



Glossary of Terms

In the NHS, we use lots of acronyms and it can often be a little bit of a shock to the system when starting a new role. We've put together this glossary of different terms and explanations of acronyms to help you understand a bit more about some more commonly used terms within the NHS and across the trust.

We've divided this glossary into two main sections:

- ❖ The first section details commonly used terms in medical/surgical notes at the Trust and are more clinical in their application. These can vary from Trust to trust, and, from feedback from some of our IMG doctors, can cause some difficulty at the beginning of a IMGs NHS journey.
- ❖ The second section includes acronyms that are you are less likely to come across in clinical notes but are important to understanding the workings of the trust and the NHS. We've added a column for this section that explains the terms and will give some context to each of the abbreviations.

If you find these lists useful, there are other further comprehensive online resources for abbreviations that are used within the NHS.

Please see [here](#) for a list of terms commonly used terms in medical records, [here](#) for an Acronym buster produced by the NHS Confederation and [here](#) for a wider 'care and support' jargon Buster.



Medical/ Surgical notes

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Abbreviation	Full Meaning
ABD	Abdomen	MOI	Mechanism of Injury
ASU	Acute Stroke Unit	MSCC	Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression
Admitx	Admission	Neuro-Onc MDT	Neuro-Oncology MDT
A/E	Air Entry	NRMDT	Neuroradiology MDT
ABx	Antibiotics	NTU	Neuroscience Treatment Unit
ATSP	Asked to see patient	Nsx	Neurosurgery
A/E	Assessment and Examination	NVMDT	Neurovascular MDT
AN	Assigned Nurse	NAD	No Abnormality Detected
A/W	Awaiting	NWPH	Northwick Park Hospital
BC	Blood Culture	O/E	Observation And examination
BIBA	Brought in by Ambulance	OT	Occupational Therapy
CTs	Cardiothoracic Team	MAXFAx	Oromaxillofacial
COC	Ceiling Of care	Op	Outpatient
CWMH	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital	OPA	Outpatient appointment
DOI	Date Of Injury	POC	Package of Care
Dex	Dexamethasone	Pt	Patient
D/C	Discharge	PT	Physiotherapy
D/W	Discuss With	Pred	Prednisolone
DNACPR	Do Not Attempt Cpr	ROC	Removal of sutures
F/U	Follow Up	R/v	Review
F#	Fracture	RFH	Royal Free Hospital
GS	General Surgery	SR	Side room/ Side Nurse
HI	Head Injury	SNT	Soft and not tender
HASU	Hyperacute Stroke Unit	SALT	Speech And Language Therapy
ID	Infection Department	Tac	Tacrolimus
INJ	Injury	T/F	Transfer
IP	Inpatient	TWOC	Trial without a catheter
INvx	Investigations	Urine I/O	Urine input and output
Loc	Location	Vanc	Vancomycin
LAS	London Ambulance Service	WGH	Watford General Hospital
MTW	Major Trauma Ward	WEH	Western Eye Hospital



NHS Acronyms

Abbreviation	Full Meaning	Explanation
AfC	Agenda for Change	The main pay system for NHS staff, excluding doctors, dentists and senior managers. Staff are grouped into pay 'Bands' depending on the skill set, experience and seniority.
AHPs	Allied Health Professionals	Health care professions distinct from optometry, dentistry, nursing, medicine, and pharmacy. There are 14 groups of AHPs that operate within the NHS such as paramedics, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) and radiographers.
ARCP	Annual Review of Competency Progression	ARCPs are the process by which doctors in training are appraised each year to ensure they are offering safe, quality care, and to assess progress against standards set in the curriculum for their training programme.
ANP	Advanced Nurse Practitioner	'Advanced Practice' is a level of practice, rather than a type or specialty of practice. Advanced practitioners are educated at masters' level in advanced practice and are assessed as competent in practice, using expert knowledge and skills. They have the freedom and authority to act, making autonomous decisions in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients.
BMA	British Medical Association	The BMA is the trade union and professional body for doctors in the UK.
CCT	Certificate of completion of training	A CCT confirms a doctor has completed an approved UK training programme and is eligible for entry onto the Specialist Register or GP Register. The Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) provides an alternative route to the specialist register for those doctors who have not followed a traditional training programme, but who may have gained the same skills as CCT holders.
CESR	Certificate of eligibility for specialist registration	CESR is a process to allow those not in training programmes and whose specialist training, qualifications or experience was partly or completely acquired outside of an approved CCT (Certificate of Completion of Training) programme to gain consultant status.
CoS	Certificate of sponsorship	The first step of obtaining the visa is to receive a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) from the hospital's HR team. For the hospital to receive a CoS, they must apply to the UK Visa and Immigration Department.
CPD	Continuing Professional Development	CPD is any learning outside of undergraduate education or postgraduate training that helps you maintain and improve your performance.



