

# Simple guide to care in Oxfordshire

Most health services are 'commissioned' (literally ordered and paid for) by [Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group](#)



**General Practitioners (GPs)** are Usually people's first point of contact with health services. This is known as 'Primary Care'.  
  
People are either referred to hospital by GPs or taken directly as emergency cases.

**Acute care** is a branch of secondary health care where a patient receives active but short-term treatment for a severe injury or episode of illness, an urgent medical condition, or during recovery from surgery. In medical terms, care for acute health conditions is the opposite from chronic care, or longer term care. In Oxfordshire, these hospitals are run by [Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust](#), and comprise the John Radcliffe Hospital, Churchill Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, and Horton General Hospital.

**Community Hospitals** provide care such as medical care, rehabilitation, palliative care, intermediate care, mental health, surgical treatment and emergency care. In Oxfordshire, these are run by [Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust](#).

**Social care**  
(care homes, live-in care, home help, social services)

[Oxfordshire County Council](#) is responsible for the provision of social care in Oxfordshire. This includes social services, care homes, and practical support for people in their own homes. People often need social care after they have finished their hospital treatment.

 Solid arrows show how the service is 'commissioned' or bought  
 Dotted arrows show the possible 'care pathways' (literally the series of services) which patients may take during their treatment  
 For a better understanding of some of the common words and phrases used by the NHS, visit our 'Understanding health service jargon' page at <http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/health-service-jargon-explained>

