NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY CARE
HEALTH SCIENCES | **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Glossary for Public Contributors - Compound Pressures project

Purpose of this glossary

This glossary explains key words used in this project.

It is for public contributors (patients, carers and community members) working with the research team. The aim is to make sure we share a clear understanding of the language used in meetings and documents.

The glossary has been developed by members of the research group including Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) co-applicants.

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If anything is unclear, we welcome suggestions (laura.ingle@phc.ox.ac.uk).

Glossary Terms

Compound Pressures (CP)

A way of understanding complex situations that affect health and social care.

Compound pressures happen when different challenges overlap and build on each other. They may be predictable (such as winter pressures), partly predictable (such as economic downturns), or sudden (such as a pandemic).

What makes them "compound" is that they interact and affect patients, carers and staff at the same time. They often create uncertainty and cannot be solved by simple fixes.

We use this term to highlight that challenges are connected rather than separate, and people may experience the same situations differently.

Examples include climate change (heatwaves, flooding), pandemics, and financial crises.

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

A national organisation that funds and supports health and care research in England.

It is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and invests public money in research to improve services and outcomes.

NIHR funds research studies, research staff and training, and research infrastructure within the NHS.

This project is funded by NIHR.

Study

A piece of research designed to answer a specific question.

A study may collect new data (for example, through interviews or surveys), or it may analyse information that already exists.

A **review** is one type of study.

Review

A type of research that brings together and analyses existing evidence rather than collecting new data.

Different types of review are used for different purposes. Each has its own clear methods and steps for how it is carried out. One type being carried out in this project is a **realist review.**

Realist review

A review that aims to understand how and why something works, for whom, and in what circumstances.

Rather than only asking "Does this work?", a realist review explores:

- What makes it work?
- For which groups?
- In which settings?

It is useful for studying complex systems like general practice. The goal is to explain how change happens, not just measure outcomes.

Study Within A Review (SWAR)

A small research study carried out within a larger **review**.

It examines or tests part of the review process itself. For example, in this project the SWARs will explore how artificial intelligence might support review methods, such as analysing evidence).

The main review still answers its core research questions, while the SWAR helps improve how reviews are done in the future.

Literature

In research, "literature" means written material on a topic.

This includes academic journal articles, research reports, and other published sources.

When we talk about "reviewing the literature", we mean searching for and analysing what has already been written about a topic.

Grey Literature

Written material that is not published in academic journals.

This can include policy documents, service reports, government papers, charity reports, and other publicly available information.

Grey literature can be important because it often includes practical knowledge and real-world experience that may not appear in academic research.

Appreciative Inquiry (AppI)

A structured way of gathering views from patients, professionals and other stakeholders to shape the **review**.

It focuses on strengths and what is working well, as well as challenges.

In this project, it will help us develop and refine our early ideas about how compound pressures affect general practice.

Double screening

A quality check used in **reviews**.

Two researchers independently assess studies for inclusion. Any disagreements are discussed and resolved.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Computer systems designed to carry out tasks that normally require human thinking.

For example, AI can:

- Search large amounts of text
- Identify patterns
- Summarise information

In this project we are exploring whether AI can help with searching and analysing research literature.

Large Language Model (LLM)

A type of **artificial intelligence** trained on very large amounts of text.

It can generate human-like language, answer questions, and summarise documents.

Examples include tools such as ChatGPT.

AI hallucination

When an **artificial intelligence** system produces information that sounds convincing but is incorrect or made up.

This can happen because AI systems predict likely words based on patterns in data, rather than checking facts in the way a human researcher would.

For this reason, any use of AI in research must include careful human checking.