

The following covers some of the topics that members of the public may encounter in their involvement with health research in Oxford. However, no glossary can ever be comprehensive, so please do let the author know if you want more definitions included – lynne.maddocks@phc.ox.ac.uk

ACRONYM		Explanation
	Acute hospital referral	Patients are seen by a GP and then sent immediately to hospital for further testing or care (this is different to other types of referral, where patients return home and then make an appointment to go to hospital at a later date)
ACF	Academic Clinical Fellowship	These are three year posts, combining specialist training with 25% research time. The aim of the posts is to come up with a proposal for research to send to an external funding body, such as the Wellcome Trust or the Medical Research Council. If approved these will then fund a research training fellowship, leading to a doctorate.
AHSC	Academic Health Science Centre	The Oxford AHSC sits within the AHSN (see below), and has just four partners: Oxford University, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (the mental health trust), Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, and Oxford Brookes University. AHSCs represent partnerships between “world-class” universities and leading NHS Organisations. They work to research new treatments and improve health education and patient care, bringing scientific discoveries “from the lab to the ward”, and driving economic growth through partnerships with industry.
AHSN	Academic Health Science Network	The AHSN's four core objectives are to: focus on the needs of patients and local populations; speed up adoption of innovation into practice; build a culture of partnership and collaboration; create wealth. It includes a large number of partners, among them the BRC (see below), the University of Oxford (and 8 other Universities) and the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (and 10 other trusts). The Oxford AHSN covers a population of 3.3 million living in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire.
	Bioengineering (biological engineering)	Applying the concepts and methods of biology (and secondarily, of physics, chemistry, mathematics, and computer science) to solve real-world problems related to the life sciences or the application thereof, using engineering's own analytical and synthetic methodologies.
BRC	Biomedical Research Centre	The NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Oxford (OxBRC) is based at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and run in partnership with the University of Oxford. The Oxford BRC undertakes ‘translational research’, taking laboratory research into a clinical setting (from the bench to the bedside).
BRU	Biomedical Research Unit	Smaller than the BRC, and focusing its work on illnesses of the joints, bones and muscles (musculoskeletal disease) the BRU is also a partnership of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Oxford.
CCF	Central Commissioning Facility	Manages the following NIHR research funding programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invention for Innovation (i4i) • Programme Grants for Applied Research • Programme Development Grants • Research for Patient Benefit • Research for Innovation, Creativity and Risk programme

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		<p>The CCF also manages the Research Design Service (RDS) to support applicants and the following research schools, centre and units: Blood and Transplant Research Units, Health Protection Research Units, School for Primary Care Research, School for Public Health Research, School for Social Care Research, Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology Research Centre</p>
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group	<p>CCGs are clinically led groups that include all of the GP groups in their geographical area, overseen by NHS England. These structures manage primary care commissioning, including holding the NHS Contracts for GP practices. CCGs operate by commissioning (or buying) healthcare services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective hospital care • Rehabilitation care • Urgent and emergency care • Most community health services • Mental health and learning disability services
	Citation	<p>A reference to a published or unpublished source - a number denotes an entry in the bibliographic references section of the work for the purpose of acknowledging the relevance of the works of others to the topic of discussion at the spot where the citation appears.</p>
CLAHRC	Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care	<p>A collaboration of leading applied health researchers across Oxford and the Thames Valley. Led from within Oxford University's Department of Primary Care Health Sciences it involves colleagues from the university's Medical Sciences Division, in particular researchers at the Department of Psychiatry, and in partnership with the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (mental health) and other local trusts and related structures. 50% of its total funding of £18million is from the NIHR, additional matched funding is from a combination of the university, local Health Trusts, Authorities, charities and businesses.</p>
CPRD	Clinical Practice Research Data	<p>The Department pays to have access to this anonymised data from 680 practices around the country. They are then able to use this data for different type of research.</p>
CRN	Clinical Research Network	<p>Thames Valley and South Midlands is part of the NIHR Clinical Research Network, which helps to enable clinical research to take place in the NHS. Thames Valley and South Midlands is one of 15 regional networks responsible for ensuring the effective delivery of research in trusts, primary care organisations and other qualified NHS providers throughout the Thames Valley and South Midlands area. It is hosted by the Oxford University Hospitals Trust and covers Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.</p>
CTU	Clinical Trials Unit	<p>Clinical trials units are specialised units which design, centrally coordinate and analyse clinical trials and other studies. Some CTUs specialise in different methodologies, such as randomised controlled trials, cluster randomised trials, surgical trials, and health services research. Some specialise in one disease type, whereas others are generic units. Some CTUs focus on specific phases and types of clinical trials; others conduct all phases and types of trial.</p> <p>In order to be formally registered they have to prove; (1) experience of coordinating multi-centre randomised controlled trials or other well-designed studies, (2) a presence of a core team of expert staff to develop studies, (3) a presence of robust quality assurance systems and processes to meet</p>

