

Dearbhla Shannon

Expert Witness
Occupational Therapist

Wales



Professional Experience

Dearbhla Shannon is an Occupational Therapist, with ten years of dedicated experience specialising in acute stroke, stroke rehabilitation, and comprehensive neuro-rehabilitation. Her distinguished career is marked by her deep involvement in the treatment and management of progressive neurological conditions, including Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's disease, Dementia, and Alzheimer's. Dearbhla's clinical approach is holistic, prioritising the integration of posture and seating assessments, physical and cognitive rehabilitation, fatigue management, and the enhancement of daily living activities through adaptive equipment and home modifications.

Her extensive experience spans a variety of critical service areas, from elderly care and falls prevention to more acute domains such as respiratory, cardiology, and orthopaedics. Dearbhla excels in the complex discharge planning process, working in tandem with multidisciplinary teams to facilitate seamless transitions from acute care settings to the home, ensuring patients receive the comprehensive support they require. This process underscores her exceptional ability to navigate the intricacies of patient care, particularly for those facing life-altering injuries.

In her leadership role as the Team Lead for Occupational Therapy within Acute Stroke services, Dearbhla has demonstrated unparalleled skill in orchestrating discharge plans in collaboration with Community Stroke teams. She adeptly manages a team of clinicians, guiding their professional growth and ensuring the delivery of high-calibre care across the continuum of stroke recovery—from acute care to community reintegration. Her dedication to maintaining an evidence-based practice is reflected in her commitment to ongoing professional development, engaging in specialised training and workshops that enhance her expertise and inform her practice.

Dearbhla's background is further enriched by her work in both acute hospital and community settings, where she has implemented neurology-specific assessments and treatment programs aimed at maximising patient well-being and occupational performance. Her leadership extends beyond clinical care, encompassing the management of multidisciplinary teams and contributing to the development of services that uphold the highest standards of care. Dearbhla is fully trained in Civil Procedures Rules, including relevant revisions as they arrive, and regularly undertakes a variety of clinical and medico-legal training.

Specialisms

- Brain Injury
- Amputations
- Oncology & Palliative Care
- Orthopaedics
- Neurological conditions and disorders
- Sensory impairment

Age group

- Respiratory Conditions
- Dementia
- Pain conditions
- General medical & surgical conditions
- Respiratory conditions

Adults



Career history

- Occupational Therapist / Driving Assessor for Driving Mobility,(South Wales Mobility and Driving Assessment Centre) 2023 - Current
- Band 7: Clinical Team Leader for Acute Stroke Occupational Therapy (University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, NHS - Wales) 2020 -2024
- Senior Specialist Stroke Occupational Therapist, (University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, NHS - Wales) 2018-2020
- Basic Grade Occupational Therapist – Rotational Post, (Llandough Hospital, The Vale, NHS - Wales) 2016-2018
- Basic Grade Occupational Therapist – Rotational Post, (Princess of Wales, Bridgend, NHS - Wales) 2014-2016

Qualifications

- Pg.Dip. (Pre-Reg.) Occupational Therapy (Jan2012 – Dec 2013: Cardiff University - Cardiff, Wales, UK).
- [OT Qualification – Validated by AOTI/ CORU (Ireland), HCPC and BAOT / COT(UK).]
- ITEC Diploma Level 2 - Gym Instructor (Oct – Dec 2011: King Fisher, NUIG - Galway, Ireland)
- Fetac Level 5 Certificate – Care of the Older Person (2011: Atlantic College - Galway, Ireland).
- Pg. Dip. Physiotherapy Healthcare Professional Studies (2010 - 2011: RGU - Aberdeen, Scotland, UK)
- M.sc. Biomedical Science (2005-2006: NUIG - Galway, Ireland).
- Bsc. (Hons) Biopharmaceutical Healthcare Science (2000-2005: GMIT - Galway, Ireland).

Professional Memberships

- HCPC
- RCOT
- RCOT Specialized Section: Neurological Practice
- RCOT Specialized Section: Independent Practice
- CORU (Ireland Regulator for Health and Social Care Professionals)
- AOTI (Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland)
- AOTI Neurology Advisory Group