CQC	Care Quality Commission	The CQC are the independent regulator of health and adult social care within England
CT/CMT	Core Training/ Core Medical Training	CMT was the two-year postgraduate medical training following FY1&2 in England. This was replaced in replaced in Autumn 2019 by Internal Medicine Training (IMT) but you may still encounter these terms.
Datix	Datix	A Datix is a risk management system used to collect and manage data on adverse events.
DME	Director of Medical Education	DMEs have an overarching responsibility for postgraduate medical education at a LEP. At Imperial, we have four DMEs, one for each of our three clinical divisions (MIC, SCC and WCCS) and a separate DME for Workforce Development.
ES/ CS	Educational Supervisor/ Clinical Supervisor	A CS is a trainer who is selected and appropriately trained to be responsible for overseeing a doctor's clinical work and providing constructive feedback during a placement. An ES is a trainer who is selected and appropriately trained for the overall supervision and management of a doctor's educational progress during a placement or series of placements. Your CS and ES may often be the same person.
ESR	Electronic Staff Record	Electronic Staff Record is a payroll database system that NHS organisations use. The system is used by 99% of NHS Trusts and manages the payroll for over one million NHS employees.
F1/FY1, F2/FY2	Foundation training year	Part of a doctor's training that takes place after the completion of a medical degree at university. It comprises a series of rotations in different specialties within hospitals or in the community. The first year of training is known as FY1 and the second FY2.
GMC	General Medical Council	The Public Body that maintains the official register of Medical Practitioners within the UK. The GMC also has responsibilities for regulating the standards of medical schools in the UK, postgraduate medical education and for the licencing and revalidation of practicing doctors within the UK.
GPST	General Practice Specialty Training	A Specialty registrar in general practice. The number after this will indicate the year of the training programme that the doctor is in.
HEE	Health Education England	HEE was the national leadership organisation for education, training and workforce development in the health sector. This merged into NHS England in April 2023
HR/ Medical HR	Human Resources / Medical HR	The sub-department of HR that deals with doctors.
ICSS	Integrated Care Systems	ICSSs are partnerships that unite providers and commissioners of NHS services with local authorities and



		other local partners to collectively plan health and care to meet the specific needs of their local populations.
IMG	International Medical Graduate	A physician who has graduated from a medical school outside of the country where he or she intends to practice.
IMT	Internal Medicine Training	Internal Medicine Training (IMT) is the core level training for all the un-coupled medical specialties (e.g. cardiology, gastroenterology, nephrology etc.) in the UK. A trainee in this programme rotates through various specialities and achieves the competencies of becoming a medical registrar.
LEP	Local Education Provider	LEPs are the organisations responsible for the learning environment and culture in which training is taking place (Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is one of these).
LFG	Local Faculty Group	Regular meetings held by each specialty to discuss training and education issues. These are chaired by the Unit Training Lead (UTL) – educational lead in the department who you would meet at your local induction. Meetings are to be attend by all junior doctors.
MIC	Medicine and Integrated Care	One of our clinical divisions comprising services including: Renal, Urgent Care/ Emergency Medicine, HIV/ GUM, Stroke, Acute and Specialist Medicine.
MDT	Multidisciplinary team meetings	Different professionals meeting together to discuss the diagnosis and treatment of patients. They include doctors from different specialties, nurses and other professionals such as physiotherapists and occupational therapists.
NHS LTP	NHS Long-term Plan	2019 document outlining the primary strategic goals for the NHS over the next 10 years.
NHSE	NHS England	NHS England provides national leadership for the NHS in England working with ICSs, NHS organisations to provide higher quality health and care, along the basis of the Long-term plan.
NICE	The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence	The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care.
NWL	North West London	Geographical area comprising 8 London boroughs and 2.4 million people where the majority of our care takes place.
OH	Occupational Health	Occupational Health ensures that all staff have a work health assessment prior to employment. The purpose of the assessment is to determine that it is safe for new staff to commence work, whether they will need any immunisations, and whether any adjustments may need to be made to their working environment.



PA	Physician Associate	PAs are a group of allied health care professionals trained according to the medical model of care. They undertake a two year postgraduate course where they learn a systems approach to managing patients. They learn history taking, examination, formulation of management plans and can do procedures. Once qualified, a PA will gain enhanced skills within the areas they work, and partake in research, audit and projects. They cannot currently prescribe or order ionising radiation tests but this remit may change soon.
PACES	Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills	PACES is a practical examination that is designed to test the clinical knowledge of trainee doctors hoping to enter into higher speciality training (ST3+).
PACS	Picture Archiving and Communication System	PACS is a medical imaging technology used primarily in healthcare organizations to securely store and digitally transmit electronic images and clinically-relevant reports.
PALS	Patient Advice and Liaison Service	PALS offers confidential advice, support and information on health-related matters to patients. They are also often the mechanism to which patients will compliment, feedback or complain about the service.
PCN	Primary Care Network	They are groups of primary care practices working together and with other local health and care providers (e.g., hospitals, mental health or community trusts, community pharmacies and charities) to provide coordinated care through integrated teams.
QI	Quality Improvement	The use of methods and tools to continuously improve quality of care and outcomes for patients.
SAS	Specialist, Associate specialist and Specialty Doctors	Specialty and Associate Specialist (SAS) doctors are non-training roles where the doctor has at least four years of postgraduate training, with two of those being in a relevant speciality.
SCC	Surgery, Cancer and Cardiovascular	One of our clinical divisions comprising services including: Surgery (General and Vascular), Oncology, Haematology, Trauma, Ophthalmology, Critical Care and Anaesthetics.
SHO	Senior House Officer	A physician employed at a level after full registration with the GMC and before entering higher speciality training – this is generally equivalent to F2 to IMT2 level.
SpR	Specialty registrar in a hospital speciality	A Doctor who is receiving advanced training in a specialist field of medicine in order to become a consultant in that speciality.
TPD	Training Programme Director	A senior doctor who has a broad responsibility for the running of a particular training programme at the trust.



ST1-8	Specialty Training (Grade 1-8)	ST is the final stage of becoming a fully qualified doctor within the UK and allows doctors to acquire expertise in a specialist area of Medicine or general practice. The first year of specialty training is termed ST1, the second ST2 and so on.
WCCS	Women's, Children's and Clinical Support	One of our clinical division comprising services such as Children's services (Neonatal and Paediatrics), Gynaecology & Reproductive Medicine, Maternity, Pharmacy, Imaging and Pathology (NWL pathology).
UTL	Unit Training Lead	These are senior doctors who have a broad responsibility to lead the educational activities within their speciality at Trust level.