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		appropriate regulations and legislation, and (4) evidence of longer-term viability of capacity for trials coordination and the development/maintenance of a trials portfolio.
D Phil	Doctor of Philosophy	Same as a PhD in Universities other than Oxbridge.
DUETS	Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of treatments	<p>Draws on three main sources to identify uncertainties about the effects of treatments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. patients', carers' and clinicians' questions about the effects of treatment 2. research recommendations in reports of systematic reviews of existing research and in clinical guidelines, in which knowledge gaps are revealed 3. ongoing research, both in the form of systematic reviews in progress and new 'primary' studies <p>Knowing about uncertainties tells us where further research is needed. Ignoring treatment uncertainties puts patients at risk. By making uncertainties known researchers can take account of where their efforts and resources are needed.</p>
EBCD	Experience based co-design	Involves gathering experiences from patients and staff through in-depth interviewing, observations and group discussions, identifying key 'touch points' (emotionally significant points) and assigning positive or negative feelings. A short edited film is created from the patient interviews. This is shown to staff and patients, and is intended to demonstrate how patients experience the service, in an impactful way. Staff and patients are then brought together to explore the findings and to work in small groups to identify and implement activities that will improve the service or the care pathway.
EQ5d		A sort of PROM (Patient Reported Outcome Measure – see below) for daily living.
	Etiology (or aetiology)	The cause, set of causes, or manner of causation of a disease or condition.
	False positive	A test result that incorrectly indicates that a patient has the disease, when they do not.
HEI	Higher Education Institution	
HERG	Health Experience Research Group	Researches people's experiences of health and illness, interviewing people about what it's like to live with medical conditions such as cancer, heart failure and autism. Highlight how personal narratives can inform policy and improve services.
HETV	Health Education Thames Valley	Education and Training Board for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. For all health professionals
	Heuristic	Method of teaching that allows students to learn by discovering things themselves rather than being told them
HEXI	Oxford Health Experiences Institute	Interdisciplinary research institute dedicated to the understanding of experiences of health, illness and healthcare, and using this understanding to transform care through influencing policy, practice and education. Joint initiative between the University's Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and Green Templeton College. Key research groups is the HERG.
HRA	Health Research Authority	Protect and promote the interests of patients and the public in health research, and streamline the regulation of research including ethical review
HTA	Health Technology Assessment	NIHR (see below) pot of funding
	Hilary	Oxford term Jan – March
IP	Intellectual Property	

ACRONYM		Explanation
JLA	James Lind Alliance	A non-profit making initiative established in 2004. It brings patients, carers and clinicians together, in Priority Setting Partnerships – identifying and prioritising unanswered questions about treatments that they agree are most important. This information helps ensure that those who fund health research are aware of what matters to patients, carers and clinicians. The James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships are coordinated by the National Institute for Health Research Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC).
JIF	Journal impact factor	Frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field, with journals with higher impact factors deemed to be more important than those with lower ones. It is measured as the average number of times articles from a journal, published in the past two years, have been cited within a given year. The impact factor was devised by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information. Impact factors are calculated yearly starting from 1975 for those journals that are indexed in the <i>Journal Citation Reports</i> .
MHRA	Medicines and healthcare products regulatory agency	Responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe
	Michaelmas	Oxford term Oct – Dec
NDPCHS	Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences	Undertake internationally acclaimed teaching and research that improves the primary care that GP practices deliver. Also teach elements of the undergraduate programme in medicine including arranging placements for medical students in GP practices
NDORMS	Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences	Part of Oxford University Hospitals Trust
NETSCC	NIHR Evaluation, trials and Studies Co-ordinating centre	Fund research - based at the University of Southampton. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme • Health Services and Delivery Research Programme • Health Technology Assessment Programme • Public Health Research Programme • Systematic Reviews Programme • NIHR Clinical Trials Unit Support Funding
NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.	This is a national group which develops evidence-based guidelines for people working in the NHS
NIHR	National Institute of Health Research	The main funder of health research in the UK
NOCRI	NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure	Makes it easy for industry to partner with the NIHR/NHS to access the UK's clinical research infrastructure.
PAM	Patient Activation Measure	A commercial product which assesses an individual's knowledge, skill, and confidence for managing one's health and healthcare. Individuals who measure high on this assessment typically understand the importance of taking a pro-active role in managing their health and have the skills and confidence to do so. The PAM survey measures patients on a 0-100 scale and can segment patients into one of four 'activation levels' along an empirically derived continuum. Each activation level reveals insight into an array of health-related characteristics, including attitudes, motivators, behaviors, and outcomes.

