

Glossary*



*To note, terms included in this glossary are defined as they are used in personalised healthcare and medicine

- Artificial intelligence** Theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human input. It can be used to analyse and find patterns in large amounts of data.¹
- Biologic information** Information gained from analysis of a genome within the body to understand how different parts of the body work.² This is used to understand different conditions and potential treatment options.
- Biomarker** A medical 'sign' within the body that can be measured and compared with 'normal' bodily processes, to indicate if something is not working, and if a condition is present.³
- Biomarker testing** Tests that can look for signs of change within the body and are used to help diagnosis or support personalised healthcare. It is also known as molecular testing or genetic testing because the tests look at the body's molecules and a person's genetics.⁴
- CAT scan** Also known as a CT scan. A computerised axial tomography (CAT) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of inside the body.⁵ They are used to diagnose, gain more information about, and monitor health conditions.
- Clinical development** The development of a treatment, from the discovery in a laboratory, into testing and then into clinical trials before a treatment becomes available for prescribing.⁶
- Clinical outcomes** Measurable results on health outcomes and quality of life, based on the provision of care.⁷
- Diagnostics** A broad term referring to the process of identifying a condition.⁸
- Digital health apps** Applications for phones, tablets or computers that help with healthcare management. This could be support for monitoring a condition, such as tracking blood glucose levels for those with diabetes, support apps for managing long-term conditions, mental wellness or other aspects of healthcare.⁹
- Digital health** Modern technology used for the delivery and management of healthcare. Digital health technologies include wearable devices (e.g. wrist-band activity trackers, smart watches), Bluetooth-enabled devices (e.g. weighing scales and blood pressure cuffs), connected sensors, smart phone and tablet apps, electronic surveys, telemedicine and digital assistants.⁹
- Efficacy** The ability of a treatment to achieve its intended and desired result.¹⁰ A treatment is 'efficacious' if it works under strictly controlled (e.g. laboratory) conditions and it is considered 'effective' if it works under 'real-world' conditions. Efficacy is a key measure in the development of a treatment and whether a healthcare professional decides to prescribe it or not.
- Electronic health records** Digital version of a patient's health records that can be shared across different parts of the health system, such as primary healthcare providers, hospitals and clinics. Health records include patient information such as age, weight, medical history, allergies, current medications and in some countries, laboratory test results. Each patient owns the data in their electronic health record and sharing of information is only possible with their permission.¹¹

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- Environmental data** The measure of the environment or lifestyle of an individual rather than biological information. It can be used to help inform personalised healthcare plans.
- Genetics** Looking at a person's genes to better understand their overall make-up, and to understand a condition as well as the likelihood of an individual developing a health condition based on family genetics.¹²
- Genomes/Genomics** A genome is the complete set of DNA within a person. Genomics is the study of genomes, looking at their structure and function.¹³
- Health literacy** The skills that determine a person's ability and motivation to gain access to, understand, and use information in ways that promote and maintain health.¹⁴
- Holistic** Looking at a whole situation. In terms of healthcare, it is about treating the whole person, considering medication, support, environmental factors and all other aspects that impact living with a health condition.¹⁵
- Meaningful outcomes** In clinical terms, the results of not just one factor, such as a response to a medicine, but based on treatment, environment and additional factors.¹⁶
- Molecular basis** Looking at something at the molecular level. The body is made up of molecules (a group of atoms held together by a chemical bond), which exist in different sizes.¹⁷
- Outcomes-focused healthcare** When healthcare systems focus on delivering positive health benefits, including preventing conditions, as opposed to only treating them.¹⁸
- Personalised healthcare** The tailoring of care to a person's unique health needs.¹⁹
- Real-world** A lot of treatment decisions are made based on how effective and safe a treatment is in clinical trials, but real-world evidence looks beyond this and addresses insights from electronic health record registries, as well as social and environmental factors.²⁰
- Telemedicine** The remote provision of healthcare advice, typically by using technology (e.g. telephone or computer), to aid the diagnosis, treatment and management of a condition.²¹
- Value-based healthcare** When healthcare providers and institutions are paid based on the health outcomes of the individual.¹⁸
- Wearable devices** A small computer that people can wear, such as a smart watch. Many wearable devices can track bodily functions such as heart rate.⁹

References



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