

Michaela McCann

Expert Witness
Occupational Therapist

Merseyside & Chester



Professional Background

Michaela McCann is an experienced Occupational Therapist and Expert Witness with over seventeen years of clinical practice across hospital, community, military and international healthcare settings. She provides independent, evidence-based expert opinion in personal injury and clinical negligence matters, drawing on extensive experience in the assessment, rehabilitation and long-term management of individuals with complex physical, cognitive and psychological needs.

Her particular areas of expertise include spinal cord injury, traumatic and elective amputation, complex orthopaedic trauma, complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), traumatic and acquired brain injury, peripheral nerve injury and stroke. She is experienced in the assessment of functional capacity, rehabilitation needs, current and future care and support requirements, case management, aids and equipment, accommodation and environmental considerations, transport and travel requirements, vocational rehabilitation, and recommendations to maximise independence, participation and quality of life. Her assessments also consider the impact of injury on leisure pursuits, community engagement, family life and holiday travel, ensuring that recommendations reflect an individual's long-term functional and participation needs.

Michaela began her career within a specialist spinal treatment centre, gaining extensive experience in the rehabilitation of individuals with spinal cord injuries. She subsequently joined the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court as a Senior Occupational Therapist, where she worked with military personnel presenting with catastrophic injuries, including multiple limb loss, spinal cord injury, severe orthopaedic trauma, secondary brain injury and complex psychological presentations. In this role, she developed comprehensive functional assessments, rehabilitation programmes and detailed progress reports for patients undergoing intensive rehabilitation, whilst also delivering specialist training in spinal injury management.

Her wider clinical experience includes senior rotational posts across intensive care, renal services and neurological rehabilitation, providing a strong foundation in acute medicine, discharge planning and complex rehabilitation pathways. She has also delivered community specialist neurological rehabilitation, reablement and home assessment services, supporting individuals to return to their homes and communities safely and independently. In addition, she has led service development initiatives, implemented technology-enabled care programmes, designed referral pathways, and trained multidisciplinary teams in equipment prescription and best practice occupational therapy interventions.

Michaela has worked internationally in New Zealand and Gibraltar. In New Zealand, she conducted complex functional assessments, prescribed specialist equipment and coordinated short- and long-term rehabilitation programmes. In Gibraltar, she held a leadership position managing inpatient therapy services across stroke rehabilitation, elderly care and palliative care. Throughout her career, she has supervised and mentored therapy staff, developed clinical standards and delivered specialist training in wheelchairs, posture and seating.



Beyond her clinical and medico-legal work, Michaela is actively involved in supporting adaptive sport and promoting participation following injury and disability. She has a particular interest in the development of adaptive wind sports, including wing foiling, and advocates for innovative approaches that enable individuals with physical impairments to engage in meaningful leisure, recreation and sporting activities.

Alongside her expert witness practice, Michaela maintains active clinical involvement and continues to develop her expertise through ongoing professional practice and continuing professional development. She is trained in the Civil Procedure Rules and prepares impartial, objective and evidence-based reports in accordance with her duties to the Court.

Specialisms

- Spinal Injury
- Amputations
- Brain Injury
- Orthopaedics
- Peripheral Nerve Injury
- Stroke
- Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
- Posture & Seating
- Mental Health
- 16 Years & Above

Age group

Career history

- The Community Specialist Rehabilitation Service
The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.
◦ Caseload: complex neurological conditions.
2026 - Present
- Expert Witness
Harrison Associates
2022 - Present
- The Community Specialist Rehabilitation Service
The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust.
2023 – 2024
- Locum Senior Occupational Therapist
Various (including Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre and Reablement and Home Assessment Teams within Health and Social Services)
◦ Worked in various senior roles across complex trauma and reablement service settings. This involved leading the rehabilitation of patients with complex fractures, amputations, spinal injury, complex regional pain syndrome, functional neurological disorder, brain injuries, PTSD, anxiety and depression.
◦ Inducted, trained and supervised a new team of therapists, wrote practice standards, delivered training on wheelchairs, posture and seating and served as spinal injury OT clinical lead.
◦ Delivered community rehabilitation to maximise independence, quality of life and safety at home whilst minimising long-term care requirements.
◦ Trained staff on equipment prescription, oversaw the set-up and delivery of a collaborative reablement service with a domiciliary care agency and led a technology-enabled care pilot.
2017 - Current



Career history

- Worked within a home assessment team, delivering occupational therapy intervention and led intervention on a joint health and social care pilot.
- Locum Occupational Therapy Lead (Inpatient Therapy) 2017
Gibraltar Health Authority
 - Managed an inpatient therapy team, including a clinical caseload of stroke rehabilitation, elderly care and palliative care.
- Locum Occupational Therapist (Reablement) 2016
Bromley Adult Services
 - Held responsibility for the set-up and development of physiotherapy and occupational services and implementation of a referral pathway and priority system.
- Occupational Therapist Assessor 2015 - 2016
Quality Rehabilitation Services (New Zealand)
 - Conducted individual assessments regarding equipment and care provision and led the assessment and provision of short and long-term community-based rehabilitation programmes.
- Senior Occupational Therapist 2011 - 2015
Various
 - Completed NHS and private healthcare contracts within neurological occupational therapy, working with clients with multiple sclerosis, stroke, spinal injury and brain injury and delivering training on spinal injury. This included producing detailed functional reports and providing regular progress update reports.
 - Obtained broad experience within a senior rotational role, working across renal services, ITU and neurological specialities. This involved managing complex discharges, defining rehabilitation goals and creating treatment plans.
- Senior Occupational Therapist (Complex Trauma) 2012 - 2014
Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre
 - Managed the assessment and treatment of patients with spinal injuries, multiple limb loss, peripheral nerve injury and complex fractures. Secondary conditions frequently included brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and a variety of mental health conditions.
- Occupational Therapist (Spinal Treatment) 2009 - 2011
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
 - Upon qualification, obtained two years of experience within a spinal treatment centre.

Qualifications

- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy

Professional Memberships

- HCPC
- BAOT