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PI	Principal investigator	Lead researcher for a particular well-defined project, usually in the sciences, such as a laboratory study or a clinical trial. It is used widely for the person or persons who make final decisions and supervise funding and expenditures on a given research project.
PPI	Patient and Public Involvement	Also sometimes known as PPIE which is Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement
PSP	Priority Setting Partnership	Process in the James Lind Alliance
	Prediction rule	Researchers try to find the best combination of signs and symptoms that predict when a patient has a certain illness
PREM	Patient Reported Experience Measure	Akin to patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs), questionnaires completed by the patient to assess their experience.
PROM	Patient Reported Outcome Measure	Reports coming directly from patients about how they feel or function in relation to a health condition and its therapy without interpretation by healthcare professionals or anyone else. PROs can relate to symptoms, signs, functional status, perceptions, or other aspects such as convenience and tolerability.
PSSRU	Personal Social Services Research Unit	Branches in Kent, LSE and Manchester.
QORU	Quality and Outcomes of Person-centred Care Policy Research Unit	Collaboration involving researchers in health and social care from the Universities of Kent, Oxford and the LSE, and has been funded by the Department of Health (11-16)
RAND	Rankings for Medicine	How universities are ranked across the world
	Randomised controlled trial	A type of trial where some patients are given Normal treatment, and others are given extra tests/treatment. Patients are assigned to either of these groups randomly; they do not get a choice. This is the best way to see whether a new test/treatment is better than current practice or not.
	Reagent	A chemical or mixture of chemicals that is added to a system in order to bring about a chemical reaction, or added to see if a reaction occurs.
RF AHP	Research Forum Allied Health Professionals	Occupational therapists, radiologists, speech therapists, audiologists, physiotherapists, dieticians, psychotherapists, paramedics, podiatrists, orthoptic surgeons, art/drama/music therapists
RTT	Referral To Treatment	A target time for clinicians to measure
SCN	Strategic Clinical Networks	Strategic clinical networks, hosted and funded by the NHS Commissioning Board will cover conditions or patient groups where improvements can be made through an integrated, whole system approach. The conditions or patient groups chosen for the first strategic clinical networks are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer • Cardiovascular disease (including cardiac, stroke, diabetes and renal disease) • Maternity and children's services • Mental health, dementia and neurological conditions
SPCR	School for Primary Care Research	The School is currently comprised of: University of Birmingham, Bristol, Keele, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton and UCL. Professor Richard Hobbs is Director of the School. Based in New Radcliffe House
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences	SPSS is a widely used program for statistical analysis in social science, market research, health research, survey companies, government, education researchers, etc.
	Systematic review	Desk based research going over all the findings on the same theme

ACRONYM		Explanation
	Trial	Important distinction from a study is that a trial is randomised and should be capable of 'getting the answer'. It tends to be larger and go through the Clinical Trials Unit who will allocate resources to support the work, including trial managers, data entry officers etc.
TSC	Trial Study Committee	
	Translational	Applies findings from basic science to enhance human health and well-being. For example, in medicine and nursing, it aims to "translate" findings in basic research into medical and nursing practice and meaningful health outcomes
	Trinity	Oxford term Apr - June
TV Local Area team	Thames Valley Local Area team	A part of NHS England South this team is responsible for commissioning in cooperation with Clinical Commissioning Groups.
UAS	University Administration and Services	Collective term for the central administrative departments of the University of Oxford

Other glossaries that may assist

NHS Confederation <http://www.nhsconfed.org/acronym-buster>

INVOLVE <http://www.invo.org.uk/resource-centre/useful-information/jargon-buster/>

NETSCC <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/glossary>

GET IT <http://getitglossary.org/>

NIHR <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/our-faculty/documents/Commonly%20Used%20Research%20Abbreviations%20and%20Terms.pdf>

Healthwatch Oxfordshire <http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/health-service-jargon-explained>