








Healthcare planning jargon buster

This guide explains key terms used in healthcare planning and development to support collaboration across NHS projects.

Term	Plain English Definition	Why it matters	
HBN (Health Building Note)	NHS guidance on the design and planning of healthcare facilities.	It ensures healthcare environments meet clinical, operational and safety standards.	
Health Technical Memoranda (HTMs)	Detailed technical advice on building services, including ventilation, electrical systems, and infection control.	It helps create safe, efficient, and compliant healthcare buildings.	
Adjacencies	Strategic placement of departments, services or rooms next to each other to improve flow and efficiency.	Good adjacencies support better patient care and staff productivity.	
Stakeholder Engagement	An important part of healthcare planning which brings in diverse perspectives, including clinical expertise, lived experience and policy insight.	It ensures the final design reflects real needs and priorities.	
Schedule of accommodation	A structured list of all the rooms and spaces required for a healthcare facility.	It forms the foundation for space planning and cost estimation.	
Patient Journey	What the patient sees, feels, and interacts with at each stage of care.	Understanding this helps design spaces that support comfort, dignity, and wellbeing.	
Models of Care (MoC)	Within Healthcare Planning is a guide to how health services are delivered to the various different stakeholders within the built environment.	It shapes how spaces are used and what services are prioritised.	
PLACE assessment	Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment. Annual patient-led NHS care environment quality review.	It highlights areas for improvement from the patient's perspective.	