALS	Patient Advice and Liaison Service	The PALS offers confidential advice, support and information on health-related matters in England and Wales. It provides a point of contact for patients, their families and their carers.
PHW	Public Health Wales	PHW is the national public health agency in Wales. It works to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for the people of Wales and reports to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services.
POM	Prescription-only Medicine	A POM is a pharmaceutical drug that legally requires a medical prescription to be dispensed.
PV	Pharmacovigilance	PV is the pharmacological science relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects of medicines.

Q

QALY	Quality-adjusted Life Year	A QALY is a generic measure of disease burden, including both the quality and the quantity of life lived. It is used in economic evaluation to assess the value for money of medical interventions. One QALY equates to one year in good health.
QOF	Quality Outcomes Framework	The QOF is a system for the performance management and payment of general practitioners in the NHS in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
QoL	Quality of Life	QoL is the standard of health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual or group.
QS	Quality Standards	QS set out the priority areas for quality improvement in health and social care. They cover areas where there is variation in care.

R

R&D	Research and Development	R&D refers to work directed towards the innovation, introduction and improvement of products and processes. In healthcare, this can range from the production and testing of new medications to the evaluation of new or existing models of service delivery.
RCGP	Royal College of General Practitioners	The RCGP is the professional body for general practitioners in the UK. The RCGP represents and supports GPs on key issues including licensing, education, training, research and clinical standards.
RCN	Royal College of Nursing	The RCN is a membership organisation that represents nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and nursing students. It is both a professional body, carrying out work on nursing standards, education and practice, and a trade union.
RCPCH	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	The RCPCH is the professional body for paediatricians in the UK. It is responsible for the postgraduate training of paediatricians and conducts the Membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health exams.
RCSLT	Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists	The RCSLT is the professional body for speech and language therapists in the UK, providing leadership and setting professional standards.
RCTs	Randomised Controlled Trials	RCTs are studies where participants are randomly allocated to receive (or not receive) an intervention (this could be two different treatments or one treatment and a placebo). RCTs can avoid bias and meet criteria for statistical tests that other designs may not.
RPS	Royal Pharmaceutical Society	The RPS is the professional membership body for pharmacists and pharmacy in the UK and an internationally renowned publisher of medicines information.



S

SAIL	Secure Anonymised Information Linkage Database	The SAIL Databank is a Wales-wide research resource focused on improving health, wellbeing and services. The SAIL Databank holds a range of anonymised, person-based datasets and, subject to safeguards and approvals, these can be anonymously linked together to address important research questions.
SLA	Service Level Agreement	A SLA defines the provision of a service between providers and recipients of a service. They provide a valuable framework for services that have co-dependencies interacting on a regular basis where there are no clear lines of accountability.
SPNAB	Supporting People National Advisory Board (for Wales)	The SPNAB provides advice to Welsh Ministers. It's purpose is to ensure that the Welsh Government's Supporting People Programme is focused on meeting the housing-related needs of vulnerable people.

T

TTC	Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre	The TTC provides professional secretariat, pharmaceutical, clinical and health economics support to the AWMSG and its sub-groups. The TTC also manages the WPAS (see below).
TTT	Threat Tracking Tool	The TTT is a database of verified events that is used to detect and assess emerging communicable disease threats.

U

UKCRC	UK Clinical Research Collaboration	The UKCRC is a partnership of organisations working to establish the UK as a leader in clinical research in collaboration with the NHS.
UKCRN	UK Clinical Research Network	The UKCRN is the collective term for all the clinical research networks in all four UK countries.
UKVN	UK Vaccine Network	The UKVN brings together industry, academia and relevant funding bodies to make targeted investments in specific vaccines and vaccine technology for infectious diseases with the potential to cause an epidemic.



V

VBH	Value-based Healthcare	VBH refers to the practice of organising for value across a whole system. VBH recognises that health spend is a lever for economic value and provides a common platform for NHS organisations and partners to achieve better outcomes, become more efficient and focus on what matters most to patients.
VBP	Value-based Pricing	VBP is a pricing strategy which sets prices primarily, but not exclusively, according to the perceived or estimated value of a product or service to the customer rather than according to the cost of the product or historical prices.

W

WCCIS	Welsh Community Care Information System	When fully implemented, the WCCIS will enable social services and a range of community health services (including mental health, therapy and community nursing) to more effectively plan, co-ordinate and deliver services and support for individuals, families and communities across NHS Wales.
WCP	Welsh Clinical Portal	Equivalent to online banking, the WCP allows hospital clinicians to manage daily tasks without needing pen and paper. Healthcare staff can log on and view patient records and results and go to their personalised workspace to access their own relevant patient lists.
WHO	World Health Organisation	The WHO is a specialised agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health.
WHSSC	Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee	Established in 2010, the WHSSC is responsible for the joint planning of Specialised and Tertiary services on behalf of LHBs in Wales.



WLIMS	Welsh Laboratory Information Management System	The WLIMS replaces the 13 separate computer systems that had operated in the eighteen main pathology laboratories in Wales and provides quick access to test results regardless of where the patient receives care. The WLIMS also provides added patient safety by reducing the number of duplicated tests.
WMIC	Welsh Medicines Information Centre	The WMIC provides timely, practical, evidence-based advice to the public about managing medicines. There are a number of WMICs across Wales which are contactable via telephone or email.
WPAS	Wales Patient Access Scheme	The WPAS holds patient ID details, outpatient appointments, letters and notes. It supports the modernisation of services by improving referral to treatment management.
WPRS	Welsh Patient Referral Service	The WPRS is a safe and secure method of transmitting patient referral letters and referral information between primary and secondary care services. The WPRS enables electronic referrals to go directly from a GP to a selected hospital.

How can the Welsh NHS Confederation help you?

Please get in touch if you would like further details on any of the issues raised in this glossary. Please contact **Nesta Lloyd-Jones, Policy and Public Affairs Manager** at Nesta.Lloyd-Jones@welshconfed.org

The Welsh NHS Confederation is the only national membership body which represents all the organisations that make up the NHS in Wales: the seven Local Health Boards and three NHS Trusts.

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